

Cornell University  
University Assembly

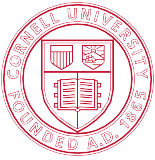
**Cornell University Assembly**

Minutes of the August 31st, 2021 Meeting

4:33 PM – 6:15 PM

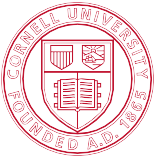
401 Physical Sciences Building and Zoom

- I. Call to Order
  - a. B. Fortenberry called the meeting to order at 4:35pm.
  - b. *Members Present:* A. Ononye, B. Fortenberry, D. Hiner, D. Howell, D. Cady, I. Akisoglu, J. Feit, J. Withers, L. Zhicay, M. Benda, N. Danev, P. Hanley, R. Bense, S. Tanis, T. Fox.
  - c. *Members Absent:* M. Louis, V. Aymer, J. Richards, E. DeRosa, C. Levine.
- II. Land Acknowledgment of the Gayogo hó:nq̓ (Cayuga Nation)
- III. Welcome and Introduction
  - a. B. Fortenberry spoke to the expectations and goals within the UA and their own ability to support both the UA and their constituents. They set the expectations surrounding resolutions, namely the presenters should describe the ideas behind the resolution rather than reading from the text verbatim and the resolution should be presented two weeks before being voted upon for the constituent groups to review.
  - b. The University Assembly introduced themselves.
- IV. Call for New Business
- V. Approval of the Minutes (May 11, 2021)
  - a. N. Danev motioned to add Debra Howell and Marcy Benda to the “Others” list.
    - i. D. Cady seconded the motion.
    - ii. The motion was **passed** with unanimous consent.
  - b. J. Feit motioned to approve the minutes.
    - i. N. Danev seconded the motion.
    - ii. The motion was **passed** with unanimous consent.
- VI. Buisness of the Day
  - a. Proposed 2021-2022 meeting schedule
    - i. N. Danev motioned to pass the meeting schedule.
      - 1. D. Cady seconded the motion.
      - 2. The motion **passed** with unanimous Consent.
  - b. University Assembly Committee Vacancies (internal and external)
    - i. W. Treat stated the two meetings on the meeting schedule without locations are located in 700 Clark Hall.



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- ii. G. Giambattista noted that the need to fill seats are most urgent in the CJC and the Standing Committees. G. Giambattista stated that there was a nomenclature change from JA to OSCCS and there is some overlap between the old code and new code.
- iii. N. Danev strongly advised students to apply for this position as it pertains exclusively to them.
- iv. B. Fortenberry reminded the body it is a requirement to fill these positions.
- v. J. Feit asked for a list of all the vacancies to see which committee or constituencies are represented.
- vi. The Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology and the Environment (CCITE)
  - 1. I. Akisoglu introduced the committee.
  - 2. The body came to the consensus that one could be from any assortment of bodies or constituencies but should choose the seat of the constituency or assembly they would represent in that body.
  - 3. I. Akisoglu nominated D. Hiner
    - a. J. Withers seconded the motion.
    - b. The nomination was accepted by D. Hiner.
    - c. The nomination was passed with unanimous consent.
- vii. Campus Welfare Committee
  - 1. D. Howell introduced the committee.
  - 2. R. Bensei asked if their scope would extend to the pandemic.
  - 3. D. Howell stated that it could involve bringing forward recommendations or resolutions.
  - 4. B. Fortenberry stated the Chair does not count towards the two UA members necessary as it counts towards the Chair position. Additionally, D. Howell, although being a part of the EA, would not count towards the EA member seats needing to be filled as they are in the Chair position.
- viii. Campus Planning Committee
  - 1. G. Giambattista and W. Treat introduced the committee.
  - 2. I. Akisoglu nominated themselves.
    - a. R. Bensei seconded the motion.
    - b. The body both nominated and determined V. Aymer was a general member and even without being appointed to the UA liaison position, would stay on the committee.



