

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, April 14, 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, L. Smith, V. Valencia, A. Williams, A. Ononye, D. Hernandez, C. Tempelman, J. Jiang, Y. Logan, B. Luckow, N. Overton, J. Bansah, D. Cady, D. Eisman, A. Lampert, M. Baker, A. Gleiberman, D. Ilango, J. Kim, C. Leon, P. Gronemeyer, N. Reddy, K. Santacruz, M. Song, L. Morales*
 - ii. *Members Absent: P. DaSilveira, M. Louis, L. Lu, E. Yan*

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

- a. President Ononye delivered the Land Acknowledgement.

III. Late Additions to the Agenda

- a. There were no late additions to the agenda.

IV. Consent Agenda

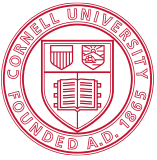
- a. No consent agenda was presented.

V. Open Microphone

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

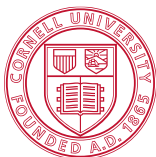
VI. Announcements and Reports

- a. Public Address from President Pollack
 - i. President Ononye welcomed President Martha Pollack and Vice-President Ryan Lombardi.
 - ii. President Pollack addressed the Assembly on the following matters:
 1. Mental health resources and access to appointments at Cornell Health. President Pollack stated that mental health is a high priority for the administration.
 - a. COVID-19 accommodations and ensuring that students have continued access to hybrid courses while in quarantine.
 2. President Pollack stated that masking requirements would continue in classrooms, lecture halls, and similar large shared-use spaces.
 3. The implications of the Cornell “Do the Greatest Good” campaign for undergraduate students.
 4. Expressed excitement for Commencement Weekend.
 - iii. D. Cady inquired on the Cornell Civic Holiday.



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1. President Pollack acknowledged and thanked the Assembly for their initiative in encouraging civic engagement in the Cornell community.
 - a. President Pollack stated that adding a new holiday to the calendar would impact scheduling across a wide range of campus organizations, as well as the schedule of classroom instruction, thus the civic holiday will not be adopted.
- iv. C. Templeman mentioned Williams College's new initiative to switch to 100% grant based financial aid and inquired whether Cornell has a goal to reach the same standard.
 1. President Pollack informed the SA that, unfortunately, Cornell University does not have the funds for that endeavor.
 2. President Pollack affirmed to the SA that reports are produced every year to keep track of loans.
- v. B. Luckow inquired on the potential for lowering tuition to make attendance at Cornell more accessible.
 1. President Pollack expressed that the financing of higher education is incredibly complex.
 2. College tuitions have increased due to the following aspects.
 - a. A reduction in government support.
 - b. Increased services, including the mental health budget.
- vi. B. Luckow inquired once again on the profit maximizing capability of Cornell's financial situation, and how lowering costs is still not an option.
 1. President Pollack stated that there are many services being provided to Cornell students that require hefty budgets.
 2. Cornell is losing federal support and simultaneously adding valuable services and hiring faculty.
 3. It is not a matter of financial stability, but rather for services.
- vii. D. Cady inquired on the progress being made towards the resolution for a new natatorium as well as more accessible fitness facilities.
 1. President Pollack stated that they will continue to look for prospects to fund the pool as it will be costly.
- viii. A. Gleiberman inquired on gym membership prices.
 1. President Pollack stated it costs money to run the gyms and there is a cost-benefit analysis to making gym memberships free. Either tuition will be raised, or another service would be cut.
- ix. L. Morales inquired on the new wages for dining workers, wherein the starting wage is only \$14.20 an hour, which is still a poverty wage.



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1. Vice President Lombardi informed the SA that the dining services at Cornell are considered a standalone financial unit.
2. Vice President Lombardi furthermore discussed the surging food costs.
- b. Slope Day Committee Updates and Announcements
 - i. Due to the ongoing pandemic, only current Cornell students are allowed to get tickets for Slope Day.
 - ii. Undergraduate students receive wristbands for free, while graduate students must pay a small fee.
 - iii. Wristbands may be collected a couple of days before Slope Day, the exact dates will be released shortly.
 - iv. Slope Day will be on May 11th, 2022.
 - v. The Slope Day Instagram and website have more information regarding the logistics of Slope Day.
- c. University Hearing and Review Panel recruitment – Christina Liang, Director of Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards
 - i. Christina Liang and Karen Vicks from the Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards are present to speak about the Hearing Panel recruitments.
 - ii. For every hearing, there is a 5-person panel. Of the 5 people, there are 3 students, 1 faculty, and 1 staff.
 - iii. The Office is looking for 11 new students for the upcoming two-year term.
 - iv. The UHRP resolves formal complaints through the hearing process under the code, reviews the investigation, and assigns appropriate sanctions.
 - v. The application deadline is April 25, 2022.
 - vi. SA representatives cannot serve on both the SA and UHRP.
 - vii. A. Gleiberman inquired if non-voting members of the SA can be on the UHRP and inquired on the reasoning behind the rule.
 1. Christina Liang responded that any member of the SA is not eligible to apply, and this is to allow leadership opportunities for different people on campus.
 2. It is not an issue about confidentiality or bias.
 - viii. P. Gronemeyer inquired on the types of applicants the office is looking for.
 1. It is mostly about giving back to the community as well as students who are able to uphold the code and be able to be impartial.

VII. Initiatives

- a. No initiatives were presented.

VIII. Presentations and Forums



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- a. No presentations and forums were presented.

IX. New Business

- a. Resolution 54: Approving Special Projects Funding Request for BOSS' Mental Health Summit – Valeria Valencia
 - i. The resolution passed in executive committee by a vote of 4 – 0 – 1 .
 - ii. The organization has requested \$1761.75.
 - iii. The fund would stand at about \$1700 with only two weeks left of the semester.
 - iv. The Mental Health Summit is an annual event hosted by BOSS that allows a space for people to talk about their experiences on campus.
 - 1. It is a two-day event which includes workshops and guest speakers.
 - v. A. Ononye motioned to amend the resolution from Resolution 53 to Resolution 54. **Amendment** passed by unanimous consent.
 - vi. J. Jiang inquired on whether the event is open to the entire community.
 - 1. The event is open to all identifying women of color at Cornell University and there are 100 gift bags for the attendees.
 - vii. A. Williams motioned to end debate on Resolution 54. Motion passed by a vote of 20 – 0 – 2.
 - viii. A. Williams motioned to vote on Resolution 54. Resolution **passed** by a vote of 21 – 0 – 1.

X. Adjournment

- a. A. Ononye adjourned the meeting at 5:59 PM (EST).

Respectfully Submitted,
Jana Alzayer
Clerk of the Student Assembly