

Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Agenda of the Thursday, October 15th, 2020 Meeting
4:45 – 6:30 on ZOOM

I. Call to Order

II. Announcements and Presentations

- a. Meeting with President Pollack and Vice President of Student and Campus Life Lombardi Today at 5:00pm

III. Open Microphone

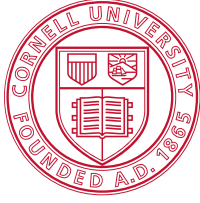
IV. Approval of the Minutes

- a. [September 3rd, 2020 Minutes](#)
- b. [October 8th, 2020 Minutes](#)

V. New Business

- a. Resolution #6: [Establishing a Plurality Voting System for all Cornell Student Assembly Elections](#)

VI. Adjournment



Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, September 3rd, 2020 Meeting
4:45pm via Zoom

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. C. Huang called the meeting to order at 4:50 pm.
- b. Roll Call:
 - i. Present: M. Adeghe, S. Ali, M. Baker, J. Clancy, O. Egharevba, C. Huang, I. Pavlov, T. Reuning, L. Smith, N. Watson, B. Weintraub, K. Wondimu, V. Xu, Y. Yuan
 - ii. Absent [all excused unless otherwise stated]: C. Benedict, A. Cass. U. Chukwukere, J. Feit, M. Haddad, N. Matolka, P. Solovyeva, S. Sun, S. Xu

II. Business of the Day

- a. Student Assembly 2020-2021 Meeting Schedule
 - i. Due to the change in the 2020-2021 Academic Calendar, meetings are in place only for Fall 2020
 - ii. Spring 2021 meetings are pending the release of the Spring 2021 portion of the Academic Calendar.
 - iii. No meetings held on September 10, September 17 and September 24 due to the Fall 2020 Student Assembly Elections.
- b. Presenting the Fall 2020 Elections Calendar
 - i. There was a question from an audience member regarding what was being voted on during the elections and whether it was just seats on the Student Assembly or committees as well.
 - ii. Directors of Election S. Lim provided information about available seats and the Student Assembly Elections Calendar.
 - iii. Director of Elections M. Adeghe provided information about the Student Assembly Election Rules
 - iv. K. Wondimu asked if candidates from the spring 2020 election would need to attend the campaign meeting.
 - v. M. Adeghe confirmed that they would need to attend.
 - vi. I. Pavlov asked for confirmation regarding seats that were available. She indicated that she hadn't run for re-election as she had anticipated being off campus this semester; however, that has changed due to COVID-19
 - vii. M. Adeghe stated that she could run for either the Minority Liaison At-Large Representative seat or the Undergraduate Representative to the University Assembly.

III. Open Microphone

- a. No speakers at the open microphone.

IV. Adjournment

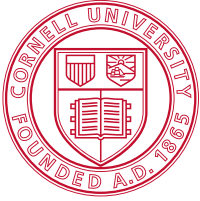
- a. C. Huang adjourned the meeting at 5:14 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy Treat

Senior Coordinator, Office of the Assemblies

DRAFT



Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, October 8th, 2020 Meeting
4:45pm via Zoom

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. C. Huang called the meeting to order at 4:45pm.
- b. Roll Call
 - i. *Members Present:* L. Abd Elmagid, D. Anadkat (late), M. Baker, J. Bansah, K. Bentley, K. Butler, C. Castillo, U. Chuckwukere, L. Contreras, A. Gleiberman, S. Kapoor, A. Lampert, A. Miramontes Serrano, E. Moy, K. Santacruz, M. Shardow, L. Smith, C. Tempelman, V. Valencia, N. Watson, S. Woldai, V. Xu, Y. Yuan, R. Zohar, L. Zumpano, S. Zverev, C. Huang
 - ii. *Members Absent:* J. Noriega, E. Perez, T. Reuning

II. Announcements

- a. C. Huang asked all members to join the Slack channel
- b. C. Huang announced SA Photoshoot on Friday, 10/9
 - i. C. Tempelman asked where photoshoot is taking place; C Huang stated they will be taking place in front of Willard Straight Hall
- c. C. Huang stated meeting with President Pollack and Vice President of Student and Campus Life Lombardi will be Thursday, 10/15
- d. C. Huang announced New Member Orientation will occur after Thursday 10/15 meeting
- e. C. Huang stated that the “use hand” function on Zoom be used instead of just speaking out
- f. V. Xu asked the OA about WSJ membership and how to spread word about membership
 - i. G. Giambattista answered that it will be pushed on the OA website and to work with her on promoting in newsletter

III. Open Microphone

- a. L. Zumpano asked about introductions
 - i. C. Huang stated that they would like members to stay after meeting’s conclusion on Zoom for introductions and icebreakers

IV. New Business

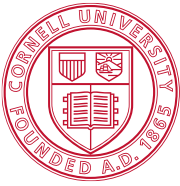
- a. SA R3 – Amending the Ratifying the Student Assembly Charter (appendix – Amended Chapter)
 - i. This resolution amends and ratifies the Student Assembly Charter. Notable amendments include the creation of the Dyson School of Business

