Student Assembly Meeting
AGENDA
November 10, 2022
4:45 - 6:30pm
MEMORIAL ROOM, WILLARD STRAIGHT HALL
ZOOM
Meeting ID: 947 1648 3660 | Passcode: 303164

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Land Acknowledgement of the Gayogoḥ:ṇq (Cayuga Nation)
3. Late Additions to the Agenda
4. Consent Agenda: Approval of November 3rd, 2022 Meeting Minutes
5. Open Microphone
6. Announcements and Reports
   1. Statement on Recent Events- Valeria Valencia ’23
   2. Special Projects Request- Rocco DeLorenzo ’24
7. Initiatives
8. Presentations and Forums
10. New Business
11. Adjournment

If you are in need of special accommodations, contact the Office of the Assemblies at (607) 255-3715 or Student Disability Services at (607) 254-4545 prior to the meeting.
I. Call to Order
   a. President V. Valencia called the meeting to order at 4:53pm

II. Roll Call
   b. Members Excused: S. Bhardwaj, D. Edelman, B. Katib, D. Nachman

III. Land Acknowledgment of the Gayogohonq (Cayuga Nation)
   a. President V. Valencia stated the land acknowledgment

IV. Late Additions to the Agenda
   a. R. De Lorenzo motions to move Critical Response Team report under Presentations and Forums, passed by unanimous consent
   b. P. Da Silveira motions to move resolution 11 above resolution 9, passed by unanimous consent

V. Consent Agenda
   a. Resolution number 7 was acknowledged by the president
   b. Resolution number 5 was acknowledged by the president and she added that she appreciated the commitment to belonging and consent
   c. Approval of the October 27, 2022 meeting minutes
      i. R. De Lorenzo motions to strike line xxxii under section B in Presentation and Forums, passed by unanimous consent
      ii. A. Lampert motions to change “October 21st to October 27th,” passed by unanimous consent
      iii. K. Chan motions to approve the meeting minutes, passed by unanimous consent

VI. Open Microphone
   a. None
VII. Announcements and Reports
   a. K. Chan gives an update on the Privacy Pod pilot program
      i. Privacy pods are sound proof booths in Gates Hall
      ii. Meant to address the increase in telehealth appointments and lack of private spaces on campus
      iii. Had a meeting to talk about the project. The administration is going to do some number crunching and determine the location of the pods, suggests them being in libraries, but ultimately the administration will decide
      iv. Reach out to K. Chan or A. Lampert if interested in this project and working on it with administration

VIII. Initiatives
   a. None

IX. Presentation and Forums
   a. R. De Lorenzo gives a PSAC initiative update
      i. Goes over the background of the PSCA committee. It was formed in July 2020 with the goal of evaluating and reimagining the university safety and security protocols through a methodical, open, and inclusive process
      ii. In 2021, they focused on gathering community feedback on campus recommendations
      iii. Completed the public statement and commitment to enacting anti-racist policy
      iv. Now they’re developing and implanting an alternative public safety response model
      v. This alternative response model is known as the Community Response Team and it’s used for mental health crisis on campus
      vi. They are continuing to gather data and refine recommendations, doing a comprehensive review of CUPD calls, diversifying the membership of PSAC, and preparing to launch a search for CRT clinician and program manager
      vii. They announced a new Public Safety Organization in spring 2022 and are preparing to launch
      viii. Goes over what the AVP of Public Safety will oversee: technical operations, CU police, emergency management, alternative response, administrative operations, emergency medical services
ix. Goes over update from the Community Response Team. Key changes are that a new director will be a supervisory mental health clinician, team will be able to respond campus wide, and fully integrated part of 911 calls and responses

x. Currently searching for a new director and the team that will be able to respond

xi. It was launched quickly, so now they’re trying to approve upon it with CRT 2.0

xii. CRT clinician search and case worker search is underway with the goal to have them staffed and ready to go by Spring 2023

xiii. The search community is composed of members from housing and residential programs, Cornell counseling and psychological services, Cornell ems, Cornell care and crisis services

xiv. Goal is to restart CRT for the Spring 2023 semester

xv. There’s a new Public Safety Communications Center that takes its own 911 calls

xvi. In 2021, they had 7,741 calls for service and 42,250 calls into and out of the 911 center

xvii. The Office of Emergency Management has also moved under the Division of Public Safety

