

Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Agenda of the Thursday, March 17, 2022 Meeting

4:45 PM – 6:30 PM

IN PERSON | WILLARD STRAIGHT MEMORIAL ROOM

- I. Call to Order
- II. Land Acknowledgment of the Gayogohono (Cayuga Nation)
- III. Late Additions to the Agenda
- IV. Consent Agenda
 - a. [10th March 2022 Minutes](#)
- V. Open Microphone
- VI. Announcements and Reports
 - a. Cornell Community Relations Presentation – Kate Supron
- VII. Initiatives
- VIII. Presentations and Forums
- IX. Business of the Day
- X. New Business
 - a. Resolution 47: [Continuing the Diversity and Inclusion Scholarship](#)
 - b. Resolution 48: [Establishment of the Committee of International Students Affairs](#)
 - c. Resolution 49: [Cornell Civic Holiday](#)
- XI. Adjournment

If you are in need of special accommodations in order to fully participate, please contact Student Disability Services at (607) 254-4545 or the Office of the Assemblies at (607) 255-3715 or assembly@cornell.edu prior to the meeting.



Cornell University
University Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, March 10, 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 4:50 PM (EST).
- b. Roll Call
 - i. *Members Present: A. Juan, N. Reddy, K. Santacruz, L. Smith, V. Valencia, A. Williams, A. Ononye, D. Hernandez, P. Gronemeyer, C. Tempelman, J. Kim, M. Baker, J. Jiang, Y. Logan, B. Luckow, N. Overton, J. Bansab, D. Cady, A. Gleiberman, M. Louis, E. Yan, D. Eisman*
 - ii. *Members Absent: P. DaSilveira, A. Lampert, J. Mullen, M. Song, D. Ilango, C. Leon, L. Lu*

II. Land Acknowledgement of the Gayogoho:no (Cayuga Nation)

- a. President Ononye delivered the Land Acknowledgement.

III. Late Additions to the Agenda

- a. D. Cady motioned to move Resolution 46: Support of a New Natatorium (Pool) in the 'Do the Greatest Good' Campaign up the agenda. Motion passed by unanimous consent.
- b. J. Kim motioned to add her nominations to the Office of Ethics to the agenda. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

IV. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of March 3rd, 2022 Minutes
 - i. K. Santacruz motioned to approve the minutes. Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

V. Open Microphone

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

VI. Announcements and Reports

- a. Faculty Senator Ashleigh Newman – Population Medicine & Diagnostic Science
 - i. The pools at Cornell are important and widely used for: Physical Education courses, ROTC, varsity swimming and diving, club swimming, intramural polo, open swim, etc.
 - ii. Aquatic exercise has both physical and mental health benefits.
 1. Some studies show it is preventative for seasonal affective disorder.
 - iii. There are two existing pools at Cornell University: Teagle Hall and Helen Newman Hall.



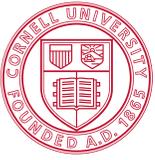
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1. There are inequitable bathrooms and shower spaces for opposite gender, transgender, and gender non-conforming persons.
 - iv. A main issue is the gap between the high demand for pools and the supply.
 - v. Further issues include increased pool closures due to unsafe water quality and aged facilities.
 - vi. In 2020, \$750,000 was invested to prolong pool life to 2025 in both pools.
 1. This included structural shoring wherein wood was used instead of the more durable option of steel due to wood being inexpensive.
 - vii. If the process for the construction of a new pool began now, it would take up to 10 years to complete.
 - viii. The resolution proposes a 50-meter pool since it tackles the supply and demand issue as well as provides more optimal hours for availability.
 1. This allows to section off the pool, which Princeton University and Brown University provide.
 - ix. Furthermore, Colgate University and Ithaca College both provide 50-meter pools as well.
 - x. Cornell University would become the only Ivy League and Regional college without a pool.
 1. Aquatic activities would all be terminated, including Beginning Swimming (PE 1100) which reduces drowning risk.
 - xi. A new natatorium would do an enormous amount of good but is still not a university priority or part of the Capital Campaign, which prevents Cornell from having to pay for the entirety of the project.
- b. Water Sports Teams for a New Pool
- i. Jack Valiquette - Men's Varsity Swimming
 1. J. Valiquette is co-captain of Cornell's swimming and diving team.
 2. J. Valiquette affirmed that a new pool is needed for reasons including the frequent need to move team meets to the pool in Ithaca College as well as the uncertainty of the team's future with no pool on campus.
 - ii. Gillian Cavelry – Women's Varsity Swimming
 1. G. Cavelry is co-captain of Cornell women's swimming and diving team.
 2. A current senior, G. Cavelry has watched the pool decay and deteriorate throughout her four years at Cornell University.
 3. Algae growth as well as sand was found in the pool water on multiple occasions.



