



Cornell University Student Assembly

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Minutes of the Thursday, October 25, 2018 Meeting
4:46pm-5:37pm in Willard Straight Hall Memorial Room

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. V. Devatha called the meeting to order at 4:46 pm.
- b. Roll Call:
 - i. *Present*: J. Anderson [0], D. Barbaria [0], V. Devatha [0], O. Din [2.5], J. Dominguez [0], O. Egharevba [1], A. Hailu [1], S. Harshvardhan [1], N. Hernandez [0], C. Huang [0], S. Iruvanti [0], K. Kebbeh [1], S. Lim [0], N. Matolka [0], D. Nyakaru [0], I. Pavlov [0], E. Shapiro [0], M. Shovik [0], J. Sim [0], M. Stefanko [1], I. Wallace [0], B. Weintraub [0], V. Xu [0]
 - ii. *Absent*: A. Jain [0], U. Mustafa [0], M. Peralta-Ochoa [1.5], F. Uribe-Rheinbolt [0]
 - iii. *Arrived After Roll Call*: G. Park [0.25]

II. Approval of the Minutes

- a. There was a motion to table the approval of minutes until the next meeting – **tabled**.
- b. J. Anderson moved to amend the agenda such that Resolution 15 would be added as a late agenda item – **amended**.

III. Open Microphone

- a. No speakers at the open microphone.

IV. Announcements and Reports

- a. N. Matolka said that there is a PowerPoint attached to the meeting packet regarding the midterm elections on November 6th and what the assembly can do to increase voter turnout. He added that the main concern in this regard is that Cornell had a 33% turnout in the 2016 election, compared to a national campus average of 38%, and that he'd like to set forth an initiative wherein every individual on the assembly who is able to vote take a picture of themselves voting or their absentee ballot. He also urged members of the assembly who cannot vote to get the word out to those who can.
- b. D. Barbaria said that the chance of Ithaca going Republican in the upcoming election was recently downgraded, and that any member who is registered to vote in Ithaca should take note of that.
- c. D. Barbaria said that each byline organization was audited so as to determine how the Appropriations Committee (henceforth AppsCom) would act on these organizations if this were a byline funding year. He added that the results of these

audits are merely suggestions, and that this does not force next year's committee to act in any way.

- i. The results were such that Cornell Concert Commission and the other organizations audited were each voted to have been maintained at their current level of funding.
- d. D. Barbaria said that in regard to Special Projects Funding, AppsCom met with Thread Magazine on Monday, and voted to not give the magazine any money due to the reasons they requested funding. He added that they did vote to give Mundial FC money, since they made nationals for the first time in their history and did not receive any SAFC funding, and that this helps reduce their costs by \$50 per student.

V. New Business & Business of the Day

- a. Resolution 15: In Support of the Trans and Gender Non-Conforming Community at Cornell
 - i. J. Anderson said that over the weekend, the New York Times reported on a memo from the Trump administration's Health and Human Services that would constrain the definition of sex and legal gender under Title IX, which would effectively erase a lot of LGBTQ+ identity, specifically trans and gender non-conforming students. He added that as president of Haven, this has been a very difficult time because it's been sensitive for a lot of folks and what the implications of these changes might be, so this resolution seeks to push forward a committed stance by Cornell in support of trans people on campus, and asks that the Title IX office release more specific guidance for people who might be affected by this memo. He also said that it also asks that Cornell lobby state relations to pass GENDA through the State Senate, and that these are concrete steps that Cornell can take to stand with LGBTQ+ students on campus. He added that all rule changes at the federal level have to go through a public comment period, and that he would recommend that those who are able donate money to trans-led organizations. He also said that this is one of the biggest things that is going to happen to trans students on this campus, and that he is happy to take any questions and spread resources.
 - ii. There was a motion to vote.
 1. Adam Klier dissented.
 2. The motion was **withdrawn**.
 - iii. A. Klier said that he does not want anyone to think that he does not support this resolution, and that having been in the Army for six years and seeing people's sexuality and gender identity suppressed is heartbreaking. He added that he has a question about the wording of the second "Be it" clause, and whether it would make more sense to add the word "attempted" in that clause.
 - iv. J. Anderson replied in the affirmative.
 - v. There was a motion to move this resolution to Business of the Day – **approved**.
 - vi. D. Barbaria moved to amend the line referenced by A. Klier such that it reads "Be it further resolves, that Cornell University publicly condemn the Trump Administration's attempted erasure of federal recognition and

protections for transgender and gender non-conforming individuals;” – amended.

