



Cornell University
Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, October 7, 2021 Meeting

4:45 PM – 6:30 PM

Memorial Room, Willard Straight Hall

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. A. Ononye called the meeting to order at 4:46 (EST).
- b. Roll Call
 - i. *Members Present:* M. Baker, D. Cady, P. Da Silveira, D. Eisman, A. Gleiberman, P. Gronemeyer, J. Jiang, A. Juan, J. Kim, A. Lampert, C. Leon, M. Louis, L. Lu, J. Mullen, N. Overton, N. Reddy, L. Santacruz, L. Smith, M. Song, C. Tempelman, V. Valencia, H. Wade, A. Williams, E. Yan, A. Ononye
 - ii. *Members Absent:* J. Bansah, Y. Logan, D. Ilango, K. Thakkar, E. Bentolila

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

- a. Cornell University is located on the traditional homelands of the Gayogohó:nq̓ (the Cayuga Nation). The Gayogohó:nq̓ are members of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, an alliance of six sovereign Nations with a historic and contemporary presence on this land. The Confederacy precedes the establishment of Cornell University, New York State, and the United States of America. We acknowledge the painful history of Gayogohó:nq̓ dispossession and honor the ongoing connection of the Gayogohó:nq̓ people, past and present, to these lands and waters.

III. Late Additions to the Agenda

- a. Motion to add a Byline Announcement and Byline Reports to the agenda – amended by Unanimous Consent
- b. Motion to amend the agenda to place Byline Announcement and the Byline Reports under New Business – amended by Unanimous Consent

IV. Consent Agenda

- a. A. Ononye stated Resolution #1 was accepted by the President, Resolution #2, Resolution #3, Resolution #4, and Resolution #5 were all acknowledged by the President. Specific commentary from the President about these resolutions is on the Student Assembly Website.

V. Open Microphone

- a. D. Hernandez stated that the Office of the Student Advocate is looking for a Director of International Affairs and Director of Academic Affairs. The deadline for applying has been extended to October 15th at 5pm.

VI. Announcements and Reports

- a. A. Ononye swore in the new representatives, P. Da Silveira, A. Juan, J. Kim, L. Lu, and M. Song.
- b. A. Gleiberman gave a quick congratulations to P. Mehler for their efforts with the elections.
 - i. P. Mehler thanked everyone for their efforts in the elections, especially the new representatives. There was 31% increase in voter turnout.

- c. A. Lampert stated that October 15 through October 23rd is PrEP Awareness Week, which is a medication to help prevent HIV. Cornell Health is doing initiative, where they want people to send out flyers and Instagram posters on social media for each day. A. Lampert will be sending out posters in the Slack channel.
- d. D. Cady acknowledged that P. Mehler was just honored with becoming an alderman on the City of Ithaca's Common Council.
- e. A. Ononye announced that next week's SA Meeting on Oct. 14th will be virtual. Additionally, A. Ononye asked that all new SA members stay after the meeting.
- f. L. Smith asked if there will be an executive session after the meeting tonight to have the new representatives fill some of the seats that are reserved for them on committees.
 - i. A. Ononye explained that they are going to do that at the new meeting, as the new representatives were not aware of that.
- g. L. Smith congratulated the new Dean of Students, M. Love, who had been working as the interim dean for the past year.

VII. Presentations and Forums

- a. Interim Policy 6.3 – Consensual Relationships by L. Rugless, the Associate Vice President for the Office of Institutional Equity and Title IX, and L. Walton, the Assistant Director for the Office of Institutional Equity and Investigator
 - i. Interim Policy 6.3 states that romantic or sexual relationships between staff members and undergraduate students are prohibited regardless of work unity or location of either party. This same prohibition has existed for faculty members and helps protect the integrity of the undergraduate experience from conflicts of interest and further positions staff as role models and professionals. The policy went through the proper channels and they have had the opportunity to get feedback from various units and departments on campus. Additionally, they looked at what other institutions have done regarding this prohibition and found that a total of three Ivy league institutions have similar policies. They are now trying to get additional feedbacks from the assemblies and diversity bodies so that his policy can from interim to permanent status early next year. A full stakeholder review of this interim policy change is already underway, and a report will be prepared based on the stake holder input and will be presented to leadership. The Office of Institutional Equity and Title IX appreciated the support for the interim policy through the passage of Resolution #27 and welcomes feedback to be provided directly to equity@cornell.edu or through your representative.
 - ii. A. Williams thanked L. Rugless and L. Walton for coming to speak to the SA and asked for a point of clarification of whether this prohibits student workers who work for Cornell from those relationships.
 - 1. L. Rugless explained that this policy applies to people in which their employment in their primary affiliation. As students, student employment is considered a secondary affiliation and being students is their primary affiliation. This means this policy does not apply to them.
 - iii. H. Wade asked for clarification of the ramification if the relationship existed before one party was employed by the university.

