

MINUTES

University Assembly
December 1st, 2015
4:30pm - 6:00pm
401 Physical Sciences Building

Attendance:

Present: E. Baptist, M. Battaglia, M. Hatch, K. Herleman, M. Indimine, G. Kaufman, N. La Celle, BJ Siasoco, U. Smith, A. Thomson, R. Walroth

Absent: J. Batista, J. Burns, R. Howarth, E. Loew, M. McBride, P. Thompson

Others Present: V. Bhaya, L. Falkson, D. Shalloway, C. Walcott

I. Call to Order (Chair)

Meeting was called to order at 4:50 PM .

Call for Late Additions to the Agenda

None requested.

I. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of November 17, 2015 were approved by unanimous consent.

II. Reports from Assemblies

Student Assembly

G. Kaufman said that President Garrett approved Anabel's Grocery, which involves a few different constituencies. The SA has have their final 2 meetings on Thursday and Friday.

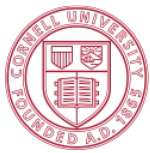
Graduate & Professional Student Assembly

R. Walroth said that the GPSA is still figuring out their activity fee. They will have to have that approved at the next meeting.

Employee Assembly

BJ Siasoco said that the EA will be holding internal elections. It seems like they have someone interested in filling the CJC seat.

Faculty Senate



J. Burns was not present.

III. Committee Updates

Executive Committee

A. Thomson said that G. Mezey has officially resigned from the Assembly so they are awaiting word on who will be his replacement. The Executive Committee has been assigned to appoint another member to JA Search committee. A. Thomson on behalf of R. Howarth said that the CPC talked about improved signage.

Campus Infrastructure Committee

E. Loew was unable to attend.

Campus Welfare Committee

U. Smith said that they are focusing on a lot of LGBT work. They are also working on a bullying policy called the ABC policy.

Codes & Judicial Committee

G. Kaufman said that at the CJC's first meeting, they discussed the Community Bill of Rights, working group, general discussion about Policy 6.4, set a meeting time. There is not a lot of agreement about what they are going to have in there, but they are going to decide the task of the working group before they decide the composition of the working group.

Textbook Price Working Group

G. Kaufman said they have been talking to employees about what the main problems are with textbook pricing.

IV. Liaison Updates

Council of Sexual Violence Prevention

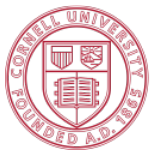
K. Herleman said 18 students were hired who are finishing training and are going to identify issues and ways to implement safer spaces for individuals. The University is currently searching for a new Title IV coordinator.

Policy Advisory Group

G. Kaufman said that they will be talking about Policy 5.1.

Student Health Fee Advisory Committee Liaison

Thomson said that one of the things that has become clear is that Gannett appears to have a model for undergraduates that is very well-tailored to undergrads but does not necessarily fit other constituency groups on campus. That has often led to GPSA students needing a Gannett because the system makes it difficult for them to visit, etc. He is putting together a series of anonymous case reports to present to Gannett to see if they can start making some progress on ways that healthcare can be streamlined.



Student Insurance Advisory Committee Liaison

M. Indimine said they are thinking of moving the Plan start date to August 1.

V. Business of the Day

Ombudsman Annual Update with Q&A

C. Walcott said the Ombudsman office has been around since 1969. They are a safe place for members of the community to come and talk about problems. They have changed over the last few years and have adopted the principles of the International Ombudsman Association. They are independent of the University except that they report to the UA. They are neutral and informal (do not participate in formal processes). They are confidential and go to great efforts to preserve that confidentiality. A major problem they face is making the community familiar with what they do. They offer resources that people may not know exist. L. Falkson said they greatly appreciate the support of the UA. They feel passionately about the work we do. Largely people are seeing them because they are having a tough time and they are the conduit to try to help people get the help that they want. They help students, faculty, and staff. People's problems do not neatly fit into one problem area, and many times the problems overlap.

BJ Siasoco asked if they could talk a little bit about their relationship with the official offices that make the decisions?

