

Cornell University University Assembly

Cornell University Assembly

Minutes of the November 29th, 2022 Meeting

4:45 - 6:15 pm

Zoom

I. Call to Order

- a. Chair D. Cady called the meeting to order at 4:48.
- b. *Members Present:* G. Akkan, M. Benda, R. Bensel, D. Cady, K. Cram, A. Haenlin-Mott, P. Hanley, M. Heeney, D. Hiner, D. Howell, A. Juan, J. Kruser, M. McEntee, B. Milles, V. Valencia, S. Williams
- c. *Members Absent:* O. Akujuo, E. DeRosa, I. Hewson, Y. Hua, J. Sun
- d. *Also Present:* J. Brady, A. Dubovi, A. Johnson, R. Platt J. Withers, E. Kalweit

II. Land Acknowledgement of the Gayogoho·noꝓ (Cayuga Nation)

- a. D. Cady stated the UA's acknowledgment of the Cayuga Nation.

III. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda

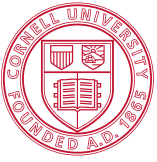
- a. D. Cady called for late additions to the agenda.
- b. D. Cady put forward a motion to introduce UA Resolution 2, which he described as a UA edition of SA Resolution 15. S. Williams seconded the motion.
 - i. By a vote of 12-0-1, the Assembly passed the amendment to the agenda to introduce UA Resolution 2 during Business of the Day.

IV. Approval of the November 1st and November 15th Minutes

- a. R. Bensel moved to approve the minutes from both the November 1st and 15th meetings with no dissent.

V. Open Forum

- a. A. Dubovi and J. Edwards of the Skorton Center presented and asked the Assembly for input on an upcoming Mental Health Review
 - i. J. Edwards described the University's adoption of the Okanagan Charter on October 26th and stated that today's vision session is to receive feedback from the Assembly on this adoption.
 - ii. J. Edwards asked the Assembly what a healthy Cornell University means to them. She asked the Assembly members to share specific responses to this question they found particularly meaningful



Cornell University University Assembly

1. J. Edwards stated that common themes in members' responses included education, respect, vaccination, open communication, diversity, equitability of access, and good work-life balance.
 2. D. Cady stated that he resonated with the theme of establishing a connection to the community.
 3. S. Williams stated that she appreciated the sentiment of patience expressed by the Assembly members.
 4. J. Edwards asked J. Kruser to elaborate on his claim that needs are met without the need to justify them. J. Kruser stated that establishing trust in the institution among the community is important and eliminates the need for the institution to justify its actions.
 5. S. Williams stated that the institution's response to university-wide events such as last year's bomb threats could be more even across disciplines.
- iii. J. Edwards asked the Assembly to consider what a healthy Cornell University could mean to someone outside of their community (students, faculty, or staff).
1. J. Edwards stated that common threads included understanding administrative burdens, protecting students, providing spaces for mental health-oriented experiences, and exemplifying compassion and respect.
 2. M. Heeney stated that S. Williams's point of treating employees with respect was important and provides greater inclusion across the community.
 3. D. Cady stated that M. Benda's point of ensuring that everyone feels heard is also important.
 - a. J. Edwards stated that this likely applies across the Cornell community and asked the Assembly where the university could improve.
 - b. M. Benda stated that it is particularly important for students to be heard and that it is helpful for employees to ensure this.
- iv. J. Edwards asked the Assembly what they think the key characteristics of a healthy Cornell community would be.
1. J. Edwards stated that important themes included respect, open and honest dialogue, systemic change, the work-life balance needed to prevent burnout, access to resources for personal well-being, and

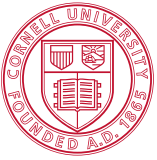


Cornell University University Assembly

- anti-discrimination. She also stated that trust has been an overarching theme of all of the responses she has received for each question and asked what the Assembly meant by the term.
- a. D. Cady stated that a big part of his answer was how respect is a precursor to trusting an individual or institution.
 - b. M. McEntee emphasized P. Hanley's claim about opportunities for interaction across the Cornell community.
- v. J. Edwards asked the Assembly to consider what they would like Cornell to look like five or ten years from the date of the meeting.
1. J. Edwards stated that important themes within responses included a positive culture shift toward supporting each other, a greater sense of community, more positive dialogue on mental health, and a more diverse community of intellectuals. She also stated that equity, inclusivity, access, quality, care, support for one another, and a sense of community are highly resonant themes.
 2. D. Cady stated that transparency is important and a good way to connect many of the issues brought up by the Assembly so far.
 - a. J. Edwards asked whether D. Cady meant specifically open communication. D. Cady stated that transparent communication and understanding of their community and access to resources.
- vi. J. Edwards asked the Assembly for any other concerns that they would like to bring up.
1. S. Williams stated that the concerns of groups like the Basic Needs Coalition should be included in the Skorton Center's platform and can be ameliorated through open communication.
 2. A. Haenlin-Mott emphasized the experiential equity issues and the efforts to make Beebe Lake more accessible.
- vii. J. Edwards thanked the Assembly for their participation in the visioning session, that they will be holding more in the future, and that they will be creating a well-being vision statement.

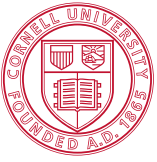
VI. Business of the Day

- a. UA Resolution 2 – Requesting the University Provide Funds for an MD Gynecologist at Cornell Health
 - i. D. Cady introduced UA Resolution 2 for the Assembly for feedback and questions from Assembly members.



