

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, January 27, 2022 Meeting
4:45 PM – 6:30 PM
VIRTUAL - ZOOM

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. A. Ononye called the meeting to order at 4:50 PM (EST).
- b. Roll Call
 - i. *Members Present: M. Baker, J. Bansah, D. Cady, P. DaSilveira, D. Eisman, A. Gleiberman, P. Gronemeyer, D. Ilango, J. Jiang, A. Juan, J. Kim, A. Lampert, C. Leon, Y. Logan, M. Louis, L. Lu, B. Luckow, J. Mullen, N. Overton, N. Reddy, K. Santacruz, L. Smith, M. Song, C. Tempelman, V. Valencia, A. Williams, E. Yan, A. Ononye, D. Hernandez*
 - ii. *Members Absent: No members were absent*

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 move SA R40 above SA R38 in the agenda due to the presence of guest speakers. Motion **passed** by a unanimous vote.

IV. Consent Agenda

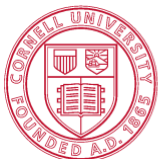
- a. Approval of prior meeting minutes
 - i. January 27th, 2022 Minutes
 - ii. C. Templeman motioned to add the examples of topics to be discussed in the Public Health Committee that were brought forth under SA R28. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
 - iii. J. Jiang motioned to amend “Student Assembly” to “ISU” under Special Project Funding Request (Chinese New Year) subclause ii. Amendment passed by unanimous vote.
 - iv. L. Smith motioned to approve minutes by unanimous consent. Motion **passed** by unanimous vote.

V. Open Microphone

- a. There were no speakers present at the open microphone.

VI. Announcements and Reports

- a. OSGR New Directors Approval – Maggie Peng
 - i. A. Williams motioned to table the resolution to the next SA meeting. Motion **tabled** by unanimous consent.
- b. Director of Elections Resignation – Patrick Mehler
 - i. P. Mehler affirmed his gratitude for the Student Assembly and announced his resignation from the SA by Thursday, February 10, 2022.
 - ii. According to P. Mehler, on Thursday, February 10, 2022, an open meeting will be held for the election of a new Director of Elections, where any member of the community can run for election.



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- iii. P. Mehler fully endorsed his support for Issac Chasen to be the new Director of Elections.
- iv. A. Ononye extended her gratitude for P. Mehler on behalf of the SA.
- v. D. Cady endorsed the candidacy of Issac Chasen for the position of Director of Elections.
- vi. A. Ononye affirmed to only begin endorsement in the following meeting, to allow for a fair candidacy.
- c. Nominations to Office of Ethics – Duncan Cady
 - i. D. Cady affirmed that there is a shortage in nominations to the Office of Ethics.
 - ii. D. Cady echoed the encouragement of nominations by all members of the SA.
 - iii. D. Cady motioned to amend the agenda to push this resolution below SA R38. Motion **passed** by unanimous vote.
 - iv. A. Ononye formally announced P. Mehler's announcement that an election will be held next Thursday, February 10, 2022 for Director of Elections as well as other nominations for the Appropriations Committee.

VII. Initiatives

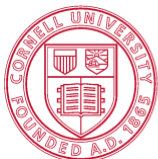
- a. C. Templeman brought to the floor the Employee Assembly topic of discussion to update the Dean's List and Latin Honors policies.
 - i. C. Templeman assured that this decision would impact students greatly.
 - 1. The Faculty Senate suggested eliminating the Dean's List and standardizing the policies of Latin Honors across colleges.
 - 2. A. Williams affirmed willingness to work with other SA members on a resolution either for or against the Faculty Senate's proposal.

VIII. Presentations and Forums

- a. No presentations and forums were presented.

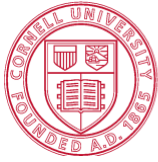
IX. New Business

- a. SA R40: Spring Festival Gala Speech Funding Project was presented by J. Jiang
 - i. J. Jiang welcomed the CSSA guest speakers, President Ziqing Wei and Director of the Spring Gala Festival Helen Hu who presented specifics of the Spring Festival Gala to the SA.
 - ii. The Spring Festival Gala is an event hosted by the CSSA for the entirety of the Cornell community in celebration of the Chinese Lunar New Year.
 - iii. J. Jiang affirmed that the Spring Festival Gala is an important event that would both support the Asian community's Lunar New Year, especially during heightened racism and misjudgment during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as bring different cultures and ethnic groups together in celebration.
 - iv. J. Jiang specifically thanked J. Mullen for his support in the Executive Board and E. Yan for his support in building bridges in the Asian community.
 - v. J. Jiang strongly emphasized that there is no conflict of interest as representative Jiang is not a member of CSSA, and L. Lu, who is a member of CSSA, will abstain from voting.
 - vi. CSSA member H. Hu, Director of the Spring Festival Gala, thanked the SA and introduced the Spring Festival Gala, reiterating J. Jiang's previous points.



