

Cornell University
Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, February 17, 2022 Meeting

4:45 PM – 6:30 PM

IN PERSON | WILLARD STRAIGHT MEMORIAL ROOM

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. A. Ononye called the meeting to order at 4:48 PM (EST).
- b. Roll Call
 - i. *Members Present: J. Bansah, D. Cady, P. DaSilveira, D. Eisman, A. Gleiberman, D. Ilango, J. Jiang, A. Juan, A. Lampert, C. Leon, L. Lu, J. Mullen, N. Overton, N. Reddy, K. Santacruz, L. Smith, M. Song, V. Valencia, A. Williams, E. Yan, A. Ononye, D. Hernandez, P. Gronemeyer, C. Tempelman*
 - ii. *Members Absent: M. Baker, J. Kim, Y. Logan, M. Louis, B. Luckow*

II. Land Acknowledgement of the Gayogohó:nq̓ (Cayuga Nation)

- a. President Ononye delivered the Land Acknowledgement.

III. Late Additions to the Agenda

- a. J. Jiang motioned to add R42: Establish Feb 21st as the US-China Friendship Day at Cornell to the agenda. Motion passed by a majority vote of 21 – 0 – 2.
- b. J. Mullen motioned to add R43: Proposed Charter Amendment To The Process of Conducting Referenda to the agenda. Motion passed by a majority vote of 22 – 0 – 1.
- c. V. Valencia motioned to add an announcement regarding the Special Projects funding request that was approved by the executive committee on February 15th, 2022. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

IV. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of prior meeting minutes
 - i. February 10th, 2022 Minutes.
 - ii. Motion to approve the minutes. Minutes were **approved** by unanimous consent.

V. Open Microphone

- a. Amerdeep Passananti, a freshman living in Low-rise 7 in Cornell University's North Campus came to the Student Assembly with concerns regarding the burst of a pipe in the residential building on Tuesday, February 15th.
 - i. A. Passananti informed the SA that the entire suite's goods were damaged and that the students had a poor experience while trying to contact the Cornell Housing Office.
 - ii. A. Passananti presented to the SA the following complaints:
 - 1. The rooms were inaccessible to the students.
 - 2. Cornell has not provided adequate housing, which resulted in students resorting to sleeping in friends' rooms, resulting in A. Passananti sleeping for only 2 hours a night.
 - 3. A. Passananti requested that Cornell gives alternative housing.



Cornell University Student Assembly

- iii. A. Passananti furthermore affirmed that no compensation was provided for damaged items and that the suite was being tested for lead and copper from the radiation of the pipe explosion.
- iv. A. Ononye thanked A. Passananti for attending and asserted that the SA will work with students to receive support from the Cornell Housing Office.
- v. D. Cady inquired on what processes were taken and how the students' experiences have been.
 - 1. A. Passananti affirmed that when asking the RAs, they received no definite answers, and the Cornell Housing Office took hours to respond and did not provide sufficient replies.
- vi. M. Song thanked A. Deep for coming to the SA and affirmed that she was appalled by the situation and reechoed how no student should have to worry about lead exposure, homelessness for housing they are paying for, nor sleeping two hours a night out of their own free will.
- vii. J. Mullen inquired on whether housing is still being paid for and A. Passananti affirmed that they are still paying full price for student housing.
- viii. L. Smith affirmed that he is interested in what VP Lombardi has to say, and furthermore iterated his disappointment in the Cornell Housing Office and the fact that the university does not take accountability for such occurrences, especially with the harsh housing contracts.
- ix. VP Lombardi first and foremost apologized to A. Passananti for the occurrence and furthermore affirmed that the university has added money to students' laundry cards, provided alternative housing by email, and that the lead testing is merely a rumor. VP Lombardi assured he will be in contact with more information as it is made available.
- x. A. Ononye thanked A. Passananti and requested for him to update the SA on any of the students' needs.

VI. Announcements and Reports

- a. OSGR New Directors Approval – Maggie Peng
 - i. M. Peng echoed her excitement to be in presence at the SA and announced the New Directors for the OSGR.
 - ii. The New Directors for the OSGR are Maggie Peng as Director of the OSGR, Kannah Greer as Director of Federal Relations, and Elizabeth Ehl as Director of Local Relations.
 - iii. M. Peng affirmed her excitement for new leadership and that it will be a positive move forward.
 - iv. A. Williams motioned to approve the new directors' positions. Positions were **approved** by unanimous consent.
- b. Office of Ethics Nominations
 - i. P. DaSilveira and A. Gordon, Office of Ethics Nominee from the February 10th SA meeting, approached the floor to answer questions.
 - ii. A. Gordon has been in contact with current Office of Ethics representatives, and they are excited to work alongside him.



