

Cornell University University Assembly

Cornell's University Assembly

Minutes of the February 20th, 2024 Meeting

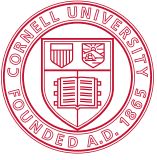
4:45 PM – 6:15 PM

401 Physical Sciences Building | Zoom

- I. Call to Order
 - a. S. Williams called the meeting to order at 4:50pm.
 - b. *Members Present:* M. Benda, A. Broad, E. DeRosa, D. Dinner, A. Haenlin-Mott, M. Heeney, P. Kuehl, M. Matthews, M. McEntee, B. Milles, C. Ting, J. VanHouten, A. Vinson, S. Williams
 - c. *Members Absent:* E. Crawley, I. Hewson, J. Kruser, J. Wallen
 - d. *Also Present:* R. Bensel, C. McLinn, R. Platt, J. Withers

- II. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda
 - a. S. Williams called for late additions to the agenda. No late additions were proposed.

- III. Business of the Day
 - a. Recap of Cornell's Interim Expressive Activity Policy and Interim Anti-Doxxing Policy Presentation with Donica Thomas Varner, Vice President and General Counsel
 - i. The University Assembly discussed the presentation and subsequent discussion that took place at their last meeting.
 - ii. Discussion ensued over the lack of trust in the university's administration resulting from the policies; incorporation of elected representatives in the feedback and revision procedure for policies; the availability and accessibility of resources regarding the policies to members of the Cornell community; the sentiments of certain student groups feeling targeted by the policy; and the possibility of drafting a memo to the university's administration summarizing policy feedback. The assembly also discussed policy feedback received from faculty members; whether the policies include protections for individual groups including counter-protestors; the impact of the policies on the university's Code of Conduct; and the role of the University Assembly in discussions over these policies and ensuring the development of a strong response.
 1. During the discussion, D. Dinner stated that her colleagues drafted two sets of detailed comments and feedback on the policy, which can be found [here](#) and [here](#).



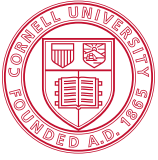
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- iii. S. Williams called for the assembly members to share any action items they planned to take between now and next meeting.
 - 1. M. Matthews stated that the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly sent out their communique including resources for graduate students to share feedback on the policy.
 - 2. P. Kuehl stated that the Student Assembly is discussing the feasibility of drafting a rapid referendum.

- IV. Assembly Reports
 - a. Student Assembly – P. Kuehl
 - i. P. Kuehl put forward a point of personal privilege requesting to complete his assembly report before committee meetings.
 - 1. The request was approved by S. Williams.
 - ii. P. Kuehl stated that the Student Assembly is working on gearing up for its elections and issuing a referendum on median grades.

- V. Business of the Day (continued)
 - a. Committee Meetings
 - i. The assembly members met with their respective committees for six minutes.

- VI. Assembly Reports (continued)
 - a. Graduate and Professional Student Assembly – M. Matthews
 - i. M. Matthews stated that the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly had one presentation on Robert's Rules of Order and one presentation from the director of the Center for Teaching Innovation. She also stated that the assembly passed a resolution exempting groups with affinity status from their tiered funding system.
 - b. Employee Assembly – J. VanHouten
 - i. J. VanHouten stated that the Employee Assembly passed a resolution in support of President Pollack in response to John Linsock's letter and are working on another resolution supporting DEI initiatives. She also stated that they will be holding a town hall on February 22nd at 10am in partnership with human resources. She also stated that the assembly will have a presentation from the Einhorn Center at their next meeting and are kicking off elections in the next month.
 - c. Faculty Senate – E. DeRosa



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- i. E. DeRosa stated that the Faculty Senate received two updates to resolutions passed last year, one of which for the 8-year tenure clock for faculty in the College of Business and another for the nontraditional part-time bachelor's degree program from the School of Continuing Education. She also stated that they have discussed the Interim Expressive Activity Policy and have a pending resolution on the issue. She also stated that the assembly hosted a town hall with Provost Kotlikoff and General Counsel Varner and is hosting a faculty forum on February 28th to continue their discussion on the issue.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Committee – S. Williams
 - i. S. Williams stated that the Executive Committee will be meeting with General Counsel Varner and welcomes feedback or resolutions.
- b. Campus Codes Committee
 - i. Nothing to report
- c. Campus Welfare Committee
 - i. Nothing to report
- d. Campus Committee on Information, Technology, and the Environment
 - i. Nothing to report

VIII. Adjournment

- a. M. Matthews motioned to adjourn the meeting.
 - i. A. Haenlin-Mott seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

P.J. Brown

Clerk of the Assembly