



Cornell University  
University Assembly

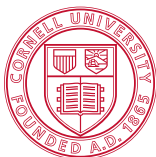
**Cornell University Assembly**

Minutes of the November 27th, 2018 Meeting

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

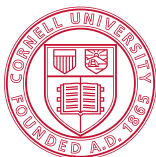
401 Physical Sciences Building

- I. Call to Order
  - a. Call to Order
    - i. M. Battaglia called the meeting to order at 4:37pm
  - b. Roll Call
    - i. *Present:* I. Allen, J. Anderson, D. Barbaria, K. Barth, M. Battaglia, R. Bense, L. Copman, V. Devatha, D. Hiner, T. Onabajo, C. Van Loan, A. Viswanathan, E. Winarto
    - ii. *Absent:* D. Geisler, M. Hatch, R. Howarth, E. Loew
    - iii. *Others Present:* Gina Giambattista, Mary Beth Grant, Christina Liang, Terrill Malone
  - c. Welcome and Introduction
  - d. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda
    - i. There were no late additions to the agenda.
- II. Approval of the Minutes
  - a. 10-30-18 Minutes
    - i. The minutes were **approved** by unanimous consent. There was no dissent.
  - b. 11-13-18 Minutes
    - i. The minutes were **postponed** until the next meeting of the University Assembly. There was no dissent.
- III. Presentation from Senior Associate Dean of Students Mary Beth Grant
  - a. M. Battaglia welcomed Associate Dean of Students Mary Beth Grant to the University Assembly.
  - b. She said that she, and a group of others, have been looking at the Greek judicial system and the chapter review board.
  - c. Mary Beth Grant gave an overview of the charge and context of the group, including the composition of the committee, which she chairs. She said there is a balance of about half of the people on the committee have some Greek affiliation, while the other half does not. She briefly discussed the process and current system through which complaints are filed and reach a resolution. She said that the committee has been charged to take a look into the chapter review board process, which determines if a violation has occurred, and, if so, how it will be rectified.



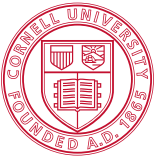
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- d. She went over the core values of the committee, and how the current system falls short of the values, including in the areas of the complex system, lack of fairness in the system, triaging, and confidence in the system.
- e. She went over some ideas for short term, meaningful changes to the current system, including having plain English procedures, better recruitment and training of review board members, and maintaining public information of allegations and review board findings, among other ideas.
- f. With regard to long term revision, she posed some questions for ideas and thoughts to Assembly members in the areas of: structure of the Greek judicial system; membership of the review boards; roles different parties in the review board process; and the use of alternative dispute resolution methods.
- g. Mary Beth Grant welcomed Christina Liang, the Associate Judicial Administrator, who also sits on the review committee.
- h. Mary Beth Grant fielded questions and welcomed thoughts from Assembly members.
- i. R. Bensel said that there should be unified fundamental fairness, and to ensure that, the judicial systems should be unified. He said that one group of students should not be held to a different standard than another group of students. He said that there should be the same standard of evidence for everyone.
- j. Mary Beth Grant said that she agrees with R. Bensel that the systems should be fundamentally fair. She said the national standard of proof for conduct issues is a preponderance of the evidence.
- k. J. Anderson said that it would be confusing because, to pull the Greek system under the Campus Code of Conduct draws the impetus that the Campus Code of Conduct should be a student code of conduct. He said that, after speaking to alumni in the Greek system, it is not simple, and he thinks it might not be the best thing to bring the Greek system under the Campus Code of Conduct, especially after hearing those alumni experiences.
- l. M. Battaglia explained the distinction between university-recognized and university-registered organizations.
- m. L. Copman asked about the transparency of the process, and the ways by which the decision and recourse are communicated to chapters and the people impacted. She said that, in any case, the system must be transparent.
- n. Mary Beth Grant said that there are many levels of transparency, and she said that the Office of Sorority and Fraternity Life and alumni can play the role of helping to inform and guide chapters and parties impacted.



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- o. D. Barbaria asked about the timeline of the review committee.
- p. Mary Beth Grant said that she feels very strongly that the review committee should have something done by the end of this semester for implementation in the Spring semester. She said that she is structuring the recommendation to include both short- and long-term recommendations. She said that the biggest part of the charge is the Spring deadline.
- q. D. Barbaria said that he wishes there was another chance to have a discussion on these topics to collaborate on the changes.
- r. R. Bensel said that deference to fraternity and sorority culture is a bad idea. He said that there should be individual accountability.
- s. T. Onabajo said that the burden of proof of clear and convincing evidence is excessive, given the culture of Greek life. She said that she agrees with the idea that the Greek judicial system should be brought under the Campus Code of Conduct, but that she does not see why it would be a student code of conduct.
- t. A. Viswanathan asked about triaging of different complaints.
- u. Mary Beth Grant said that one idea is to have multiple people involved in the process of triaging and reviewing complaints, among other ideas.
- v. T. Onabajo said that, with regard to roles in the Greek judicial process, the role of alumni should not be emphasized, and actually, minimized. She also said that the alternative dispute resolution could conflict with justice and should only be used when the victim agrees to that form of resolution.
- w. J. Pea said that it is important that everyone in the judicial process understands their roles, specifically avoiding any grey areas. He said that it is also important to assess how outsiders might view alternative dispute resolution as a form of justice.
- x. I. Allen asked about the benefits of removing the judicial review of conduct cases and complaints from the Office of Sorority and Fraternity Life.
- y. Mary Beth Grant said that people have expressed the idea to improve the relationship between Greek life and chapters by removing the judicial process from the Office of Sorority and Fraternity Life, giving them the opportunity to expand work in the areas of prevention, leadership, etc.
- z. Christiana Liang said that, currently, the Office of the Judicial Administrator and the Office of Sorority and Fraternity Life do joint investigations, which take a lot of time that could be spent otherwise planning preventative, educational, and leadership programming for sororities and fraternities.



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- aa. J. Anderson said that he thinks bringing the Greek judicial system under the Campus Code of Conduct will push people to think that there should be a student code of conduct.
- IV. Assembly, Committee, and Liaison Reports
  - a. There were no Assembly Reports.
  - b. There were no Committee Reports.
  - c. Student Health Benefits Advisory Committee
    - i. M. Battaglia said that he attended the last meeting where increasing the student health fee was discussed.
  - d. Policy Advisory Group
    - i. E. Winarto said that group discussed a policy regarding device security.
- V. Adjournment
  - a. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Terrill D. Malone  
Clerk of the University Assembly