

Cornell University University Assembly

Cornell University Assembly Minutes of the April 6th, 2021 Meeting 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM Zoom

- I. Call to Order
 - a. L. Kenney called the meeting to order at 4:32pm.
 - b. *Members Present:* V. Aymer, H. Depew, N. Danev, D. Dunham, J. Feit, B. Fortenberry, T. Fox, D. Hiner, A. Hong, R. Howarth, , L. Kenney, C. Levine, J. Pea, B. Sherr, L. Smith, C. Van Loan, P. Thompson, J. Withers.
 - c. *Members Absent:* U. Chukwukere, C. Huang.
 - d. *Also Present:* M. Salgado, S. Linardi
- II. Call to order - 4:30pm
- III. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda – 4:32pm to 4:35pm
 - a. Bob motioned to add Resolution 21 to the agenda.
 - i. C. Levine seconded the motion.
 - ii. The motion passed with unanimous consent.
 - b. J. Feit motioned to move Resolution 15 and Resolution 16 to the agenda as “Old Business.”
 - i. D. Dunham seconded the motion.
 - ii. The motion was passed with unanimous consent
- IV. Land Acknowledgement of the Gayogohóːnoː (Cayuga Nation)
 - a. L. Kenney read the land acknowledgment.
- V. Approval of the Minutes (3/16, 3/2)
 - a. L. Kenney noted an amendment to change the name of Resolution 16 to “Calling for a Veteran’s Support Center.”
 - b. B. Sherr motioned to vote on the 3/16 minutes.
 - i. B. Sherr retracted the motion.
 - c. B. Sherr motioned to also vote on the minutes from the 3/2.
 - i. N. Danev seconded this motion.
 - ii. This motion passed with unanimous consent.
 - d. B. Sherr motioned to vote on the 3/2 and 3/16 minutes.
 - i. J. Feit seconded the motion.
 - ii. The motion **passed** with 15-0-1.
- VI. Old Business
 - a. Resolution 15: Amending the University Assembly Bylaws’ Title of the Standing ‘Campus Infrastructure Committee’ (CIC)
 - i. V. Aymer asked for a quick summary.



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- ii. J. Feit stated that the current name doesn't reflect the committee's jurisdiction.
 - iii. L. Kenney asked if they could restate the proposed name.
 - 1. L. Smith stated the name is "The Campus Committee of Infrastructure, Technology, and the Environment."
 - iv. B. Sherr motioned to vote on Resolution 15.
 - 1. R. Howarth seconded the motion.
 - 2. The resolution **passed** with 14-0-1.
 - b. Resolution 16: Calling for a Veterans Support Center
 - i. T. Fox was appointed as chair temporarily.
 - ii. L. Kenney motioned that Resolution 16 be sent to the CWC.
 - 1. B. Sherr seconded the motion
 - 2. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.
 - iii. L. Kenney reclaimed chair-ship.
- VII. New Business
- a. Resolution 17: Calling on Cornell to End All Ties With Immigration and Customs Enforcement
 - i. B. Sherr stated that M. Salgado and S. Linardi, members of the DREAM Team and main architects of this resolution, will be presenting the resolution. M. Salgado stated that the resolution calls on Cornell to cut all ties with ICE. Cornell has had a history with on-campus recruitment and contracts with ICE-related companies. S. Linardi stated that ICE has a long history of brutality and has posed a threat against individual liberties. They stated that the resolution was passed in the SA, and hope that the University Assembly calls on Cornell University to boycott and ban recruitment attempts from ICE-affiliated companies, refuse to participate in research funded by ICE or DHS and other elements of the military-prison-industrial-financial-security complex, and abolish all professional, academic, and financial ties with ICE and its affiliates.
 - ii. J. Feit thanked M. Salgado and S. Linardi. They state that goal of the community shouldn't be to remove people and subject them to potential torture. Every student should know that they are not at risk of being subjected to these threats. They state that in order make Cornell a more equitable place, a place of "any person any study," we must take these necessary steps and listen to the student body.
 - iii. D. Dunham asked why Resolution 17 is distinct from Resolution 19 and how successful are other college campuses in responding to any federal legal challenges.



