



Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, September 6, 2018 Meeting
4:50pm-5:20pm in Robert Purcell Community Center, Multipurpose Room

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. V. Devatha called the meeting to order at 4:50 pm.
- b. Roll Call:
 - i. *Present at Roll Call:* J. Anderson [0], D. Barbaria [0], V. Devatha [0], O. Din [0], J. Dominguez [0], O. Egharevba [0], A. Hailu [0], S. Harshvardhan [0], N. Hernandez [0], S. Iruvanti [0], A. Jain [0], K. Kebbeh [0], S. Lim [0], N. Matolka [0], D. Nyakaru [0], E. Shapiro [0], M. Shovik [0], J. Sim [0], F. Uribe-Rheinbolt [0], I. Wallace [0], B. Weintraub [0]
 - ii. *Arrived After Roll Call:* M. Peralta-Ochoa [0.5]
 - iii. *Absent:* G. Park [0]

II. Approval of the Minutes

- a. August 30th Minutes
 - i. O. Egharevba moved to amend the resolution such that point xxxvii would read “assembly” instead of “committee” – **amended**.
 - ii. Motion to approve the August 30th minutes – **approved**.

III. Open Microphone

- a. No speakers at the open microphone.

IV. Announcements and Reports

- a. SA Orientation
 - i. J. Anderson said that SA Orientation would be on Saturday, September 8th, in Goldwin Smith Hall room 142. He added that assembly members who cannot attend should contact either him or J. Sim, and that food from Taste of Thai would be provided.
 - ii. J. Dominguez asked if any food that is not spicy would be provided.
 - iii. V. Devatha replied in the affirmative, saying that vegan and non-spicy options would be provided.
- b. Clubfest Signup
 - i. J. Sim said that he will be sending out a Google Sheet where SA members can sign up for a one-hour slot for Clubfest.
 - ii. Adam Klier asked for clarification as to what event the sign-up is for.
 - iii. J. Sim clarified.
 - iv. V. Devatha said that this is a very informal meeting, since not much is on the agenda.

- c. A. Viswanathan said that he is continuing on with the work of former SA members two years ago to try and restructure gym membership, and that he is looking at ways to make it cheaper for all students. He added that any assembly members interested in working on this initiative with him should reach out to him.
- d. V. Devatha asked who has authority in regard to gym membership.
- e. A. Viswanathan said that the primary authority is VP Ryan Lombardi and Cornell Health, and that he can explain this in more detail once he has the relevant information.
- f. D. Barbaria asked if he has any records of the previous work done in this regard.
- g. A. Viswanathan said that he does, and that he was involved with the initiative in the past.
- h. S. Lim asked if A. Viswanathan had yet spoken to the chair of the Health and Wellness Committee.
- i. A. Viswanathan replied in the negative, and asked S. Lim to send him her information.
- j. S. Lim said that she and others are continuing work on Free the Tampon, and that anyone interested in working on this should reach out to her.

V. Business of the Day

- a. Resolution 5: Ensuring Accessible Study Spaces for All Students
 - i. J. Anderson said that he had a great conversation today with Zach, the director of entrepreneurship who is involved with eHub, and that the new membership policy was sparked by eLab teams being unable to use the space. He added that eHub is currently collecting information on the best possible membership policy and is still subject to change. He also said that the bar is low in regard to what constitutes an entrepreneurial venture on campus in regard to getting into eHub after 6 pm on a weekday.
 - ii. J. Anderson said that the main issue at hand is that there is not a lot of study space in Collegetown, which Cornell could easily change, and is something that the SA should take a big look at.
 - iii. D. Barbaria asked if he reached out to Zach or if Zach reached out to him.
 - iv. J. Anderson said that he reached out to another person who referred him to Zach.
 - v. D. Barbaria said that a lot of the resolution seems to not need to be passed as-is.
 - vi. N. Hernandez said that the resolution is going to be referred to a committee, and that the first half can just be removed.
 - vii. A. Viswanathan said that Kaplan is moving out of the space it currently occupies in Collegetown but there is some uncertainty about future uses of the space, and that the Assembly could try and turn that into a study space.
 - viii. A. Klier asked if the proponents of the resolution are still going to explore the relationship with eHub as a study space.
 - ix. J. Anderson said that eHub came into creation from a collection of donors who wanted it to be used for entrepreneurial activity, and that that purpose cannot be changed unless Cornell forwent the donor money. He added that they plan to honor the desire of the donors.