xviii. The Office of Emergency Management operates on the 4-phase framework of prevention-mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery

xix. B. Mehretu asks if he knows how far they’ve gotten in filling up the CRT team

xx. R. De Lorenzo states the original team was only available in dorms, but they’re trying to expand it. They’re looking for a director currently and then they’ll build the rest of the team

xxi. C. Ting asks if there’s an estimate when CRT will be back in commission

xxii. R. De Lorenzo states interviews are lined up to happen and they’ll hopefully be staffed and ready to start by early Spring

xxiii. S. Williams asks about the composition of the interview teams

xxiv. R. De Lorenzo says he believes the search and interview team is separate and its being done by high-ranking Cornell admin and possibly students

xxv. C. Ting asks who is responding while CRT is out of commission

xxvi. V. Valencia responds that its CUPD

xxvii. B. Mehretu asks who compromises the CRT team
R. De Lorenzo states he believes it will be staffed by trained professionals, but there might be potential for students to also obtain the same training and also be able to respond.

X. Business of the Day
   a. B. Mehretu, A. Chowdhurry, and S. Woldai present Resolution 11
      i. The goal of establishing a Basic Needs Center is to have more support for first-gen and low-income students on campus
      ii. Currently, the resources on campus are decentralized and inaccessible
      iii. This resolution calls for Cornell to establish a Basic Needs Center and overhaul financial aid, which includes expanding aid for housing, food, and transportation because of the high cost of living in Ithaca
      iv. This resolution calls for Cornell to centralize information via website, hotline, email, and phone
      v. Calls for the expansion of the Access Fund and the creation of a Basic Needs Fund
      vi. Create a yearly systematic review of the campus resources and address any access or equity issues identified in the survey
      vii. A survey was sent out over the summer and found that of the respondents nearly 1/3 had difficulty with food security and nearly 60% had difficulties with housing and financial security
      viii. A. Lampert motions to change resolution 12 to resolution 11, passed by unanimous consent
      ix. B. Mehretu motions to amend the co-sponsor section to add Undergraduate Student Trustee Selam Woldai, passed by unanimous consent
      x. J. Kalinski asks how the Basic Needs Center will be advertised
      xi. S. Woldai responds that Cornell has an abundance of resources, but people don't know about it. It's not their job as students to figure out how to market. They're trying to advocate to have more faculty members helping to get the word out, such as by utilizing email list servs.
      xii. B. Mehretu adds that the physical center would also centralize the resources because they’re all over campus and it has shown to be effective at other schools.
      xiii. R. De Lorenzo asks what the survey method used to measure food insecurity was
      xiv. A. Chowdhurry responds that this survey was not to represent all basic needs at Cornell, but just to gather some data. The survey asked about affording food, finding resources for food, food programs, and applying for
SNAP. They listed out what food insecurity entails and followed up with 4 related other questions

xv. The purpose of this resolution is just to let the administration know that the SA is backing up the Basic Needs Center

xvi. M. Song states this was discussed extensively during the Diversity Committee meeting and there were no committee members who voted in opposition and she hopes this goes favorably

xvii. J. Kalinski asks where an ideal location would be

xviii. A. Chowdhury responds that the Wellness committee has looked into spaces for the creation of the Wellness center, which has a lot in alignment with basic needs. They have identified a few locations including Willard Straight and RPCC. They have been talking to administration and have monthly meetings. Administration is working on creating a working group for next semester, but they’ll still working on what the space will be.

xix. R. De Lorenzo asks if the survey was given in a randomized way to the Cornell population

xx. A. Chowdhury responds that it wasn’t and that was on purpose. It was targeted towards first-gen and low-income students because these are the groups that are impacted the most and they wanted to further understand issues they’re facing

xxi. They did reach out to some random email lists and used social media, but mainly it was distributed through the First Gen Student Union

xxii. S. Woldai continues that the way the survey was conducted doesn’t negate the experiences of the answers. The purpose of the resolution is just to say that the SA supports this

xxiii. M. Baker states that issues with how the survey was done aren’t relevant because randomization only matters when you’re trying to make generalizations, which isn’t what they’re doing

xxiv. B. Mehretu states he’s already seen this effecting freshmen. There’s a serious issue on campus with students really struggling and this cannot wait any longer. Students have been waiting for too long and we need to get this passed