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4. There are only 10 showers and 5 toilets in the women's locker room at Teagle Hall for the entire building to use.
 5. Competing teams look down upon the facilities provided at Cornell.
 6. G. Cavetry emphasized the importance of a pool on mental health.
- iii. Andrew Martinez – Men's Club Swimming
1. After an injury in high school, A. Martinez could not swim for an entire year.
 2. Club swimming at Cornell allowed A. Martinez to slowly get back in to swimming and nurtured his love for the sport.
 3. Following COVID-19 restriction, A. Martinez and teammates returned to the pool and encountered limited access due to poor water quality.
- iv. Alexander Seyer – Men's Club Water Polo
1. A. Seyer is a current freshman and part of the men's club water polo.
 2. A. Seyer affirmed that it has been almost impossible to play water polo in the current conditions of the pools.
 3. During the first semester, the team was given no time for practice, and resorted to using the Second Dam and swim out in the open.
 - a. A. Seyer, having asthma, was unable to participate.
 4. After nationals, wherein the team performed poorly due to their lack of practice, the team was completely pushed out of the pool and told to practice during open swim.
 5. The future of the team does not seem very bright, and A. Seyer hopes that swimming opportunities will be made more available for the student population.
- v. Olivia Smith – Women's Club Water Polo
1. Commitment to athletics is a key part of diversity, which is a priority at Cornell University.
 2. O. Smith elaborated on how water polo grounds her experience at Cornell.
 3. Pools are extremely important, especially during the cold winters.
- c. Senator Ashleigh Newman – Questions and comments
- i. D. Eisman thanked Senator Newman for her presence. D. Eisman inquired on how the gap between 2025 and the completion of a new pool in 2032 will be facilitated.
 1. A. Newman stated that this issue has unfortunately been ignored but affirmed that discussions are now ensuing in light of this resolution.



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2. The plan B that the administration may have is to rely on the Ithaca College pool, which would be insufficient and unreliable.
- ii. A. Williams inquired on statistics regarding pool closures throughout fall 2021.
 1. A. Newman stated that there has not been an ongoing record of the pool closures. However, the student athletes may have a rough estimate or further knowledge.
- iii. C. Templeman, as someone who frequently attends open swim, affirmed that the timings of the pool openings have been unreliable, and has experienced firsthand how the Columbia University facilities do not exhibit the same issues.
- iv. L. Smith inquired on how Yale is maintaining their pool from the 1930s, and how Cornell could strive to do the same.
 1. A. Newman replied that Yale University, apart from their main competition colosseum, has a 50-meter facility.
 2. Yale, furthermore, began a Capital Campaign for a new pool.
- v. P. Gronemeyer on why the pool construction process did not begin earlier, such as in 2015, which is 10 years prior to the projected date.
 1. A. Newman stated that the degradation of the facility was not linear, and therefore the issue escalated most in 2019 and that is when the issue began to receive attention.
 2. Furthermore, the estimated years sometimes underestimate the lifespan of the pools, and the admin's hope is that at least one of the pools will make it past 2025.
- vi. A. Juan and A. Newman reiterated that varsity swimming would be hard to uphold without proper facilities, and Cornell will receive backlash from multiple groups including alumni.

VII. New Business

- a. Resolution 46: Support of a New Natatorium (Pool) in the 'Do the Greatest Good' Campaign – co-sponsored by D. Cady
 - i. D. Cady affirmed that the Capital Campaign is a 5-million-dollar campaign with goals including personal wellbeing and growth of resources for physical and mental health at Cornell and R46 specifically tackles this goal.
 - ii. D. Cady affirmed the importance of a pool to student mental health and highlighted that this resolution would promote a better Cornell community.
 - iii. K. Santacruz motioned to vote on R46. Resolution **passed** by a majority vote of 21 – 0 – 1 .

VIII. Announcements and Reports



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- a. A. Ononye announced J. Mullen's resignation from the Student Assembly and the vacancy of a position. Elections will be held during the following SA meeting.
- b. A. Ononye announced that she will be providing a report on the SA to the Board of Trustees in two weeks and requested that the SA representatives reach out to her with any important comments to be shared with the Board.
- c. A. Gleiberman suggested posting the Office of Ethics appointments to the SA social media platforms.