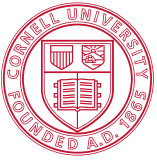
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- iv. S. Linardi stated that this Resolution is based on recruitment policy as opposed to Resolution 19's protective policies.
 - v. T. Fox asked for the source of the information of the detect and shoot devices on the border.
 - vi. S. Linardi stated that they had a professor from CornellTech who wished to remain anonymous.
 - vii. T. Fox stated that these devices needed to be documented before you create such a serious allegation.
 - viii. L. Kenney asked if this information was public anywhere.
 - ix. S. Linardi stated that the research project should be accessible by students and team members within CornellTech.
 - x. N. Danev wanted to express his support and stated that the university should not support an organization that routinely violates human rights.
 - xi. J. Feit stated that the resolution doesn't call on breaking the law, but rather calls on Cornell to uphold their morality.
 - xii. V. Aymer agreed with T. Fox. They stated that the Resolution would hold strong without the CornellTech research. As the research is not public, they suggest that the resolution should amend or take out that wording.
 - xiii. R. Howarth agreed with V. Aymer and T. Fox. They don't think that ICE should be on campus. However, they should be careful about having that portion as it might undercut the resolution.
 - xiv. N. Danev motioned to remove lines 21-22.
 1. J. Feit seconded the motion.
 2. B. Sherr stated that they support the resolution as-is, but if the body feels more comfortable removing that they would be amendable.
 3. The amendment **passed** with 14-0-3.
 - xv. B. Sherr proposed to amend line 72 to "whereas, a similar resolution was passed..." replacing "whereas, this resolution."
 1. D. Dunham seconded the motion
 2. This amendment **passed** with unanimous consent.
 - xvi. N. Danev motioned to vote on the resolution.
 1. D. Dunham seconded the motion.
 2. The resolution was **passed** with 15-0-2.
- b. Resolution 19: Calling On Cornell to Establish Itself As A Sanctuary Campus
- i. M. Salgado presented the resolution.
 - ii. N. Danev supports the resolution, but they cannot get behind the wording "Don't ask don't tell" as is traumatic for the LGBTQ+ community.



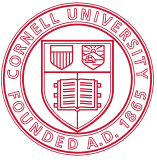
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- iii. L. Kenney also agreed, stating that “Don’t ask don’t tell” is also traumatic from a veteran standpoint.
- iv. D. Dunham thanked them for the resolution and wanted to reiterate his question about legal ramifications.
- v. S. Linardi stated that there are several policies that can protect undocumented students that are implemented in sanctuary campuses today.
- vi. D. Dunham asked if there were any legal issues as they don’t want the resolution to be immediately rejected on that basis.
- vii. S. Linardi linked an article in the chat that would respond to D. Dunham’s concerns. They also proposed a “mutual anonymity” policy as replacement wording for “don’t ask don’t tell.”
- viii. D. Danev moved “don’t ask don’t tell” on 172 and 20 to “a policy of confidentiality.”
 1. D. Dunham seconded the motion.
 2. S. Linardi, M. Salgado, and B. Sherr all agreed that the language was fitting.
 3. The amendment **passed** with unanimous consent.
- ix. L. Kenny asked for clarification on whether they are referring to the former Cornell administration as to not submit heresy.
- x. M. Salgado stated that the line refers to the former Dean of Students.
- xi. B. Sherr motions to amend line 84 “Whereas, former...”
 1. V. Aymer asserted that they should add both references by name or both by title as having one quote referenced by name and the other referenced by title is not uniform.
 2. B. Sherr retracted his motion for more discussion
- xii. L. Kenney asked if the quotes were from two different people. They agree with V. Aymer on calling out both statements by name or neither by name.
- xiii. B. Sherr motion to amend lines 84 and 85 to “Whereas former...and a former Dean of Students had asked...”
 1. J. Withers seconded the motion.
 2. The amendment **passed** with unanimous consent.
- xiv. B. Sherr proposed a friendly amendment to change line 154 “Whereas, a similar...” instead of “Whereas, this.”
 1. D. Dunham seconded the motion.
 2. The amendment **passed** with unanimous consent.
- xv. L. Kenney asked if any other New York campuses had declared themselves a sanctuary campus.