- vii. D. Nyakaru expressed her support for the resolution, and said that the Marsha P. Johnson Institute is a good organization to donate to in this regard. She added that this is a good use of privilege for those people who identify as the gender they were assigned upon birth.
- viii. D. Barbaria asked how this memo affects the Title IX office’s operation on campus at this time.
- ix. J. Anderson said that they are still figuring that out, and that they are currently able to protect trans students regarding bathroom and locker room use on campus. He added that they are in direct contact with the LGBT Resource Center on campus in this regard.
- x. N. Hernandez explained Title IX and its protections, and said that this change would take away many students’ rights. She added that a Title IX coordinator will be at a meeting sometime in the coming weeks to answer questions in this regard.
 - 1. The original text of Title IX reads as follows: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."
- xi. O. Din asked if J. Anderson had any advice on how SA members can help Haven in this regard.
- xii. J. Anderson said that assembly members could share the resources being put out, and that they are looking at getting a speaker on campus so that there is a degree of empowerment, understanding, and allyship. He added that it would be great if a few large organizations would be willing to cosponsor such an event, and that one idea he is trying to push would involve getting a bus or two of Cornell students up to Albany to lobby for GENDA. He also said that they are going to be looking at a lot of funding sources, and that there has been a lot of proactivity in this regard which is great.
- xiii. J. Dominguez asked what some of the specific protections Cornell gives to the trans community at Cornell, and asked how many trans students are currently at Cornell.
- xiv. J. Anderson said that the community size is kept confidential to maintain the security and privacy of its members, and that a lot of what Cornell provides is wide-ranging. He added that Cornell Health can provide all sorts of medical procedures and assistance up until the level of surgery. He also said that this assistance includes gender ID and name changes, which all require some sort of federal or state change before such changes are reflected at Cornell, which they have been working on to change. He added that it is very progressive from a healthcare perspective, but that there is still a lot to work on.
- xv. Motion to vote on Resolution 15 – approved 23-0-0.

VI. Liaison Reports

- a. University Assembly & Codes and Judicial Committee

- i. J. Anderson said that much of the UA's work so far has been housekeeping, and that the CJC which D. Barbaria chairs has received its report from the Hate Speech Working Group.
 - ii. D. Nyakaru asked what the overall changes proposed by the HSWG were.
 - iii. K. Kebbeh said that the CJC's progress regarding anything has been slow, and that the recommendations were received in a very long document by the committee two weeks ago.
 - iv. D. Barbaria said that the CJC is the UA's oldest standing committee, and that its primary responsibility is overseeing Cornell's Campus Code of Conduct, which currently is a very difficult-to-read document that is not a clear statement of Cornell's values. He explained the recommended changes from the HSWG.
- b. Campus Infrastructure Committee
 - i. I. Wallace said that the CIC has not yet convened.
- c. Transportation Hearing and Review Board
 - i. S. Lim said that THAB has not yet convened.
- d. D. Barbaria said that any member who is part of a committee for which they have not received any emails should not be concerned about not being on the relevant listserv, and that it is more likely that there have been no emails sent since the committee has not yet convened.
- e. Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
 - i. I. Wallace said that the GPSA has not yet passed any resolutions this year, and that they are working on changing their general body since they have more than 30 new field representatives in addition to their voting representatives.
 - ii. Matthew Battaglia said that he happens to be an ex-officio member of the GPSA, and that they did pass a resolution earlier, namely their budget. He added that the revision of the GPCI is a significant process that is currently underway.
 - iii. V. Devatha said that resolutions aren't the only measure of success of a body, and that a representative can be a good representative without passing resolutions.
- f. Employee Assembly
 - i. N. Hernandez said that the EA has gone through a lot of restructuring, and that not much else is happening in that assembly.
 - ii. V. Devatha said that he is talking with someone about potentially bringing on some employees as members of EARS.
- g. Faculty Senate
 - i. O. Din said that the FS convened last week.
 - ii. J. Anderson said that the FS has been looking at a variety of problems, primarily the role of postdocs at Cornell and whether they would fall under the FS or the EA.
 - iii. D. Barbaria said that the FS is also looking at the topic of food insecurity, which is interesting because it is something that the SA has looked at over the years.
 - iv. V. Devatha asked if O. Din has been to any of the FS meetings yet.
 - v. O. Din said that there has only been one thus far, and that he sent J. Anderson in his place.