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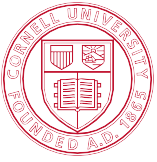
- c. The motion for I. Akisoglu's nomination **passed** with unanimous consent.
  - ix. Transportation, Hearing, and Appeals Board
    - 1. W. Treat introduced the committee.
  - x. B. Fortenberry suggested putting together descriptions of liaison positions to review next meeting.
  - xi. N. Danev nominated himself as the Student Insurance Advisor Liaison.
    - 1. J. Feit seconded the motion.
    - 2. The nomination **passed** with unanimous consent.
  - xii. R. Benseal asked if every member of the University Assembly is required to fill one of these positions.
    - 1. B. Fortenberry affirmed.
  - xiii. G. Giambattista restated that they will draft out the vacancies and committee definitions to disseminate throughout the constituencies.
- c. Review of Summer University Hearing and Review Board appointments and next steps.
- i. B. Fortenberry thanked the Executive and CJC Committees for aiding in filling emergency appointments to the UHRB. They also talked to the cases still being processed under the old Code of Conduct.
  - ii. B. Fortenberry stated the UA needs to solicit applications for the Student Code of Conduct UHRB. One cannot be both the Campus Code of Conduct UHRB and Student Code of Conduct UHRB.
  - iii. A. Ononye nominated themselves for the Codes and Judicial Committee.
    - 1. N. Danev seconded the nomination.
    - 2. The nominated **passed** with unanimous consent.
- d. Resolution #1: Calling Upon Cornell University to Require COVID-19 Vaccination for All Faculty, Staff, and Students.
- i. N. Danev presented a Resolution urging the requirement vaccination of employees. They cite examples of vaccination mandates from other schools and state the FDA's approval of Pfizer gives a legal basis to institute this requirement with certain medical or religious exemptions. Concluding the resolution is a clause asking for an explanation in the event of rejection.
  - ii. T. Fox commented pushing essential workers to adhere to this resolution could force these workers to leave and may require a press release.
  - iii. M. Benda stated that the vet college has a good vaccination rate but acknowledges that we are in an area that has differing opinions on this



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topic. They also state that other colleges may be strongly recommending vaccinations for faculty and employees but are not enforcing it.

- iv. D. Howell asserted that some concerns brought up on the town hall involve the 13 plus “bargaining units” and the revisitation of their contracts in the event of a vaccination mandate. (Staff-side issue)
- v. R. Bensel said they had talked to M. Kotlikoff about these issues. They were quoted an estimate of 600-700 staff at Cornell who were not vaccinated and of those around 100 were not under any circumstances going to get vaccinated. Some concerns over workers leaving were also raised in this conversation, and although the “bargaining units” issue would be difficult to navigate, the larger issue was the hard-set persons against getting vaccinated.
- vi. N. Danev asked to formalize the process of voting on resolutions only after they have been introduced in a past meeting.
- vii. R. Bensel suggested recommending creating centers for booster shots.
- viii. M. Benda asserted they would like to see a campus fully vaccinated and would support a booster clinic. They posed the question of how the faculty feels.
- ix. J. Feit brought up the issue of doctoring among student vaccination cards. They also spoke to VP Lombardi about booster shots and the process to offer them on campus is already underway.
- x. B. Fortenberry stated HR is putting together a video, which they have taken part of, speaking on why certain faculty have chosen to being vaccinated.
- xi. T. Fox stated that faculty, if vaccinated, do not have to be tested weekly.
- xii. D. Hiner stated that being tested twice a week may be a better avenue than requiring vaccines as they do not completely prevent you from getting COVID.
- xiii. D. Cady asserted undergraduate students get tested once a week and Greek life twice a week. They also stated vaccination and increased testing frequency are not mutually exclusive.
- xiv. P. Hanley asserted the graduate students, who are not required to get tested weekly if vaccinated, were concerned that they were not being tested. P. Hanley supported the sentiment of encouraging testing within different populations of students.



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- xv. N. Danev moved to postpone the resolution to the next meeting. They also encourage anyone wanting to change or contribute to the resolution to contact them.
1. R. Bensele seconded the motion.
  2. J. Feit asked if the amendments are to be made public or privately since the Resolution has already been presented.
  3. R. Bensele moved for unanimous consent that they should amend as they wish. They stated that the person creating the amendment may accept friendly amendments.
  4. G. Giambattista stated that it is a bit contradictory to standard process.
  5. The postponement of the resolution passed with unanimous consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Clerk of the Assembly