xxv. M. Baker motions to end debate, passes in a vote of 24-0-4

xxvi. Resolution 11 passes in a vote of 25-0-3

b. A. Lewis, P. Da Silveira, and JP Swenson present Resolution 9
   i. P. Da Silveira states they made some changes to establish this as a sub-committee of the Communications and Outreach committee
ii. A change was made in the bylaws, lines 402-403, to state that a sub-committee of the Communications and Outreach committee will be planning events for students

iii. V. Valencia states that because this is a bylaws amendment this can be presented today and voted on next week. It will need 2/3 of members present to pass

iv. K. Chan gives a friendly reminder that the typical format of a resolution has line numbers

v. M. Song asks if the committee members have to come from within the Communications committee and where the chair of the Communications committee plays into this

vi. P. De Silveira states they’ll accept amendments to add “sub-committee”

vii. Continues that the only things being changed are in red. It was left open ended on purpose and the structure was proposed, so that representatives can understand where they’re coming from and what they want to see of this and if representatives agree then this can be written in

viii. C. Taylor states if it’s a bylaws amendment then need to specify if it’s a sub-committee under the Communications committee and what lines are being changed

ix. P. De Silveira states this is referring to section 3 lines 402-403

x. P. Da Silveira motions to postpone this discussion to next week, D. Cady dissents to see what K. Chan has to say, P. Da Silveira withdraws his motion

xi. K. Chan states she would like to see it run through the Communications committee with all the changes

xii. P. Da Silveira states they’ll do that, but states A. Lewis put the resolution in the Slack asking for feedback and a lot of these changes were suggestions she made, so he would appreciate if people were more responsive in the future

xiii. M. Baker motions to postpone resolution 9 indefinity, passed by unanimous consent

XI. New Business
    a. R. De Lorenzo motions to move into Executive Session with the parliamentarian, passed by unanimous consent
        i. The following appointments were made during Executive Session
        ii. UA representative: S. Williams

XII. Adjournment
a. K. Chan motions to adjourn, passed by unanimous consent

The meeting was adjourned at 5:49pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Megan Birmingham
Clerk of the Assembly
Announcement: Approving Special Projects Funding Request for Disability Awareness Union at Cornell

Abstract: This announcement approves $321.00 of Special Projects Funding to the Disability Awareness Union at Cornell to host an event to discuss mental health at Cornell as well as intersections with disability justice.

Sponsored by: George Rocco DeLorenzo ’24, Valeria Valencia ’23

Type of Action: Announcement

Originally Presented: 11/10/2022

Current Status: New Business

Whereas, the Student Assembly Standing Rules, Section 8: Spending Guidelines, Part B: Special Projects Funding outlines the purpose of Special Projects Funding and the process of approving funding requests.

Whereas, lines 281-283 of the Student Assembly Standing Rules explains the purpose of Special Projects Funding as follows:

Rule 5: The Student Assembly may choose to fund any project, program or service through SA Special Projects that it deems to improve the quality of undergraduate student life or to further the goals of the SA. Special Projects funding is a type of category spending.

Whereas, lines 298-303 of the Student Assembly Standing Rules describes the approval process of Special Projects Funding as follows:

Rule 7: The SA President and Vice President for Finance together may approve any special projects funding request up to $400 without consultation with the Executive Committee. Amounts up to $400 may also be funded by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. Requests must be made public at a Student Assembly meeting in the form of an “Announcement/Report” before being approved. Any SA voting member can motion for the request to be sent to the Executive Committee if they feel necessary.”
Whereas, at this event, special guests include EARS presenters, students with experience with disability referrals, and a step-by-step guide on navigating on-and-off campus resources.

Whereas, the event will consist of welcome/intros, disability awareness union presentation, Cornell EARS presentation, Student Testimonials with Q&A, and Reception.

Whereas, this project should impact students on campus struggling with specialist needs, disability, or mental health issues, particularly students with experience in more than one of these areas. The resources will be available online to all students after the event as well as being sign-language accessible.

Whereas, $180.00 will go toward two hours of sign language interpreters, $121.00 will go toward refreshments, and $20.00 will go toward printing advertising flyers.

Be it finally resolved, that the Student Assembly approves the $321.00 Special Projects Funding disbursement to the Disability Awareness Union at Cornell in order to host their event to make all students on Cornell’s campus feel included.