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- xvi. B. Sherr stated that New York University declared itself a sanctuary campus in 2016.
- xvii. N. Danev moved to vote on the resolution.
 - 1. D. Dunham seconded the resolution.
 - 2. The motion passed with 16-0-1.
- xviii. B. Sherr clarified the Resolution 20 will be motioned to move to the CCITE.
- c. Resolution 18: Encouraging the Board of Trustees to Revoke Governor Andrew Cuomo's Ex-Officio Membership
 - i. B. Sherr presented the resolution. He asserts that he does not believe that someone with detailed accounts of sexual harassment and accused of gross governmental misconduct should be on the Board of Trustees.
 - ii. N. Danev thanks B. Sherr for bringing this to the UA, however they point out that the resolution has clauses in regards to his impeachment process that has not begun. Additionally, they do not think that the UA should assert who should or should not be on the Board of Trustees. They propose motioning for tangible changes regarding sexual assault and harassment on campus rather than a mostly symbolic resolution.
 - iii. B. Sherr stated that the clause relating to the impeachment process can be clarified with an amendment.
 - iv. D. Dunham agreed with N. Danev and said these allegations are not within the scope of the UA.
 - v. V. Aymer agreed with D. Dunham and N. Danev. They believe it is too soon to pass this resolution especially before investigations are over.
 - vi. C. Van Loan agreed. The U.A. has no historical basis for a scope of this magnitude as it might even jeopardize relations with Albany. They do not think it is worth pursuing a formal reprimand at this time.
 - vii. B. Sherr stated that the misconduct has been confirmed by members of the Cuomo administration. B. Sherr asserted the resolution calls for Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul as a substitute to keep that communication intact with Albany. He asked the body who would take action if not them.
 - viii. L. Kenney stated that the only way to get the audience of the board is when they are invited to speak or if the resolution is passed by all the assemblies.
 - ix. V. Aymer stated that they need to have the other assemblies approve this resolution before it comes to the UA. They believe that to suggest that the Board of Trustees cannot police themselves might be offensive and it is too early to enact this Resolution.
 - x. N. Danev seconded V. Aymer.
 - xi. N. Danev motioned to table this resolution indefinitely.



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1. R. Howarth seconded the motion.
 2. The motion passed and Resolution 18 was **tabled** with 14-1-1.
 - xii. J. Withers moved for H. Depew to report on the EA due to time constraints.
 1. P. Thompson seconded this motion.
 2. This motion passed with unanimous consent.
 - xiii. B. Sherr motioned to extend to 6:15pm.
 1. P. Thompson seconded the motion.
 2. The motion passed without objection.
 - d. Resolution 20: Advocating for a Tree-per-Graduate Program at Cornell University
 - i. B. Sherr stated that they introduced the resolution to bring it to the UA's attention, however they'd like to bring the resolution before the CCITE for approval.
 - ii. B. Sherr motioned to bring this resolution under the CCITE.
 1. J. Feit seconded the motion.
 2. This motion **passed** with unanimous consent.
 - e. Resolution 21: Resolution Demanding Greenhouse Gas Emissions Accountability
 - i. R. Howarth stated the resolution calls for an independent audit of Cornell University's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and demands the University immediately adopt CLCPA-mandated greenhouse gas accounting in order to establish transparency and maintain prolonged accountability as it relates to University GHG emissions.
 - ii. J. Feit added that the CCITE passed this resolution unanimously.
 - iii. C. Levine stated that it is important that we have a process for measuring our emissions and that the assembly needs to ensure that it is followed up.
 - iv. R. Howarth said that if this issue was brought to their attention, he has confidence that they will at least look into the issue.
 - v. J. Feit motioned to vote on Resolution 21
 1. B. Sherr seconded the motion
 2. The motion **passed** with 15-0-1.
- VIII. Constituent Group Updates
- a. Employee Assembly
 - i. H. Depew stated that they are working on elections and are trying to create a finance form. The EA has partnered with the Asian and American Center (AAC) and the Ithaca Asian American Association (IAAA) to discuss how they can address local challenges following the March 16th shootings in Atlanta and increasing Asian American violence. They are also partnering with the IAAA on their campaign Virus Has No Nationality.