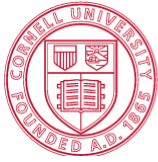
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1. The Spring Festival Gala will be held on February 12, 2022, over a duration of about 2 hours and will hold activities including traditional dance performances, western music, and A cappella performances.
- vii. Community members will not have the opportunity to go home for the Lunar New Year due to COVID-19, which makes this year's Gala especially important.
- viii. A. Ononye presented a point of information to H. Hu regarding plans in the possibility of a virtual event taking place.
 1. H. Hu affirmed that in the chance the event goes online, they will hold a virtual event on February 15, 2022.
 2. The virtual event would be a composite video of the performances that were planned to be conducted in the in-person event.
- ix. L. Smith urged the SA to be mindful that the special project accounts for 2/3 of the SA's special project budget.
 1. V. Valencia presented that the budget is currently at \$10,112.39 and 5,112.39 would remain following the Spring Gala expenditures.
- x. J. Mullen thanked the CSSA and J. Jiang. J. Mullen affirmed that this event strongly addresses the racism that has been inflicted onto the Asian community during the unprecedented times of COVID-19 and that he will be in attendance.
- xi. A. Williams brought up a point of information on whether the budget will be decreasing for future events, due to the purchase of long-term items such as camera lenses.
 1. H. Hu and Z. Wei affirmed that future events would have other sources of funding such as Alumni funding, and the camera would prove to be a useful resource in all events to come, including virtual ones.
- xii. D. Cady extended his gratitude and excitement for the event however had an inquiry regarding lines 21 and 22 of SA R40. D. Cady requested background information on how the prize of \$1900 and six winners was decided upon.
 1. H. Hu affirmed that the event prize is a way of allowing engagement in the audience to garner excitement.
 2. H. Hu furthermore affirmed that a survey was used in order to choose the most desired prizes.
- xiii. P. DaSilveira presented an amendment to line 52 of SA R40 to change "Carnivorous" to "Coronavirus". Motion to **amend** approved.
- xiv. J. Bansah inquired on whether \$5000 is the entire budget for the event, and if all the budgets will be provided by the Student Assembly.
 1. Z. Wei replied that the 2022 Spring Festival Gala will be funded by the SA and the CSSA due to the unprecedented lack of other organizational funding including ISU, which provided financial support in previous years.
- xv. A. Ononye inquired on whether other organizations were contacted and for the reasoning for the lack of funding from the ISU.



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1. J. Jiang responded that the ISU is responsible for providing funding for events of every nationality and ethnic group, but not in parallel with the number of people in the specific diversity group.
2. Due to prioritizing minority groups due to the difficulty in finding funding, the ISU decided to not fund the Spring Festival Gala this academic year.
- xvi. M. Song affirmed her gratitude for the event and cited line 42 in displaying the event's longevity as it will have a long-lasting community impact on anti-racism towards Asians, especially by utilizing the video that will be shared.
 1. Z. Wei reaffirmed that following the spring semester, there will be an event for new Chinese students where the video will be played.
- xvii. Weifang Yang had an inquiry regarding the process of special project funds.
 1. Valeria Valencia explained the process for special project funding and the main requirement of either benefiting the greater Cornell community or supporting the SA mission.
 2. There is no limit to the funding being asked for by organizations.
- xviii. L. Smith presented SA R28 which changed the standing rules on the special project funding application and presented that the application for the Spring Gala was an incomplete application in compliance with rule 11 of R28.
 1. M. Baker addressed that the old form was used, which was the Office of Assemblies form. The form is not in use anymore following R28.
- xix. A. Ononye asked for clarification regarding \$4000 of the \$5000 dollars going directly towards the camera.
 1. Ziqing Wei elaborated that the total plan is \$10,000 but some money was funded by the organization itself. The camera was funded by CSSA, as well as other items already paid for, and the remaining \$5000 is being asked for from the SA.
 2. J. Jiang affirmed that the total numbers are on the resolution in order to provide a more complete overview of the planning process.
- xx. J. Mullen motioned to vote on R40. Motion was **approved** by unanimous vote. R40 was **approved** by a majority vote of 24 – 0 – 4.
- b. SA R38: "Establishing the Public Health and Safety Committee" was presented by Cady, D. Hernandez, J. Mullen, and guest speaker C. Hodges.
 - i. D. Cady reintroduced the resolution to the SA, following the amendments being made following the January 27 SA meeting.
 - ii. The amendment changed the presence of OSA in the PHSC following the concerns of the January 27, 2022, SA meeting.
 - iii. C. Hodges spoke about his previous meeting with the SA that inspired this resolution.
 - iv. C. Hodges introduced the committee as a differential response system for the university in order to create a 24/7 social service other than CUPD.
 1. This serves to better allocate the CUPD's resources and focus.
 2. This system allows for a more comfortable interaction for black people, in response to the data collected from studies and combats structural racism.



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- v. L. Smith reiterated his concern with the choice to keep the resolution as a review committee under the OSA which follows the OSA typical process of member appointment. L. Smith is furthermore concerned about the SA President holding executive power.
 - 1. L. Smith elaborated that the committee is still atypical to the rest of the review committees as it prescribes specific roles and suggested the committee become a stand-alone office.
 - 2. D. Cady disagreed with L. Smith that it is atypical to the rest of the OSA review committees and affirmed his openness to amendments to the resolution.
- vi. L. Smith motioned for an amendment to strike lines 81 and 82 from R28. The motion to **amend** passed by unanimous vote.
- vii. L. Smith supported the decision to assign positions and suggested reevaluating this process in the other review committee resolutions in order to maintain uniformity.
- viii. A. Lampert motioned to vote on R38. The resolution was **approved** by a majority vote of 26 – 0 – 2.
- c. Nominations to Office of Ethics – Duncan Cady
 - i. D. Cady reaffirmed that there must be appointments for the body to function and requested that representatives create nominations and aid in appointing students onto the Office of Ethics.
 - ii. D. Cady introduced nominee Maral Asik.
 - iii. J. Kim asserted that the process for nomination simply requires for the person to be fit for the role and asserted support for M. Asik as a nominee.
 - iv. Maral Asik introduced herself and thanked the SA.
 - v. D. Cady motioned to vote on the appointment of Maral Asik. The motion passed. Maral Asik's nomination was **approved** by a 2/3 vote of 27 – 0 – 1.

X. Adjournment

- a. A. Ononye adjourned the meeting at 5:56 PM (EST).

Respectfully Submitted,
Jana Alzayer
Clerk of the Student Assembly