L. Falkson said that they for the most part do not talk to other offices. They use upward feedback discretely. G. Kaufman asked how frequently their concerns are related to the Campus Code of Conduct? L. Falkson said there are not issues related to the Code in terms of wishing certain procedures were different, but they do see visitors who are wondering what they can do to get help, for example not knowing that the JCC exists. R. Walroth asked how easy accessibility to Ombudsman is. L. Falkson said the policy is that everyone can access the Ombudsman office but they are confidential so it can get tricky when someone asks to go. R. Walroth asked to what extent do they reach out to Geneva and Cornell tech. C. Walcott said he has been told that there is an Ombudsman at Cornell Weill, but the Dean doesn't hope to have it publicized so in the past he has pushed upon the President to change this arrangement. G. Giambattista asked if there is there any arbitration mechanism in the Ombudsman office? L. Falkson said in terms of their neutrality, they are unaligned, unbiased, we do not take sides. Making a decision flies in the face of being an arbitrator. G. Giambattista asked what they attribute low numbers in 2011-2012 to. L. Falkson said the year they were low was the year they started doing outreach. There are a lot of factors that have to come together; she thinks you have to have something that you think is a real problem and know that the Ombudsman office exists. M. Battaglia asked if President Garrett been accessible to them. C. Walcott said he had a very good meeting with her in July. She is very familiar with the process and she was very sympathetic and hopeful – she made it very clear that she was always available.

M. Battaglia thanked them for their time.



For Discussion/Vote: UA Resolution #3: Adoption of an Inclusive Restroom, Locker Room, and Gender-Specific Facility Usage Policy

U. Smith said the Resolution calls for an actual statement/policy to make it known that people can use the restroom that coincides to the gender with which they identify and so that the University can convert all single-space stall spaces to all-gender restrooms.

M. Battaglia shared a comment from Gilbert Delgado who mentioned that on line 78, he is not sure if Fall 2016 is a realistic goal.

The Resolution was passed by a vote of 9-0-1.

Discussion regarding the Cornell Senior Leadership Climate Action Group

M. Hatch said that the Assembly brought divestment and carbon neutrality in front of Trustees and central administration. They did not see the practicality of divestment and wanted to talk about sustainability and making Cornell a center of sustainability and show the world. One of the matters that came out of that discussion with Trustees was that the President formed a Senior Leadership Climate Action group. M. Hatch asked that M. Battaglia and others communicate with them so that the UA may have 3 or 4 representatives work on the Senior Leadership Group to bring their ideas and opinions into the mix. M. Battaglia said that he sent an email to VP Huang and Bland explaining what he is putting on the agenda. They indicated that they are meeting later this week to see how to include the Cornell community. There was a consensus that maybe the UA Executive should be empowered with serving on this group. D. Shalloway said they all have the sense of urgency of doing something about climate action. This is an issue that falls in their hands.

Divestment was one issue by the constituencies of Cornell to take a bigger role and they have made some progress. They would like to change the model for interaction between constituencies and senior leadership. Their goal is to set up a working relationship so that the constituencies have representation on the group – they bring our ideas to the group and get approval of those ideas. It would make sense for the UA to send representatives to meet on a regular basis with the Senior Leadership Action Group.

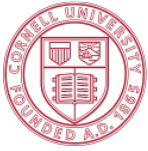
K. Herleman said that these changes that they need to make involve huge updates to infrastructure. BJ Siasoco asked what they are doing to look at the communication aspect.

D. Shalloway said they will have another committee that will work with J. Malina.

R. Walroth said one of the issues he has is that at the end of the day, University resources are kind of a zero sum game. They may need to do cuts from other areas. His second issue is that the things that need to be change to make Cornell carbon-neutral are behavior-related.

M. Hatch said that they need to come up with the ideas, not the money.

M. Battaglia suggested three possible courses of action: to empower UA Exec to send people to the Senior Leadership Action Group, to table this to the January meeting, or to push it through this meeting. R. Walroth requested that the four people they appoint last until January 26 and then they can review those appointments at their next scheduled meeting. G.



Cornell University
University Assembly

Please note: These minutes are a DRAFT and have not been formally approved by the University Assembly. The minutes will become the official record after the first meeting of the Assembly in Spring 2016.

Giambattista requested that they appoint representatives from each of the assemblies since the UA cannot appoint people to a University-level committee.

By a vote of 8-1-0, the motion was carried to empower the UA Exec to continue working with the leaders of the group and appoint interim representatives after consulting with their local assemblies.

VI. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:20 P.M.

Late Additions to the Agenda

No late items were requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Vishal Bhaya
Assemblies Clerk