1. L. Rugless stated that if they had a pre-existing relationship, they just ask that people disclose those situations and there is a reporting tool connected to the policy. When the office gets disclosure, they reach out to the other party in the relationship to ensure that the disclosure has been made and to make sure that the relationship is consensual.
2. L. Walton stated that they always encourage people reaching out directly to the office and that disclosure for pre-existing relationship is what they are requiring. L. Walton stated that they appreciate the questions and will help when it comes to building more informational materials and FAQs about the policy.
- iv. C. Tempelman explained that they are the liaison to the Employee Assembly, where there has been discussion about this policy and thanked L. Rugless and L. Walton for coming to the meeting.
- v. D. Cady asked if there will be a similar conversation about the policy at the University Assembly.
 1. A. Ononye stated that they believe a discussion about this policy is scheduled.
- vi. A. Ononye thanked the presenters and stated that they are still waiting to hear back from the President about Resolution #27.
- vii. Email any of us, you got AO and she will get it back to us

VIII. New Business

- a. SA R31: Amending and Ratifying the Student Assembly Bylaws of the Office of the Student Advocate
 - i. Abstract: This resolution amends and ratifies the Student Assembly Office of Student Advocate Bylaws for the 2021-2022 academic year.
 - ii. D. Hernandez explained that the major change to the bylaws is that they created a new position with the office which is the Director of International Affairs. They also changed a bit of the language for director roles and responsibilities, as they wanted it to be more focused around gathering resources that students to go to for information on materials connect you to resources and departments around the school and off-campus.
 - iii. M. Baker asked if line 538 was meant to state Director of International Affairs of just International Affairs.
 1. Motion to amend to line 538 to Director of International Student Affairs – **amended** by Unanimous Consent
 - iv. Motion to amend the document to replace “charter” with “bylaws” – **amended** by Unanimous Consent
 - v. A. Williams asked if the Office of the Student Government changes that are highlighted in red have already been approved.
 1. M. Baker clarified that the information in crimson is changes that the SA have already approved and the bright red changes in the document are the changes being discussed.
 - vi. D. Eisman asked if line 501 is being discussed.
 1. A. Ononye stated that the changes being discussed right now are just for the Office of Student Advocate, however, does suggest that that line be changed at some point, but it needs to be a separate resolution.

- vii. J. Mullen stated that they were curious about the rationale for adding the Director of Student Finance and what their responsibility would be.
 - 1. D. Hernandez stated that if a student comes to the Office of Student Advocate needing assistance with finances and financial aid, the Director of Finance is tasked with being knowledgeable about the different resources and materials on campus that could be helpful.
 - 2. J. Mullen asked if this done by a case-by-case basis.
 - 3. D. Hernandez stated that is a case-by-case basis.
- viii. Motion to table Resolution #31 – **tabled** by a vote of 24-0-1.
- b. A. Juan stated that the new representatives do not have access to the documents on the Box.
- c. M. Baker stated that there will be a byline hearing on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 in 366 McGraw Hall from 5:45pm to 8pm for EARS and MGFC.
- d. Byline Reports
 - i. ECO – Environment Collaboration
 - 1. M. Baker explained that they requested 81 cents; the Appropriations Committee recommendation was 75 cents. The primary reason the Appropriations Committee decided it was not appropriate to allocate their desired 81 cents because they are expecting a \$2,000 reimbursement. ECO will not appeal and will accept the decision.
 - 2. Motion to vote on the report – **passed** by a vote of 23-1-1.
 - ii. Student Assembly
 - 1. A. Gleiberman stated that the SA had an allocation of \$4.00 and requested \$1.50 and that is what the Appropriations Committee recommended. This is mainly due to the large surplus the SA has in its reserve account.
 - 2. L. Smith asked if on the report it should state A. Gleiberman and not M. Baker.
 - a. M. Baker explained that they put their name because that was the past precedent on previous reports.
 - 3. Motion to vote on the report – **passed** by a vote of 23-0-2.
 - iii. Collegiate Readership Program.
 - 1. A. Gleiberman stated that this report cannot be voted on until next week. The CRP allows Cornell students to have access to the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal. It requested \$4.30; the Appropriations Committee recommended \$4.30. This is due to the fact that in previous cycles they were running on a surplus.
 - 2. W. Treat stated that NYT is for undergraduate students only and not staff members.
 - 3. L. Smith asked if this included print copies.
 - a. M. Baker stated that in the past, they used to get print copies, but now it is just all online.
 - 4. Motion to table the report – **tabled** by Unanimous Consent
 - iv. Slope Day Programming Board
 - 1. M. Baker stated this report cannot be voted on today. They requested \$21; the Appropriations Committee also recommended \$21. The Slope Day Programming Board submitted a brief written response that thanks the assembly for their thoughtful and deeply appreciated

questions. They promise to make Slope Day a memorable and enjoyable experience for the Cornell community. The Appropriations Committee made this recommendation because talent fees remained the same even for events that were virtual in the previous years.

2. D. Cady asked if was affected by any possible surplus coming from the past slope days that were virtual.
 - a. M. Baker stated that the talent fees the past slopes were the same were though they were virtual, and they hope that this Slope Day will be even better.
3. Motion to table the report – **tabled** by Unanimous Consent

IX. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn the meeting – passed by a vote of 23-1-1.
 - i. A. Ononye adjourned the meeting at 5:35pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Ciara Shanahan

Clerk of the Student Assembly