- Representative and the creation of an At-large seat reserved for candidates seeking to represent students with disabilities
- ii. L. Smith asked if this process is done once a year
 - 1. N. Watson stated that this is done at the beginning of the year regarding changes from the past term; however, changes can be made throughout the year
 - iii. A. Gleiberman inquired about voting regarding ranking candidates; the Charter states “may” be ranked, but the impression she had was that ranking was mandatory
 - 1. N. Watson indicated this was a good catch and that could be changed via a resolution that is presented by an assembly member
 - iv. Motion to vote – **approved** 23-0-3
 - b. SA R4 – Amending and Ratifying the Student Assembly Bylaws (appendix – Amended Bylaws)
 - i. This resolution amends and ratifies the Student Assembly Bylaws. Notable amendments include the addition of officer duties for the Vice President of Research and Accountability, a revised system for community voting, and the creation of ex-officio positions for the Student Advocate and the Director of Student Government Relations
 - ii. Motion to vote – **approved** 26-0-1
 - c. SA R5 – Amending and Ratifying the 2020-2021 Student Assembly Standing Rules
 - i. This resolution amends and ratifies the 2020-2021 Student Assembly Standing Rules
 - ii. Motion to vote – **approved** 26-0-1

V. Adjournment

- a. C. Huang adjourned the meeting at 5:16pm (EST)

Respectfully Submitted,
Ciara Shanahan
Clerk of the Student Assembly



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Originally Presented on:	10/15/2020
Type of Action:	Internal Policy
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #6

Establishing a Plurality Voting System for all Cornell Student Assembly Elections

ABSTRACT: This resolution is intended to establish a plurality voting system for all Cornell Student Assembly Elections.

Sponsored by: Uche Chukwukere '21

Whereas, Rank Choice Voting is the system that is currently employed for the President, Executive Vice President, and reserved Undesignated Representative At-Large student-elected positions on the Cornell Student Assembly;

Whereas, Rank Choice voting is a system in which voters rank their candidates based on their personal preferences;

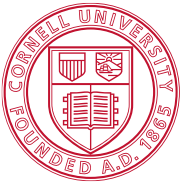
Whereas, The Office of Assemblies specifically states that, “Ranked choice voting (also called Instant Runoff Voting/IRV, or “**Hare System**” Voting) is a method of voting in which voters rank candidates in order of preference - 1st choice, 2nd choice, 3rd choice, etc. All first choices are tallied and in a single-winner race, if no candidate receives a majority (50%+1) of first-choice votes, the less popular candidates are eliminated and ballots cast for these candidates are redistributed to more popular candidates, based on their voters’ second choices, until one candidate wins with a majority. **As a result, every vote counts and very few votes are “wasted.” Voters cast their vote for their favorite candidate knowing that if he or she doesn’t gather enough votes to win, their vote will count toward their second choice. Your vote always counts for your highest ranked candidate until he or she is elected or eliminated and your vote continues to count once your favorite candidate is elected or eliminated until all the seats are filled.** This helps ensure that more voters than ever are represented by someone they voted for and provides greater opportunity for more diverse representation;”

Whereas, The Office of Assemblies has participated in a form of voter disenfranchisement by invalidating the votes of voters who did not fully rank all candidates in a specific race;

Whereas, In the 2019, 1435 ballots were deemed “empty” in the Presidential Election, 1761 ballots were deemed “empty” in the Executive Vice President Election, and 2038 ballots were deemed “empty” in the Undesignated Student Assembly Representative At-Large race;

Whereas, In the 2020 Fall Reactivation, second round election, 37 votes were invalidated in the Presidential Election in part because voters did not rank every single candidate;

Whereas, In the 2020 Fall Reactivation, first round election, many more votes were going to be invalidated due to voters have their votes invalidated because they did not rank every single candidate and as a result the election for certain races had to be redone with clarification of



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the reason for invalidation despite no true attempt of notifying voters of this technicality the first time;

Whereas, These empty votes included voters who did not fully rank every single candidate;

Whereas, This is unacceptable because voters should be able to rank as many or as few candidates as they so choose and not have their votes invalidated;

Whereas, In the spirit of Rank Choice Voting, not ranking a candidate is equivalent to a motion of no confidence and should be accepted as such and the candidate(s) that were ranked should have those votes counted towards them;

Be it therefore resolved, In following elections, all elected positions should go by a plurality voting system rather than a ranked-choice voting system that invalidates ballots of voters that do not decide to rank every candidate;

Be it finally resolved, The following amendments are made in Section 2: Election of Voting Members for the Cornell Student Assembly Charter:

“The President, Executive Vice President, and other Undesignated at Large representatives will be elected by a ~~single transferable voting system~~ **plurality voting system**. Voters may rank all candidates on the ballot for each of these races **and any ballot that has candidate(s) who is/are left unranked the ballot shall not be invalidated and will count towards the ranked candidate**. All other representatives shall **also** be elected by a plurality voting system. Voters will cast one vote per available seat, (e.g. if three Arts and Sciences representatives are to be elected, the voter will vote for three candidates).”

Respectfully Submitted,

Uche Chukwukere '21

Undesignated Representative At-Large, Student Assembly

(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 5-0-2, 10/14/2020)