

Cornell University University Assembly

Cornell University Assembly

Minutes of the January 30, 2018 Meeting

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

401 Physical Sciences Building

Please add attendees:

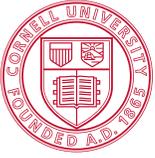
- I. Call to Order (Chair)
 - a. Call to Order (1 minute)
 - i. G. Kaufman called the meeting to order at 4:37pm
 - ii. *Present:* J. Anderson, M. Battaglia, R. Bensel, L. Copman, M. de Roos, V. Guido, M. Hatch, R. Howarth, G. Kaufman, J. Kim, J. Kruser, E. Loew, E. Michel, K. Quinn, U. Smith, C. Van Loan, A. Waymack, E. Winarto
 - iii. *Absent:* K. Fitch
 - iv. *Others present:* G. Giambattista, T. Malone
 - b. Welcome and Introduction (3 minutes)
 - i. G. Kaufman introduced the new members of the University Assembly (
 1. Two new members of the University Assembly were appointed by the Student Assembly: Christopher Schott - Student Assembly Representative and Vincenzo Guido - Undergraduate Student Representative, replacing outgoing members Alec Martinez and Neeraj Jaisinghani
 - c. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda (2 minutes)
 - i. R. Howarth asked for time on the agenda to discuss a matter related to lab staffing.
 - ii. A. Waymack motioned to move Resolution 7 to the business of the day. There was no dissent.
- II. Approval of the Minutes (Chair)
 - a. November 14, 2017 (2 minutes)
 - i. Minutes were **approved** by unanimous consent
 - b. December 5, 2017 (2 minutes)
 - i. Minutes were **approved** by unanimous consent.
- III. Assembly Reports
 - a. Student Assembly (J. Kim) (3 minutes)
 - i. J. Kim said that the SA had their first meeting last Thursday. He said that they passed Resolution 17. He said that the SA has acquired the Wall Street



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Journal for all undergraduates. He said that there was a Resolution to establish a net-print task force to explore the net-print pricing and accessibility.

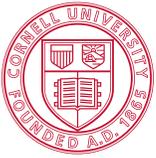
1. G. Giambattista said that the SA's subscription license for the WSJ also extended to staff and faculty. She said the library supplemented to the Graduate and Professional Students so that the whole community has access to the Wall Street Journal.
 - ii. C. Van Loan asked about the rationale of the Cornell Cinema decision of the SA.
 1. J. Kim directed him to the independent website of the SA.
 - b. Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (E. Winarto) (2 minutes)
 - i. E. Winarto said that the GPSA met yesterday and President Pollack came to give updates. A report on the meeting can be found in the Daily Sun. President Pollack spoke about the Task Force, consensual relationships, and mental health.
 - c. Employee Assembly (TBD) (3 minutes)
 - i. J. Kruser said that U. Smith has stepped down, so he is in the position of Interim Chair. An election will be held tomorrow. The EA passed EA Resolution 6, which calls for the administration to take action to combat institutional inequality.
 - ii. M. Battaglia noted his appreciation for U. Smith's service on the SA, EA, and UA.
 - iii. G. Giambattista said the U. Smith has left the University.
 - d. Faculty Senate (C. Van Loan) (2 minutes)
 - i. C. Van Loan said that the Faculty Senate has not met. He said that President Pollack will give a Q&A session with directed topics, and there will be a report on the outreach to the non-tenure track faculty. He said that, over the break, about 60 comments were received. He said that the question, "You're represented through the EA, can we do better?" was answered with "Yes!" He said that there will be a discussion to give them better representation. He said that a similar question was posed to the post-docs, but responses were sparse.
- IV. The Office of the University Ombudsman (L. Falkson & C. Walcott) (30 minutes)
- a. C. Walcott said that that the OUO is fiercely independent. He said that his view is that the OUO reports to the UA. He said that the OUO is a safe place for people to go and address their issues and problems. He said that the OUO adheres to the



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guidelines of confidentiality, with few exceptions, informality, and essentially independent. He said the OUO helps people with issues, which includes helping them to explore options and resources. He said that the OUO works to ensure a fair process. He also said that, when the OUO sees a problem of a particular sort, the Office will send it up the chain of command to help resolve any issues. The OUO is concerned about ethical behavior.