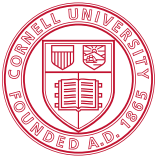


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- b. Faculty Senate
 - i. C. Van Loan stated that they have a meeting on the Hotel School Collaboration with PKU. They are moving forward with an approval process. They have all the anti-racism reports that will be dealt with in the next meeting. In the coming weeks, candidates for C. Van Loan's position will also be presented.
- c. Graduate & Professional Student Assembly
 - i. D. Dunham stated that members met with the graduate school to discuss a request for data on funding levels in response to the want for blanket extensions on funding. They discussed barriers that the University faces to collecting data. Additionally, President Pollack spoke with the GPSA and it was ascertained that there would be no blanket funding extension for graduate students, however, they expressed optimism for full vaccination by the beginning of fall. There are only two meetings left, primarily dominated by elections. But they will be hearing from the director of Student Disability Services, organizers of the diversity preview weekend, and from CTI on TA resources.
 - ii. B. Sherr motioned for a 5-minute extension.
 - 1. J. Feit seconded the motion.
 - 2. The motion passed with unanimous consent.
- d. Student Assembly
 - i. L. Smith stated the SA recently passed a resolution on extending grant-based aid to include summer and winter sessions. They passed resolutions supporting the Asian American community and passed the ICE resolutions presented in the UA today. They stated that campaigning will start soon for SA seats.

IX. Committee Updates

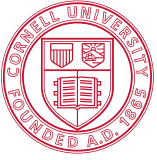
- a. Executive Committee
 - i. L. Kenney stated that the executive team met and discussed a resolution that might come forward to the committee in the coming meeting. They reported that the president was against the renaming of Goldwin Smith Hall. The Executive Committee also noted that the campus missed the opportunity to lower flags to pay respects to those lost to COVID-19.
- b. Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology, and the Environment
 - i. J. Feit stated that there is a meeting tomorrow in which they will discuss Resolutions on the Tree per Graduate Program, electric car charging ports, lighting on the slope, and an SA member will bring forward a resolution on Housing and Residential Life.



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- c. Campus Welfare Committee
 - i. B. Sherr stated that the CWC's ad-hoc committee on naming practices and historical preservation has been meeting. In the last meeting, they passed an ad-hoc committee on Veteran's Affairs so they will be looking at the resolution sent today along with a new resolution on a veteran's specific CAPS counselor.
- d. Codes and Judicial Committee
 - i. L. Kenney stated the CJC will bring forward a resolution in the next meeting.
- X. Open Floor Discussion
- XI. Adjournment at 6:21pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Kassandra Jordan
Clerk of the Assembly



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APPENDIX A Chat Transcript

00:25:52 UA - Bennett Sherr (He/Him/His): Its 14 in box
00:26:03 UA - Lucas Smith:
<https://cornell.app.box.com/file/787492085508?s=5joxcn5p88gin2kq8sf2ur5lg8gbbtuz>
00:26:46 UA - Nikola Danev (he/him): could someone share the box with me after the meeting please?
00:27:17 UA - David Dunham: Nik - I'll share it with you, if I can.
00:29:27 UA - Jeff Pea (he/him): From the UA charter - An affirmative vote of a majority of the seated members of the Assembly is required to amend the Bylaws of the Assembly
00:29:46 UA - Jeff Pea (he/him): 2/3rds is for amending the Charter
00:55:17 Logan Kenney (she, her):
<https://cornell.box.com/s/m0pqsumrtbgnwrbrlaa32zzfgbuxjrdt>
01:02:35 UA - Bennett Sherr (He/Him/His): The typo was in the SA bill that this was sent from but its 251 miles Toronto
01:05:12 Stella Linardi (she/her): An Analysis of Sanctuary Campuses: Assessing the Legality and Effectiveness of Policies Protective of Undocumented Students and of Potential Government Responses : <https://www.law.georgetown.edu/georgetown-law-journal/wp-content/uploads/sites/26/2018/07/An-Analysis-of-Sanctuary-Campuses.pdf>
01:18:19 UA - Bennett Sherr (He/Him/His): <https://www.politico.com/states/new-york/city-hall/story/2016/12/nyu-commits-to-be-sanctuary-campus-for-undocumented-immigrants-107749>
01:36:01 UA - Bennett Sherr (He/Him/His): To be. Clear, under resolution 3 this is roll called, correct?
01:37:49 Logan Kenney (she, her): Would someone please consider moving to extend post-Hei Hei's report?
01:50:20 UA - Charles Van Loan: gotta go
01:50:42 Bob Howarth: Thank you everyone for supporting the resolution.
01:50:52 Jacob Feit: ^^
01:51:09 Bob Howarth: And with apologies, I need to run.