Respectfully Submitted,

George Rocco DeLorenzo ‘24

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

Valeria Valencia ‘23

President, Student Assembly
Resolution 13: Student Assembly Office of Ethics Bylaw Amendment

Abstract: This resolution amends and ratifies the Student Assembly Bylaws. These amendments to the Bylaws create an ex-officio position for the Chairperson of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics, permit members of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics to remain during executive session, and establish the format of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics.

Sponsored by: Michelle Song ’25, Pedro Da Silveira ’25
Reviewed by: Student Assembly Office of Ethics, 11/08/2022
Type of Action: Internal Policy
Originally Presented: 11/10/2022
Current Status: New Business

Whereas, the Student Assembly Office of Ethics was established through Student Assembly Resolution 22 as an external executive office to hold the Student Assembly accountable, maintain a high moral standard, and provide necessary ethical guidance and procedure to the Student Assembly;

Whereas, the membership of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics has actively researched, analyzed, coordinated, argued, and discussed ethical philosophies and applications;

Whereas, the members of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics have unanimously agreed that the Student Assembly, is in need of a structured system imbued with the authority to ensure accountability, ethical conduct, justice, and growth;

Whereas, the current language utilized in “Section 2: Ex-officio Executive Committee Positions” of “Article I: Ex-Officio Members,” “Section 5: Executive Session” of “Article IV: Meetings,” and “Section 5: External Committees” of “Article VI: Committees” lines 10-19, 233-238, 562-617 prevent the Student Assembly Office of Ethics from becoming this type of system;

Whereas, the Code of Ethics and amendments to the Ethics Clause of the Student Assembly’s Standing Rules have been incorporated into the framework of the Assembly, and an amendment to the Bylaws is necessary for the Office to function

Be it therefore resolved, that “Section 2: Ex-officio Executive Committee Positions” of “Article I: Ex-Officio Members,” “Section 5: Executive Session” of “Article IV: Meetings,” and “Section 5: External Committees” of “Article VI: Committees” lines 10-19, 233-238, 562-617 of the Student Assembly Bylaws shall read as follows:
ARTICLE I: EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Section 2: Ex-Officio Executive Committee Positions

A. The SA can grant an ex-officio position to any member of the Cornell community to serve as the Executive Archivist.
B. The SA can grant an ex-officio position to any member of the Cornell community to serve as the Parliamentarian.
C. The SA can grant an ex-officio position to any member of the Cornell Community to serve as Director of Elections.
D. The SA can grant an ex-officio position to any member of the Cornell Community to serve as the Student Advocate.
E. The SA can grant an ex-officio position to any member of the Cornell Community to serve as the Director of Student Government Relations.
F. The SA must grant an ex-officio position to any member elected by the Student Assembly Office of Ethics to serve as the Chairperson.

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

Section 2: Executive Session

With the concurrence of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members in attendance, the SA or any of its committees may go into executive session during a regularly scheduled meeting only to discuss confidential matters as defined by this Charter. No policy determinations will be made in executive session. The Student Assembly may also hold executive sessions for internal elections and planning purposes. Executive session shall be closed to non-voting, non-executive members of the assembly except the Chairperson of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics and all present members of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics. Community members may be invited by the assembly to participate in an executive session. Secret ballot votes shall be reserved for executive sessions.

ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES

Section 5: EXTERNAL COMMITTEES
C. **Student Assembly Office of Ethics**

   a. Name
      
      i. The name of the office shall be the Student Assembly Office of Ethics.

   b. Mission:
      
      i. The mission of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics shall be to pursue any necessary ethics concerns of SA members and directly elected undergraduate representatives to the UA.
      
      ii. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics will investigate perceived ethical violations and draft reports to the SA for guidance and potential repercussions.
      
      iii. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics will be available for consulting and support on SA ethical issues for both SA members and the student body.

   c. Affiliation
      
      i. The Office will review all concerns submitted by the student body that involve any SA members, SA committees, SA elections, or directly elected undergraduate representatives of the UA.
      
      ii. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics shall be affiliated as an external executive office of the Cornell Student Assembly.
      
      iii. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics shall work jointly with the Elections Committee to review any potential election violations or concerns.

   d. Roles and Responsibilities
      
      i. A quorum shall consist of five members of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics.
      
      ii. Chairperson of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics:
           