IX. Initiatives

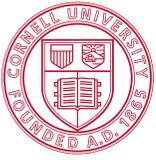
- a. L. Smith discussed interest in an initiative regarding COVID-19 regulations on the Cornell campus to discuss the ongoing updates.
 - i. A. Gleiberman looks forward to receiving a response from the administration regarding COVID-19 regulations.
 - ii. C. Templeman seconded A. Gleiberman and expressed concern regarding keeping the mask mandate while at the same time stopping surveillance testing.
 - iii. C. Templeman furthermore expressed that mere communication from the administration is important.
 - iv. A. Ononye confirmed that the student body should be receiving information regarding the masking mandate by the end of the week.
 - v. A. Williams reiterated her confusion regarding Cornell's current policy for COVID-19 and rationale.

X. Presentations and Forums

- a. No presentations and forums were presented.

XI. Business of the Day

- a. Office of Ethics – Nomination of Alhassan Bangura by Michelle Song '25
 - i. D. Cady motioned to present a nomination to the Office of Ethics in place of M. Song due to her absence.
 - ii. A. Bangura is a freshman in the College of Arts and Sciences.
 - iii. A. Bangura highlighted his experience in Student Assembly in high school wherein he wrote a 22-page constitution which made his student organization into a separate judicial body.
 - iv. L. Smith inquired on why A. Bangura would like to be a part of the Office of Ethics as opposed to the Student Assembly.
 1. A. Bangura expressed that his skills serve a better role in the Office of Ethics as opposed to the Student Assembly.
 - v. K. Santacruz motioned to table the nomination. The nomination was tabled by a vote of 17 – 0 – 2 .
- b. Office of Ethics – Nominations of Glenna Lee and Carlene Mwaura by Joanne Kim



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- i. J. Kim motioned to vote on the appointment of G. Lee to the Office of Ethics. Nomination **passed** by a 2/3rd vote of 17 – 0 – 2.
- ii. J. Kim motioned to vote on the appointment of C. Mwaura to the Office of Ethics. Nomination **passed** by a 2/3rd vote of 17 – 0 – 2.

XII. Adjournment

- a. A. Ononye adjourned the meeting at 6:01 PM (EST).

Respectfully Submitted,

Jana Alzayer

Clerk of the Student Assembly



1 Resolution 47: Continuing the Diversity and Inclusion 2 Scholarship

3 **Abstract:** This resolution allows for the Diversity Committee to distribute their funds amongst
4 minority organizations in the form of a scholarship.

5 **Sponsored by:** Claudia León '23, Valeria Valencia '23, Emmah Bashir '23, Deepak Ilango '22

6 **Reviewed by:** Diversity Committee

7 **Type of Action:** Legislation

8 **Originally Presented:** 03/14/2022

9 **Current Status:**

10 **Whereas,** the Diversity Committee is tasked with collecting ideas, issues, and concerns in the area of
11 diversity and inclusion, and working on implementable related policies;

12 **Whereas,** the Diversity Committee established a D&I Scholarship in the AY 2020-2021 to address
13 the historic underfunding of minority and diversity-oriented organizations;¹

14 **Whereas,** the Diversity Committee was granted \$1,500 for the 2021-2022 academic year by the
15 Appropriations Committee;

16 **Be it therefore resolved,** the Student Assembly allows for these funds to be distributed to minority
17 organizations on campus in the form of five \$300 scholarships;

18 **Be it finally resolved,** the Diversity Committee will create and review applications in order to deem
19 which organization is best fit to receive the funds.

20

21 **Respectfully Submitted,**

22 Claudia León '23

23 *Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion, Student Assembly*

24 Valeria Valencia '23

25 *Vice President of Finance, Student Assembly*

26 Emmah Bashir '23

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https://assembly.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/s.a._resolution_24_creating_a_diversity_and_inclusion_scholarship.pdf



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- 27 *Member of Diversity Committee, Student Assembly*
- 28 Deepak Ilango '22
- 29 *Undesignated Representative At-Large, Student Assembly*
- 30 *(Reviewed by: Diversity Committee, 8-0-1, 03/14/22)*



Resolution 48: Establishment of the Committee of International Students Affairs

Abstract: This resolution will establish an ad hoc committee called the Committee of International Students Affairs.

Sponsored by: JohnJohn Jiang '22

Reviewed by: Diversity Committee

Type of Action: Recommendation

Originally Presented: 03/14/2022

Current Status: New Business

Whereas, according to the Special Rules of Order of the Cornell Student Assembly

Ad-Hoc committee: "The Student Assembly shall be empowered to create an ad-hoc committee for the length of their term. If the ad-hoc committee requests to continue into the next term, they must seek approval from the newly seated assembly."