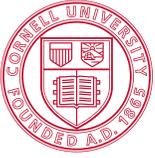
- b. L. Falkson thanked the UA for inviting the OUO to present. She said that the handout is a summary of the annual report. She said that, every year, the OUO receives between 300 and 400 visitors. She said that the graduate students tend to know more about the OUO more than undergraduate students. She said that she would like people to know of the existence of the OUO as a resource. She said that it is important to discuss the role of the OUO with respect to Title IX. With respect to Title IX, the OUO is confidential, with the exception of imminent risk or requirement by law. She said that it safeguards reporting to make the OUO a safe space. She said that the OUO does not get involved in the formal process, but they do inform all parties of the resources available. She said that nonacademic staff can file a grievance, and that the most frequent area of filing deals with discipline. She said that it has been tricky to get volunteers through outreach efforts. She said that the OUO would like to move forward in the area of mediation. She said that it would mediation be helpful to the community in the area of restorative justice.
 - i. M. Battaglia asked if there are any ways in which the UA can help? He also asked about the OUO's role in Cornell Tech.
 1. L. Falkson said that all of the Ivies have an Ombudsman. She said that the wording in email communications has been changed to inform Cornell Tech students that the OUO is a resource. She said that the OUO has been in contact with Cornell Tech students through technology.
 - ii. C. Walcott said that one issues is that people do not know who the OUO is, and what they do. He said that any suggestions are gratefully received.
 1. J. Kim asked if the OUO has been in communication with other groups. He said the SA could send an informational to the undergraduate student body.
 2. L. Falkson said that the OUO does present to EARS so that they know of the OUO.
 - iii. M. Hatch spoke about mediation efforts of the OUO. He said that this might help the OUO gain more access to people. He asked how much can



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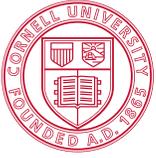
the OOU go into the process of Title IX? He also asked how much can the OOU advocate for a university-wide policy change with the UA?

- a. L. Falkson said that with Title IX and the implication of a predator, that rises to imminent risk. She said that the OOU meets one-on-one with people. She said the OOU serves as a kind of sounding board that helps people explore their options. She said that, in some cases, at the request of the party involved, the OOU will have a greater role in assisting the person through various steps.
 - b. C. Walcott said that, when there is commonality in a situation that is going on with the University that is leading to difficulties, it is one of those things for which the OOU provides feedback to see that something is done. Indeed, like a policy change.
 - c. L. Falkson said that the OOU does do that [address issues for policy change] but that it won't necessarily come to the UA, because the OOU would look at the responsible executive for the policy, then go to him or her.
2. J. Anderson said that mediation would be strong avenue to raise awareness. He said that, as a Resident Advisor, mediation from the OOU would be extremely helpful, especially in residential life.
 - a. L. Falkson said it is a nice area to start. She said that she appreciates the feedback.
 3. R. Benseal asked about examples of policy change, and if there is anything that the UA can address?
 - a. L. Falkson said that, each year in the annual report, areas for improvement are identified.
 - b. C. Walcott gave an example with graduate students and taxable stipends.
 - c. R. Benseal asked about issues like tenure, that can be brought to the UA to have a conversation.
 4. M. de Roos asked if the OOU had a sense of if visitors came to the OOU first, or went to other resources, then went to the OOU.
 - a. C. Walcott said the OOU sees cases of both. He said that he'd rather see individuals earlier on.



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- b. University Assembly Member, Codes and Judicial Committee (5 minutes)
- VIII. Business of the Day
- a. Resolution 7:
 - i. M. Battaglia said that this Resolution adds 6 words to the UA's Charter. Adding "and, the Office of the Complainants Advisors." M. Battaglia said that this is a small, but important change.
 - ii. J. Anderson said that this is an extremely smart decision.
 - iii. A. Waymack moved the question. There was a second.
 - 1. There was no dissent to voting. Requires 2/3 vote of voting membership.
 - a. 15-0-1, the Charter change **approved**.
 - i. [The Resolution with the amendment to the Charter will be forwarded to the President of the University for approval.]
 - b. Resolution 8: Requesting Documents Related to Mental Health (J. Anderson) (15 minutes)
 - i. J. Anderson said that this was written in response to a meeting with CAPS advisors. He said that he would like to have a formalized answer to publicize the documents of the JED Foundation.
 - 1. A. Waymack motioned to **table** indefinitely. There was no dissent.
 - 2. Point of Order-R. Howarth-possible to be brought up again?
 - a. Yes.
- IX. Late Additions to the Agenda (4 minutes)
- a. R. Howarth said that there is a big group of nonacademic support faculty and staff that are not treated well, and even poorly, by the University. There is no long-term contract employment with the University for them. HR is extremely impersonal. This is a policy change issue. He said that he would like to see this addressed in the Spring. He said that it is important, as he cannot have control over his staffing. He said that it effects both faculty and staff.
 - i. G. Giambattista said that she appreciates that R. Howarth raised the issue.
 - ii. J. Kruser said that it would be great to reach out to HR about this issue and collaborate with them.
 - iii. K. Quinn asked about why the policy was changed?
 - 1. R. Howarth said that he had no idea. He said that it was recently changed in the last six months
 - iv. L. Copman said that, she, as an employee, is on board with this.



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- v. R. Howarth and G.Giambattista agreed to work on the issue.
- X. Adjournment (1 minute)

Respectfully submitted,

Terrill Malone
Clerk of the Assembly