- h. Faculty Senate Academic Freedom and Professional Status of the Faculty Committee
 - i. J. Dominguez said that this committee has not yet convened.
- i. Faculty Senate Academic Programs & Policies Committee
 - i. D. Nyakaru said that this committee has not yet convened, and that she has received no notifications regarding the committee but that she will check with the Office of the Assemblies to make sure that she is on the listserv.
 - ii. J. Sim said that D. Nyakaru should be on the listserv.
- j. Faculty Advisory Committee on Athletics and Physical Education
 - i. E. Shapiro said that this committee has not yet convened.
- k. Faculty Senate Educational Policy Committee
 - i. E. Shapiro said that the EPC is looking at possibly changing some scheduling regarding class meeting times, but there have been no updates in this regard since their last meeting.
- l. Faculty Senate University Faculty Library Board
 - i. N. Hernandez said that she did not attend this committee's meeting since she was informed very late of its occurrence.
- m. University Faculty Lectures Committee
 - i. O. Egharevba said that this committee has not yet convened.
- n. Student Library Advisory Council
 - i. N. Hernandez said that this committee has not yet convened.
- o. Slope Day Programming Board
 - i. V. Devatha said that he gave an update on SDPB last week, and that he contacted them again today and they will be giving him a list of artists soon.
- p. CUTonight
 - i. K. Kebbeh said that CUTonight is in shambles, and that she does not know how they were functioning previously. She added that they met once to go over the background of what happened last semester, and that they will be meeting soon again. She also said that in the last meeting, they decided to break up into two committees, one dealing with the application process and the other dealing with the organization's constitution.
- q. Public Safety Advisory Committee
 - i. J. Dominguez said that this committee's first meeting is set for November 16th.
- r. Student Health Benefit Advisory Committee
 - i. J. Anderson said that this committee has met a few times, and that it sets certain things regarding the student health plan. He added that the committee has looked at the necessary coverages for outside health plans and that there was an in-depth discussion in this regard, but little has changed since Cayuga Medical Center is basically the only option in this area.
 - ii. V. Devatha said that this would require a 10% increase in the fee this year with a 4% increase every year for the next few years, and that the issue with the 7% increase would be that it creates a deficit. He added that the options for offsetting such a deficit would be to raise the price of copays or to remove Saturday hours. He also said that outside of this, he and N. Matolka are developing a survey in coordination with Cornell Health that would go out to the entire undergraduate body with possible changes. He added that they are requesting a pseudo-referendum in this regard, since the logistics and

- bureaucracy of a true referendum would not allow one to actually take place, and that he would like the assembly to vote on this on November 8th.
- iii. D. Nyakaru asked whether the potential increase in copays would result in any change for low-income students and the student health fee waiver.
 - iv. V. Devatha said that there would be no change in regard to the waiver.
 - v. D. Nyakaru said that many people got denied use of an outside insurance plan when they had previously been granted permission to do so, and asked what changed in this regard.
 - vi. J. Anderson said that the denials were due to the proper enforcement of policies that had already been in place.
 - vii. B. Weintraub asked if the removal of Saturday hours at Cornell Health would also affect the pharmacy hours.
 - viii. V. Devatha said that the pharmacy would also be closed on Saturdays in such a case.
 - ix. B. Weintraub asked if the 10% increase would go into effect next year.
 - x. V. Devatha said that it is currently projected to increase 10%, and that the lower bound of the projection is 7% with certain cuts.
 - xi. B. Weintraub asked if the 10% increase would be taking place every year.
 - xii. V. Devatha said that the 10% increase would only take place in the first year, and that it would increase by 4% every year thereafter.
 - xiii. B. Weintraub asked if there was any discussion about the health fee being waived or decreased for students who do not use the services.
 - xiv. J. Anderson said that such an option had not been discussed, and that it is not currently possible and probably will not become possible.
 - xv. V. Devatha said that there are many benefits to paying the fee.
 - xvi. J. Dominguez said that no one thinks they need Cornell Health until they get sick.
- s. J. Sim said that missing reports will be given next week.

VII. Adjournment

- a. V. Devatha adjourned the meeting at 5:37 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Hannan
Clerk of the Assembly