Whereas, there are all sorts of committees that are designed to provide support specific groups of purposes in the student assembly.

Whereas, however, there is not a specific committee that currently existed that task to take care of the international students' affairs in the Student Assembly.

Whereas, additionally, there is an increasing demand from international students to form a specific committee to provide supports to international students in the Student Assembly.

Be it therefore resolved, the student assembly shall establish an ad-hoc committee called the Committee of International Students Affairs.

Be it further resolved, the desired structure of this ad-hoc committee is as followed:

Leadership: One chair. The international students Liaison at Large at Cornell Student Assembly shall be the chair.

Role of the Chair:

1. Appoint all members of the committee
2. Host meetings for the committee
3. Present the report or findings to the Student Assembly as required by the Special Rules of Order



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30 Membership: every Cornell student, members of the Student Assembly or members of
31 the community, domestic or international, is eligible to serve in the committee. All
32 members of the committee are appointed by the chair.

33 Mission: Advocate the vital roles and rights of the international students in the Cornell
34 community

35 Goals:

- 36 1. To provide supports to international students and international students' organizations
- 37 2. Find concerns and issues that troubles international students
- 38 3. To provide a platform that allows international students from a diverse background to
39 cooperate with each other
- 40 4. Find out whether to change the by-laws to establish a committee of International
41 Students Affairs

42 Timeline: March 17th, 2022 to May 5th, 2022

43 Respectfully Submitted,

44 JohnJohn Jiang '22

45 *International students Liaison at Large, Student Assembly*

46 *(Reviewed by: Diversity Committee, 8-0-1, 03/14/22)*



Resolution 49: Cornell Civic Holiday

Abstract: This resolution advocates for the creation of the Cornell Civic Holiday in which all university activities would be suspended to create a day of service and civic engagement. Such Holiday would occur every Election Day, beginning in 2024.

Sponsored by: Patrick J. Mehler '23, Duncan Cady '23

Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 03/15/2022, 3-0-1

Type of Action: Recommendation

Originally Presented: 03/17/2022

Current Status: New Business

Whereas, as an institution dedicated to service, democracy, and civic engagement, Cornell University strives to promote and imbed these values into all students, faculty, and staff; and

Whereas, Cornell students, faculty, and staff have become significantly more engaged in the political process both on and off campus; and

Whereas, efforts by Cornell Votes have directly impacted and improved student voter turnout in federal elections, with participation increasing from 47.4% in 2016 to 66.1% in 2020, pushing Cornell University over the national average for the first time in recorded history; and

Whereas, Cornell Votes has partnered with the Student Assembly to continue voter turnout efforts which resulted in an increase of voter participation by 33% in Spring 2021 and by 31% in Fall 2021; and

Whereas, these increases in civic engagement have been accomplished with, and because of, strong partnerships with the Student Assembly, the Cornell University administration, and over one hundred student organizations; and

Whereas, to further dedicate itself to service, democracy, and civic engagement, Cornell University should cancel all university activities on Election Day of each year to create a Cornell Civic Holiday; and

Whereas, peer institutions such as Columbia University, Stanford University, and, as recently as 2020, Brown University have implemented similar days of service on Election Day; and

Whereas, this Civic Holiday shall constitute a day of service, celebration of democracy, and programming that assists and facilitates voting for all Cornell community members; and



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30 **Be it therefore resolved**, that Cornell University recognizes Election Day every year as the
31 Cornell Civic Holiday; and

32 **Be it further resolved**, Cornell University will continue its partnerships with Cornell Votes, the
33 Einhorn Center for Community Engagement, and other stakeholders to facilitate programming,
34 assist voters, and promote democracy; and

35 **Be it finally resolved**, that the Cornell Civic Holiday shall begin its inaugural celebration on
36 Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

37

38 Respectfully Submitted,

39 Patrick J. Mehler '23

40 *President, Cornell Votes*

41 *Former Director of Elections, Student Assembly*

42 Isaac D. Chasen '23

43 *Vice President, Cornell Votes*

44 *Director of Elections, Student Assembly*

45 Dana Karami '22

46 *Vice President, Cornell Votes*

47 Rahul Verma '24

48 *Department Chair, Cornell Votes*

49 Elena Woo '24

50 *Department Chair, Cornell Votes*

51 Belle Zachary '23

52 *Department Chair, Cornell Votes*

53 Duncan Cady '23

54 *Students with Disabilities Representative At-Large, Student Assembly*