Cornell University Student Assembly

1. Office of Ethics Representatives attended the SA meeting and affirmed excitement for A. Gordon to join the office and echoed that he is qualified for the position.
- iii. D. Eisman motioned to move into voting. Motioned to vote passed by a vote of 22 – 0 – 1 .
- iv. Aidan's nomination to the Office of Ethics **passed** by a vote of 22 – 0 – 1.
- v. P. DaSilveira presented Keira Gill as a nominee for the Office of Ethics.
- vi. K. Gill has experience in writing rules as she helped write the ruleset for hybrid learning in her high school, which would be helpful in writing the Office of Ethic's new rules for the Student Assembly's Code of Ethics.
- vii. K. Gill is a freshman and would be able to remain in the Office of Ethics for years to come.
- viii. L. Smith inquired on why K. Gill would like to join the Office of Ethics as opposed to the Student Assembly, as one cannot join both simultaneously.
 1. K. Gill affirmed that she would like to start out with the Office of Ethics and possibly branch out from there.
- ix. D. Eisman motioned to table nomination to the following meeting. Nomination was **tabled** by unanimous consent.
- c. V. Valencia announced the approval of the Special Projects Funding Request for the State of the Pod Podcast by the executive committee on February 15th 2022 by a vote of 3 – 1 – 2.
 - i. D. Eisman inquired on whether the organization was already approved for tax exemption.
 1. A. Williams affirmed that they are still waiting on an approval for tax exemption.
 - ii. A. Williams extended her appreciation to the SA executive committee for their support with the special project.
- d. D. Cady announced his interest in working on a resolution to improve Cornell University's communication of community threats to students and to improve the response alerts, such as with the recent bomb threats.

VII. Initiatives

- a. No initiatives were presented.

VIII. Presentations and Forums

- a. No presentations and forums were presented.

IX. Business of the Day

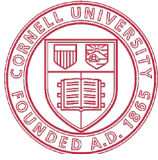
X. New Business

- a. R42: Establish Feb 21st as the US-China Friendship Day at Cornell University was presented by J. Jiang, J. Mullen, L. Lu, and E. Yan.
 - i. Feb 21st is the anniversary of the first time a US president visited China.
 - ii. J. Jiang affirmed that it is not a political resolution, but rather aims to build a friendship between American and Chinese students at Cornell University.
 - iii. President Pollack will not be writing the letter, but rather Co-signers, and SA members are encouraged to sign it.
 - iv. J. Mullen echoed J. Jiang's point of emphasizing friendship rather than hate, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Cornell University Student Assembly

- v. C. Templeman inquired on whether a letter is necessary to further this cause.
 - 1. J. Jiang replied that the letter makes the day officially recognized.
- vi. A. Ononye inquired about how the new position will work in accordance with the SA bylaws, and furthermore if the position will be continuous and only be open to Chinese American Students.
 - 1. J. Jiang stated that this position is crucial since President Pollack will not be writing the letter.
 - 2. J. Jiang furthermore affirmed the position is open to all nationalities, and that is furthermore encouraged.
 - 3. A. Ononye questioned whether the resolution truly needs this position, as this would be a change to the bylaws.
 - 4. J. Jiang proposed making an amendment to the resolution and splitting the resolution into two resolutions.
- vii. Representative motioned to strike lines 37 to 42 from the resolution.
Amendment passed by unanimous consent.
- viii. D. Eisman motioned to amend lines 43 to 47 of the resolution by removing “ambassador” and adding that the letter will be sent by the “sponsors and endorsed by the SA”. **Amendment** passed by unanimous consent.
- ix. Motion to amend line 4 by striking “US China student ambassador appointment”. **Amendment** passed by unanimous consent.
- x. D. Cady expressed his concern regarding the fact that President’s Day is also held on February 21st and is a federal holiday.
 - 1. D. Cady affirmed his support for celebrating relationships, but that this specific resolution is not the way to do it and suggested opening the door to other dates.
 - 2. J. Jiang affirmed that February 21st is an important day since it is the 50th anniversary for the US President’s first visit to China.
- xi. D. Eisman agreed with D. Cady that the date should be moved and inquired whether any other activities will be conducted as part of this day in addition to the letter.
 - 1. J. Jiang affirmed that recognizing the day first is important in order to then work on more activities.
- xii. A. Lampert motioned to table the resolution to make amendments and bring it to the table at a later date. Resolution was **tabled** by a vote of 15 – 5 – 3 .
- b. R43: Proposed Charter Amendment To The Process of Conducting Referenda was presented by J. Mullen.
 - i. J. Mullen affirmed the importance of updating the referenda process as it is not concise and clear and expressed openness to friendly amendments.
 - ii. J. Mullen expressed that the major changes in the resolution included reflecting the voting procedure on the method being used in that specific year such as digital or hybrid.
 - iii. J. Mullen expressed that the SA voting procedure for referenda was not clear.
 - iv. J. Mullen motioned for a friendly amendment to lines 64 to 68 by changing “3%” to “5%” and “6%” to “8%”. **Amendment** passed by unanimous consent.



Cornell University Student Assembly

- v. L. Smith inquired on if the changes are truly designed to make referenda easier to present to the table at the SA.
 - 1. J. Mullen stated that previously the rules of the SA voting were unclear, including the rule of presenting 10% of the student population in the case that the referendum does not pass by a 2/3 vote.
 - 2. J. Mullen affirmed that these changes make the referenda more streamlined.
- vi. Motion to table resolution. Resolution was **tabled** by unanimous consent.
- c. A. Ononye delivered VP Lombardi's announcement by email on the housing situation in low-rise 7.
 - i. VP Lombardi assured that alternative housing emails were sent out, and money was placed in the students' laundry cards.

XI. Adjournment

- a. A. Ononye adjourned the meeting at 6:17 PM (EST).

Respectfully Submitted,
Jana Alzayer
Clerk of the Student Assembly