- x. D. Nyakaru asked if there was any conversation regarding making the specific conference rooms in eHub for eLab purposes and the main space for other purposes.
- xi. J. Anderson said that it was discussed, but that reserving the conference rooms for eLabs was already the status quo and that the common spaces still could not be used due to overflow.
- xii. A. Jain said that a lot of places in Collegetown are shutting down, and that there is a lot of space that can be explored there, especially since rent in Collegetown is getting very high.
- xiii. V. Devatha said that the space being used by Kaplan is owned by Cornell, but that the space formerly used by Dunkin Donuts is not.
- xiv. J. Dominguez asked whether this resolution is final.
- xv. J. Anderson said that it is not.
- xvi. J. Dominguez asked whether more space allocated for study in Collegetown would lead to less space for housing in Collegetown. He added that he is currently searching for an apartment in Collegetown and that they are very expensive. He also said that he believes that using the Kaplan space would be a good route, and asked if there is any expansion space in that area.
- xvii. J. Anderson said that the space is actually one of the wristband handout sites for Slope Day, and that while it is a good space, it is not optimal. He added that if the Assembly takes these baby steps with Kaplan and make it a great space for students, it will open the door for further expansion down the road.
- xviii. J. Dominguez said that he thinks the low bar for eHub access is mostly a hurdle to keep the space from overflowing, and if it would be too much of an issue.
- xix. N. Hernandez said that she does not believe that the bar is a problem now, and that if a person really wanted to get in, it is a low bar, but it is to make sure people who truly want the access can go there.
- xx. J. Dominguez said that the resolution indicates that the bar will be removed.
- xxi. N. Hernandez said that the resolution is going to be changed, and to act as though the current language does not exist.
- xxii. B. Weintraub said that the city of Ithaca does have non-Cornell affiliated residents who may not be so thrilled that Cornell has bought so much land in the city, and that the Assembly should be aware of that in trying to improve the experience of Cornell students. He asked if the new Cornell building in Collegetown has a space that can be opened for study purposes.
- xxiii. J. Anderson said that the space is currently restricted to graduate and MBA students, and that there is only one common space in the building. He added that, moving past Collegetown, there isn't a lot of space that Cornell could obtain even if it wanted to.
- xxiv. O. Egharevba asked if this resolution is intended to change the standard for access to eHub or if it is intended to get more study space in Collegetown.
- xxv. J. Anderson said that the original intent was to change the membership policy back and then look into more study spaces, but following the earlier conversation, the intention will hopefully change, once reviewed in a relevant committee, to simply explore new spaces in Collegetown.

- xxvi. O. Egharevba asked what the proponents of the resolution hope to achieve with the resolution.
- xxvii. J. Anderson said that they hope to achieve a new study space in Collegetown.
- xxviii. There was a motion to recommit the resolution to the Infrastructure Fund Committee and the Academic Policy Committee – **recommitted** 21-0-1.

VI. New Business

- a. Resolution 6: Approval of the 2018-2019 Elections Committee Members
 - i. Shashank Vura said that he is this year's Director of Elections for the Student Assembly, and that this resolution details the slate of people that they want to staff the Elections Committee this year. He added that he has looked personally through all the applications, and that all four years, transfer students, LGBTQIA+, and minority communities are all represented. He also said that this is a good slate that represents the diversity of Cornell, and that he is confident the Committee will have a good year with them.
 - ii. J. Sim said that the slate in this resolution was passed by the Staffing Committee, and that the SA must vote on it in its entirety, not on individual members.
 - iii. O. Din moved to move this resolution to Business of the Day – **approved**.
 - iv. D. Barbaria asked if it was made clear to the freshmen on this list that they will not be able to run in any elections while on the Elections Committee.
 - v. S. Vura replied in the affirmative.
 - vi. J. Anderson asked what supplemental questions were asked on the application.
 - vii. S. Vura said that the main question was regarding increasing voter turnout on campus, and that he believes it was answered adequately. He added that he appreciates that the people on the slate are not his personal friends, with the exception of perhaps one, which is conducive to not having an echo chamber in the Committee.
 - viii. B. Weintraub asked if there is a representative from each undergraduate college.
 - ix. S. Vura said that he is unsure, and that some are definitely represented, but that having one of each is not necessary.
 - x. B. Weintraub asked if this is a precedent, and whether or not college is considered.
 - xi. S. Vura said that it has probably been considered, but not to the extent that there is at least one member from each college.
 - xii. J. Sim said that nothing in the bylaws requires a specific number of members from each college.
 - xiii. Motion to vote on Resolution 6 – **approved** 20-0-2.

VII. Adjournment

- a. V. Devatha adjourned the meeting at 5:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Hannan
Clerk of the Assembly