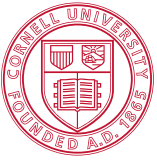
Cornell University University Assembly

- ii. M. Heeney introduced A. Johnson and J. Brady as the main crafters of the Resolution to request a gynecologist at Cornell Health.
- iii. A. Johnson and J. Brady introduced themselves and presented details of the Resolution to the Assembly.
 1. A. Johnson stated that they are trying to get the Resolution passed through as many shared governance bodies as possible. She stated that while peer institutions provide an MD gynecologist, Cornell does not provide the full range of gynecological services necessary for the university population. She stated that having an MD gynecologist would allow quick diagnoses and better care for common chronic conditions.
 2. J. Brady stated that part of the motivation for this resolution is the common complaint of Cornell community members having to travel out of state for gynecological care.
 3. R. Platt asked whether they have considered bringing a practitioner to the Ithaca area and having them split their time between Cornell and Ithaca College.
 - a. A. Johnson stated that while Cornell used to have an arrangement for an MD gynecologist to work at Cornell Health every few days, having a permanent staff member would greatly benefit the student body.
 4. M. Benda stated that most of the physicians listed on Cornell Health's website work in sports rehabilitation and that an MD gynecologist would be a good addition to the medical care offered at Cornell.
 5. S. Williams stated that she appreciated the Resolution's focus on inclusivity and the diversity of the Cornell community.
 6. A. Juan expressed his support of the Resolution, stating that an MD gynecologist would help increase access to quality healthcare in the Cornell community.
 7. M. Heeney stated that passing this resolution would alleviate the burden on the Cornell healthcare system and asked whether she could put forward a motion to vote.
 - a. D. Cady stated that the Assembly could vote at this meeting and that he wanted to hear further thoughts from the Assembly before doing so. He stated that waiting on voting allows for comments and committee discussion on the resolution.



Cornell University University Assembly

8. V. Valencia stated that since the GPSA and SA have already passed this resolution, it would be good for the University Assembly to do the same before the winter break.
9. R. Bensel put forward a motion to amend the resolution to eliminate the numbers within the text that correspond to footnotes. He also stated that voting at this meeting would not follow the norms of the Assembly in voting unless the vote was from a supermajority.
 - a. V. Valencia seconded the motion.
 - b. M. Heeney asked A. Johnson and J. Brady if removing the footnotes would hinder President Pollock's understanding of the resolution.
 - i. A. Johnson stated that since the footnotes were included in the GPSA and SA resolutions, she did not have an issue with removing the footnotes.
 - c. B. Milles stated that the Assembly should pass the resolution unanimously and that she was not sure why they were debating removing footnotes that may be important to the resolution.
10. A. Johnson asked D. Cady to share his screen with the resolution in its correct format.
11. R. Bensel stated that the resolution was not ready for a vote and that he would vote against it as it was presented at this meeting.
12. V. Valencia stated that the Assembly should vote on the correctly formatted version of the resolution and expressed her intent to remove her second of motion to amend the resolution.
13. D. Hiner stated that the SA Resolution as it is formatted for the meeting's initial agenda should be considered for voting.
14. D. Cady asked the Assembly if there were any motions to vote on the resolution with the recognition that the amendment would need to be made and that the meeting would need to be extended.
15. R. Bensel put forward a motion to extend the meeting and put forward a motion to remove footnotes 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 from the abstract by unanimous consent.
 - a. Meeting extended for ten minutes by unanimous consent.
 - b. M. McEntee seconded the motion to remove footnotes 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 from the abstract by unanimous consent.
16. E. Kalweit stated that he uploaded a version with the extraneous numbers eliminated. M. Heeney stated that she uploaded A.



Cornell University University Assembly

Johnson's correct version of the resolution without the formatting errors.

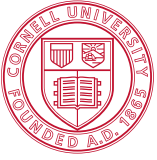
17. D. Cady stated that any motions to vote would be for the corrected version of UA Resolution 2 uploaded by E. Kalweit.
18. V. Valencia put forward a motion to vote on UA Resolution 2
 - a. M. Benda seconded the motion
 - b. D. Cady introduced voting on ending debate on UA Resolution 2.
 - i. By a vote of 14-0-1, the Assembly ended debate on UA Resolution 2.
 - c. D. Cady introduced voting on UA Resolution 2.
 - i. By a vote of 13-0-2, the Assembly **passed** UA Resolution 2.

VII. Assembly Reports

- a. Student Assembly
 - i. V. Valencia put forward a motion to extend the meeting to end at 6:30pm by unanimous consent.
 1. R. Bensel seconded the motion.
 - ii. V. Valencia stated that the Student Assembly passed an amendment to their bylaws to include an Office of Ethics and SA Resolution 15, resembling UA Resolution 2.
- b. Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
 - i. P. Hanley stated that the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly passed a resolution to provide a financial incentive for GPSA executive members, a similar MD gynecologist resolution, and a resolution commending his work.
- c. Employee Assembly
 - i. A. Haenlin-Mott stated that the Employee Assembly will meet on December 7th as their last meeting and that they currently have open seats. She asked the Assembly to send her any prospective members to fill these seats.
- d. Faculty Senate
 - i. Nothing to report

VIII. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Committee
 - i. Nothing to report



Cornell University University Assembly

- b. Codes and Judicial Committee
 - i. R. Bensel stated that President Pollack cancelled her meeting with members of the Committee without rescheduling and that the Committee will meet on December 2nd.
- c. Campus Welfare Committee
 - i. A. Juan stated that the Committee met to discuss numerous topics from its members.
- d. Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology, and the Environment
 - i. Nothing to report

IX. Liaison Reports

- a. Nothing to report

X. Adjournment

- a. R. Bensel put forward a motion to adjourn the meeting, M. Heeney seconded.

This meeting was adjourned at 6:31 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

PJ Brown

Clerk of the Assembly