



Cornell University Student Assembly

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Minutes of the October 5, 2017 Meeting

4:45pm-6:30pm in Willard Straight Hall: Memorial Room

- I. Call to Order & Roll Call
 - a. J. Kim called the meeting to order at 4:48pm.
 - b. Members Present at Roll Call: Dale, Corn, Din, Egharevba, Haris, Indamine, Kaufman, Lim, Lipschutz, Magloire, Martinez, Park, Peralta-Ochoa, pollard, Romero Zavala, Sanon, Schott, Shapiro, Sim, Tokunboh, Valadez, Wallace, Kim
 - c. Members Absent at Roll Call: Cornell
- II. Moment of Silence
 - a. J. Kim asked for a moment of silence to remember the victims of the Las Vegas shooting.
- III. Open Microphone
 - a. Community member said he appreciates the SA.
- IV. New Member Oath of Office & Confidentiality Forms
 - a. O. Egharevba took the Student Assembly's Oath of Office.
 - b. Confidentiality Forms
 - i. J. Kim read off the names of assembly members who have not signed confidentiality forms yet. He asked these members to take home the forms and sign them. They must be signed by all SA members because members have access to confidential information.
 - c. Other Announcements
 - i. M. Valadez said some dining halls will be open during fall break and will be accepting meal swipes. The full list of which dining halls will be open and at what times are listed at dining.cornell.edu.
- V. Byline Reports
 - a. G. Kaufman – Cornell Minds Matter
 - i. G. Kaufman said the Appropriations Committee convened on Monday, and the first applicant the committee reviewed was Cornell Minds Matter. The organization requested \$2/member. He said it was one of the best presentations they saw this year.
 - ii. Motion to table discussion until next meeting – **passes**
 - b. G. Kaufman – ECO (Environmental Collaborative)
 - i. G. Kaufman said ECO did not apply for an increase in funding and asked for a continuation of funding level.
 - ii. Motion to table discussion until next meeting – **passes**
 - c. G. Kaufman – Big Red Bikes

- i. G. Kaufman said there were two separate decisions from the appropriations committee: a public decision and a private decision. Big Red Bikes designed all their financial information to be confidential, and out of respect for that, they will have to convene a closed session to discuss the information. This is because the service provider for Big Red Bikes has a special contract, so they do not want to release the terms of the contract to the public.
- ii. G. Kaufman said the closed session will be to go over the financial information, but they will vote in an open session.
- iii. G. Kaufman made a motion to move this discussion to the end of the agenda and into the Executive Session – passes

VI. Business of the Day

- a. S. Park – Resolution 7: Clarifying the Student Assembly’s Policy on Social Media Statement
 - i. SA Rep clarified the confusion regarding when the SA should and may post public statements. He stated that that the Executive Board may approve a message by majority votes, and the votes may be conducted by email records that must be saved.
 - ii. A. Martinez asked about what happens if the executive board doesn’t come to a decision regarding the statement that is to be posted.
 - 1. SA Rep said if the majority votes yes, then it will be communicated as “the majority votes.”
 - iii. R. Hertz asked if there was a way for an SA member to say they individually do not support something the SA releases.
 - 1. SA Rep said they will do their best to capture the spirit of the assembly.
 - 2. SA Rep added that, referring to past resolutions or actions, it is something that the assembly as a whole, passes, as opposed to individuals. A resolution can pass without everyone voting “yes.”
 - 3. SA Rep said a 2/3 majority of all seated majority members is what they will go by.
 - iv. SA Rep said there is no formal procedure for who writes the social media statements. Any member has the right to write a message.
 - v. M. Valadez said she thinks it is necessary to address that someone needs to be held accountable. The Executive in the past has been tasked by the assembly with a lot more responsibility regarding responding to things, but after the incidents with LLC and the death of a student in Collegetown, we did not make a statement.
 - vi. SA Rep said 36 hours is too long and after this amount of time, the message is lost. She pushed for 24 hours.
 - 1. SA Rep said we are a representative body and 36 hours is the optimal amount of time to allow the SA to put into words exactly what it wants to say and give every member a chance to respond and vote.
 - vii. SA Rep wanted to remind the assembly that the person or people writing these statements take a lot of time and put in a lot of thought into it. It is not an easy process.
 - viii. Motion to table resolution indefinitely – passed

VII. New Business

- a. M. Valadez – Resolution 10: Integrating Sustainable Investments into Endowment Reports
 - i. SA Rep said this amendment was to push for transparency and urge Cornell’s Board of Trustees to regularly disclose all endowment investments in alternative energy-related businesses.
 - ii. M. Valadez said she would like to put out some amendments.
 1. Line 35, after whereas, add, “as of April 2017,”
 2. Line 36, after 68.49, add “down from our previous score of 70.05”
 3. Line 44, after renewable investment figures, add “and the University’s purposeful increase of the STARS Investment metric”
 4. Line 48, strike “include” and replace with “disclose all”
 5. Line 51, add “be it further resolved, that the Board of Trustees make a concerted effort to improve Cornell University’s STARS ‘Investment and Finance’ Rating.”
 6. Directly after the above amendment, add “Be it further resolved, that as part of this effort, Cornell pursues the ‘Investment Disclosure’ and ‘Committee on Investor Responsibility’ credits as described by the STARS program by creating a committee, or adding the charge to an existing committee.”
 7. Line 52, after “be it further resolved,” add “that the Executive Committee of the President’s Sustainable Campus Committee and the Senior Leaders Climate Action group coordinate with”
 8. Line 57, after Board of Trustees, add “, the President’s Sustainable Campus Committee”
 9. Motion to vote on the amendment – **passed** with majority
 - iii. G. Kaufman said he wants to abstain from voting because he is chair of the University Assembly.
 - iv. D. Barbaria said the SA has every right to request information.
 - v. Motion to vote on resolution – **passed** 22-0-2

VIII. J. Kim adjourned the meeting at 6:30pm.

IX. Executive Session

- a. Appointment of Appropriations Committee Member

Respectfully Submitted,
Catherine Tran
Clerk of the Assembly