Student Assembly

Student Assembly of Cornell University
Minutes of the November 5, 2026 Meeting
4:45 PM – 6:30 PM
Memorial Room (WSH 407), Willard Straight Hall

I. Call to Order
   a. E. Chaudhuri called the meeting to order at 4:45 PM.

II. Call of the Roll
   a. *Members Present:* S. Agarwal, J. Anand, S. Augustin, T. Aye, A. Ayoola, L. Blum, M. Causey, E. Chaudhuri, J. Chung, S. Dunn, T. Japal, K. Krishtopa, D. Lee, A. Lyons, Y. Masoud, J. Orief, E. Porter, A. Sendelbach, C. Tarala, A. Vink, A. Walters, H. Watkins, K. Young
   b. *Members Absent:* D. Addoquaye, C. Flournoy, J. Kimball
   c. *Also Present:* None.

III. Reading of the Land Acknowledgment
   a. E. Chaudhuri stated the land acknowledgement.

IV. Approval of the October 29, 2026 Meeting Minutes
   a. A. Vink motioned to amend Section 9d to change "ILR table" to "ILR Labor Roundtable", no dissent.
   b. The motion to approve the October 29, 2026 minutes passed through unanimous consent.

V. Communications to the Student Assembly
   a. E. Chaudhuri noted that more student governments have been reaching out to offer support through their own legislative practices
   b. E. Chaudhuri shared that many resolutions came back and it can be checked on the Student Assembly website. The administration has been aligning with the 30 day deadline so far, with resolutions 15, 16, and 17 receiving lengthy responses back.
   c. E. Chaudhuri further shared that every year, the OSCCS gives a report by collecting stats about things that went well, didn't go well, and what they're going to do. The report is in the box and the archive contains previous reports..

VI. Consent Calendar
   a. None.

VII. Reports of Officers, Committees, and Liaisons
   a. Y. Masoud reported that the DEI committee meeting will be this Saturday over Google Meets at 4:15 to talk about the next project. The committee is at 20 people now.
   b. Y. Masoud further reported that they're still trying to book the assembly social event, with plans to do November 19 at 7:30 PM right after the meeting.
   c. S. Agarwal reported that SHAC had a meeting with Cornell Health, where they provided feedback on SA and other related misconduct surveys. The committee started subcommittees to focus on different healthcare issues. The next meeting will be in two weeks without Cornell Health.
   d. H. Watkins reported that Campus Pulse met at 4:30 on Tuesday to plan an event on the last day of class in collaboration with a Cornell cafe. The committee also talked about handing out items like drink testing kits to build a safer campus culture.
   e. L. Blum reported that an email was sent yesterday and that office hours were held on Wednesday. She added that committee meetings are going well but if there's too much going on, these meetings can be pushed back.
   f. A. Walters reported that Communications will be meeting Saturday at 3:30 virtually. He requested that any pictures taken while tabling be sent to him and shared that an Instagram video will be filmed next week. He further added that voting opens on Monday for Freshman Rep, Arts and Sciences Rep, Veterans Rep, and Dyson Rep.
   g. A. Walters reported that the Academic Policy Committee is putting together a working group from the Student Assembly and EPC Faculty Senate to discuss issues such as the proposed drop deadline. The committee will also be meeting on Sunday afternoon at 4:30 and will be tabling in the Olin lobby at 2PM on Saturday.
   h. D. Lee reported that the International Student Affairs Committee has 6 new members and will meet next Tuesday. They will be working on Resolution 2 and the International Student Affairs Office was willing to meet with the committee.
   i. E. Chaudhuri shared that the elections director requested assembly members to be supportive of all candidates and to refresh themselves on the election rules to be able to properly answer questions.

VIII. Announcements

a. None.

IX. Presentations
   a. None.

X. Appointments and Filling of Vacancies
   a. H. Watkins nominated T. Aye as the Deputy Vice President. This role consists of picking out food orders and filling out the agenda. No dissent.
   b. T. Aye has been appointed as the Deputy Vice President.

XI. Public Comment
   a. Two speakers spoke in favor of Resolution 33, sharing about Cornell's obligations and Starbuck's recent blended drink issues bringing health complications for baristas.
   b. A speaker from the Sephardi & Mizrahi Council shared that they will be hosting their semesterly Sephardi Shabbat, and is here to ask for approval of its $4,000 request from the Student Assembly.
   c. C. Tarala motioned to suspend the rules and move the Third Reading Calendar above the Second Reading Calendar, no dissent.

XII. Third Reading Calendar
   a. Resolution 32: Improving Access to Garbage Bags in Residence Halls
      i. K. Young motioned to close debate, no dissent.
      ii. The resolution passed by a vote of 25-0-0.
   b. Resolution 33: Starbucks Actually Off Our Campus
      i. A. Vink shared that more details were added after last week's notes and attending the Dining Committee. The resolution came from the Student Employment Policy Committee and people from the audience came from that committee as well as from the Cornell Organization for Labor Action. She added that major changes were about the Pepsi contract.
      ii. The assembly discussed being able to see Pepsi's contract.
      iii. H. Watkins motioned to close debate, no dissent.
      iv. The resolution passed by a vote of 23-0-2.
   c. Resolution 34: Approving Special Projects Request for the Sephardi & Mizrahi Student Council

i. C. Tarala shared that a section was added in lines 40-42 which moves money from the reserves to the Special Projects Fund.
ii. A representative from the Sephardi & Mizrahi Student Council provided further details regarding the event being held tomorrow.
iii. C. Tarala shared that IFC no longer has the flex fund.
iv. The assembly discussed why IFC removed the flex fund when it received an increase in allocation and whether the Student Council foresees needing the money in the future.
v. L. Blum motioned to close debate, no dissent.
vi. The resolution passed by a vote of 25-0-0.

XIII. Second Reading Calendar

a. Resolution 29: Encouraging Advance Posting and Reasonable Cancellation Notice for TA and CA Office Hours
   i. T. Aye shared that the resolution now specifies undergraduates.
   ii. K. Young motioned to close debate, no dissent.
   iii. The resolution moved to the Third Reading Calendar.
b. Resolution 35: Events During Breaks
   i. M. Causey shared that during many smaller breaks, many people leave, resulting in many students such as those of low-income to be stuck in the dorms without their friends. She shared that the solution to this is to host community events to allow those who stayed on campus to make friends.
   ii. The assembly discussed student jobs that require you to stay during breaks, expand beyond Tatkon, adding units within Student Campus Life that do host these events, the Alternative Breaks at Cornell managed by the Einhorn Center, reaching out to centers that already do engagement and individual groups within colleges, opportunities to volunteer in community building events that are academically focused, the resolution's feasibility, ensuring clear communication to students, and ensuring accessibility.
   iii. K. Young motioned to close debate, no dissent.
c. Resolution 36: Restocking Necessities
   i. M. Causey shared that the resolution would add necessities back to RPCC and Jansen, which are mostly on Cornell Health which closes at 5PM.

ii. The assembly discussed how to measure demand, price disparity, RAs with first aid kits, the vending machine outside of Bear Necessities, and the Dining Committee reevaluating it.
iii. H. Watkins motioned to refer the resolution to the Dining Committee, no dissent.
iv. The Resolution has been referred to the Dining Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 PM by unanimous consent.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sophia Lin
Clerk of the Assembly