           1. The Chairperson will chair all Student Assembly Office of Ethics meetings.
           
           2. The Chairperson shall only vote in the event of a tie.
           
           3. The Chairperson shall have a term limit of one academic year.
           
           4. The Chairperson shall correspond directly with the Student Assembly on matters of ethics and ethical decorum in its meetings and all proceedings.
               
               a) In the event of absence, the Chairperson may select any member of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics to temporarily fulfill their obligations as an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee of the SA.
      
      iii. Review all alleged ethical violations submitted to the Office via:
           
           1. Qualtrics,
           
           2. Email,
3. Personal contact with a committee member of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics.

iv. Open investigations on perceived ethical violations
1. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics can open its own investigation on an ethical matter by a simple majority vote.

v. Voting Members of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics:
1. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics shall consist of seven voting members.
2. All voting members shall serve for the duration of one academic year unless their term is renewed by the Chairperson of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics.
3. Student Assembly Office of Ethics members, if found in violation of the Code of Ethics or any other reasonable basis as determined by the Office, can be removed before their term expires by a unanimous vote of the voting membership of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics.
   a) The subject of the removal vote must abstain from voting.
4. All voting members shall be non-Student Assembly and non-University Assembly members of the Cornell undergraduate student population.
5. Voting members may not seek SA office through their term of service in the Student Assembly Office of Ethics.

vi. Update the Student Assembly of its proceedings and its mission on a semesterly basis at a hearing conducted during one of the first three general assembly meetings of the academic year. This will be formally referred to as the “Student Assembly Office of Ethics’ semesterly report.”

vii. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics will be commissioned with interpreting and applying the guidelines set forth in the SA Code of Ethics.
1. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics, alone, will be tasked with the ability to revise the Code of Ethics.
2. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics will report revisions of the Code of Ethics to the Student Assembly at the subsequent meeting.

e. Recruitment of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics Members
i. Any vacancies in the 7 seats of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics shall be appointed individually by any SA member and confirmed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire voting membership of the Student Assembly.
   1. Except for nominations following a failed community vote, all nominations for the Student Assembly Office of Ethics must be
unanimously approved by the membership of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics prior to the SA nomination hearing.

2. A week-long period in between nominations and appointments shall be dedicated to giving SA voting members the opportunity to speak one-on-one with each nominee.

ii. At the beginning of each academic year, the voting membership of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics must select the Chairperson of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics internally by a simple majority vote of the entire voting membership of the Office. The Chairperson-elect shall be confirmed by a 2/3rd majority vote of the Student Assembly voting membership.

iii. The Chairperson of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics shall decide upon the retention of the voting membership of the incoming Office before the conclusion of each academic year.

f. Vote of No Confidence

i. The Student Assembly will assess the work of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics during the previous academic year and must conduct a vote of no confidence on an annual basis during or following any of the first three general assembly meetings of each semester.

1. Following the Student Assembly Office of Ethics' semestery report, as defined in Article VI, Section 5, Subsection C, Clause D, Paragraph VI, the SA may commence a Vote of No Confidence by 2/3 majority vote on the grounds that the Office has failed to uphold and execute its mission, as defined in Article VI, Section 5, Subsection C, Clause B.

   a) The Chairperson of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics and all present members of the Office may directly address the concerns brought against the Office prior to the vote of the SA to commence a Vote of No Confidence.

2. If the motion to commence a Vote of No Confidence fails, the Student Assembly Office of Ethics will continue to operate.

3. In the event of a sustained Vote of No Confidence, a community vote shall be taken in order to remove all Student Assembly Office of Ethics members. 15% of the undergraduate population must vote in favor of removal of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics membership for the vote to be sustained.

ii. In the event of a failed community vote, all Student Assembly Office of Ethics members shall continue to serve.

g. Student Assembly Office of Ethics Bylaws
i. All bylaw proposals to Article VI, Section 5, Subsection C, must be approved by the Student Assembly Office of Ethics by a two-thirds (2/3) majority before coming to the SA.

ii. Changes to the Student Assembly Office of Ethics bylaws may only occur during the first three SA meetings of each semester.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Song ’25

Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion & Representative at-Large, Student Assembly

Pedro Da Silveira ’25

Vice President of Internal Operations & College of Engineering Representative, Student Assembly