Cornell University’s University Assembly
Minutes of the February 6th Meeting
4:45 pm – 6:15 pm
700 Clark Hall | Zoom

I. Call to Order
   a. S. Williams called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.
      ii. **Members Absent:** P. Kuehl, M. Matthews, C. Ting.
      iii. **Members Excused:** A. Broad, M. Heeney.
      iv. **Also Present:** E. Kalweit, O. Karim, D. Thomas Varner, J. Withers

II. Land Acknowledgement of the Gayogo̱-nó (Cayuga Nation)
   a. S. Williams stated the UA’s acknowledgment of the Cayuga Nation.

III. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda
   a. None received.

IV. Approval of the Minutes from the January 23rd, 2024
   a. J. Kruser motioned to approve the minutes from the January 23rd, 2024 meeting.
      i. A. Haenlin-Mott seconded the motion.
      ii. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.

V. Business of the Day
   a. Presentation on Cornell’s Interim Expressive Activity Policy and Interim Anti-Doxxing Policy from Donica Thomas Varner, Vice-President and General Counsel
      i. D. Varner provided a brief presentation providing an overview of both policies to the Assembly.
      ii. Questions posed to D. Varner addressed what constitutes political activity under the policies; concerns over the breadth of the restrictions on expression that do not have time/place/manner justifications and warrant disciplinary actions; how requests for large events are interpreted under the policy and its implementation; the chilling effect of the messaging accompanying the policy; the boundaries for indoor activity under the policy; the policy’s guidelines for amplified sound; the policy’s requirement of registering protests of 50 or more individuals; where students can go for
providing feedback on the policy; and how the university plans to ensure the policy is applied consistently across groups.

iii. Questions posed to D. Varner addressed the role of the University Assembly in drafting the policy and providing input; whether Cornell’s campus has experienced events that warrant the initiation of this policy; what guidance public safety officials have received for how to handle disruptive moments and whether officers are required to be present at registered events; the standardization of enforcement under the policy; the pipeline and timeline for feedback on improving the policy; the relationship between the policy and the Campus Code of Conduct; the precision and intention of the words used in the policy as well as the truth of their motivation and their implications for the Cornell community; the role of Cornell Police keeping the community safe and whether the community can trust them; whether applicants have to specify an event type when they register an event; whether an event can move in the instance of a march; and whether an event can be shut down simply because the university cannot provide support for it.

iv. E. Crawley put forward a motion to extend the meeting to end at 6:35pm.
   1. J. Wallen seconded the motion.
   2. The meeting was extended to end at 6:35pm by unanimous consent.

v. Questions to D. Varner addressed the nature of the support that the university intends to provide to events over fifty people; the policy’s time limit guidelines for poster removal; the policy’s emphasis on protests not disrupting ordinary business; the anti-doxxing policy’s lack of protection for students of color; the proactivity of the university in addressing underlying concerns; how the policy interferes with the teachings of democratic values at the university; the policy’s impact on international students; whether expectations under the policy are applicable as Code of Conduct issues; and how the policy impacts norms of freedom of speech and expression.

vi. J. Wallen put forward a motion to extend the meeting to end at 6:40pm.
   1. B. Milles seconded the motion.
   2. The meeting was extended to end at 6:40pm by unanimous consent and all additional agenda items were moved to the assembly’s next meeting.

vii. Questions posed to D. Varner addressed the role of Cornell as a contracted college with the state in implementing the policy; how the community prevents digital harassment under the policy; and how the policy addresses subjects of discrimination.
VI. Adjournment
   a. E. Crawley motioned to adjourn the meeting.
      i. J. Kruser seconded the motion.
      ii. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

This meeting was adjourned at 6:38pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

P.J. Brown
Clerk of the Assembly