

Cornell University  
University Assembly

**Cornell University Assembly**  
Minutes of the October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Meeting  
4:30 PM – 6:00 PM  
700 Clark Hall | Zoom

- I. Call to Order
  - a. B. Fortenberry called the meeting to order at 4:32pm.
  - b. *Members Present:* I. Akisoglu, V. Aymer, M. Benda, R. Bensel, D. Cady, E. DeRosa, J. Feit, B. Fortenberry, T. Fox, P. Hanley, D. Hiner, D. Howell, J. Withers.
  - c. *Members Absent:* N. Danev, C. Levine, A. Ononye, J. Richards, M. Louis, S. Tanis
- II. Land Acknowledgment of the Gayogoho:nq (Cayuga Nation)
- III. Late Additions
  - a. No late additions were called.
- IV. Approval of the Minutes
  - a. 9/28/2021
    - i. D. Cady motioned to amend clause VI.a.iii.2 to read “...President Pollack and published to the Student Assembly.”
      - 1. J. Feit seconded the motion.
      - 2. The motion passed with unanimous consent.
    - ii. J. Withers motioned to approve these minutes
      - 1. D. Cady seconded the motion.
      - 2. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent
  - b. 10/5/2021
    - i. R. Bensel motioned to amend IV.d.iii.2 and add “At that faculty senate meeting there was an alternative proposal that was submitted to the faculty senate and it was passed over strong opposition” to reflect the most recent vote.
      - 1. W. Treat stated that they should add it to the Faculty Senate updates or to the 10-19 minutes as it did not take place during the last meeting.
      - 2. R. Bensel agreed and rescinded the motion.
    - ii. D. Cady motioned to amend grammatical error in IV.d.ii that should read “due to COVID.”
      - 1. J. Feit seconded the motion.
      - 2. The motion was passed with unanimous consent.
    - iii. I. Akisoglu motioned to approve the minutes.
      - 1. D. Cady seconded the motion.
      - 2. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.
- V. Open Forum



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- a. CUPD Chief Honan to visit the University Assembly 11/2/21
  - i. B. Fortenberry stated that there will be a presentation during the beginning of the meeting and then move to discussion. Additionally, on November 16<sup>th</sup> President Pollack and Vice President Malina will join the UA meeting. They recommend the body to send questions in advance as to allow the speakers to find and prepare the adequate information needed in response.
  - ii. D. Cady asked how far in advance should they send their questions and to whom they would send them.
    - 1. B. Fortenberry suggested a week in advance and stated they should be sent to either the Executive Committee or the Office of the Assemblies.
- b. Updates in the search for a new University Ombudsman
  - i. B. Fortenberry confirmed D. Cady has fully accepted their nomination to be on the Ombudsman search.

### VI. New Business

- a. Resolution #2: Calling on Cornell University to Recognize Veteran's Day
  - i. J. Feit stated that this resolution calls on the University to recognize Veteran's Day. They also stated there will be amendments presented and an amended version of the resolution was passed the previous night. The resolution as it stands cancels classes and allows veteran staff to take the day off work on campus jobs.
  - ii. J. Feit moved to amend the resolution, replacing "veteran staff" with "University affiliates" on line 5 and 47.
    - 1. P. Hanley seconded the motion.
    - 2. T. Fox asked the meaning of "University affiliate."
    - 3. P. Hanley stated that this was used to encompass everyone.
    - 4. D. Cady stated that from the S.A. perspective the "University affiliate" delineated the resolution to be applied in the same manner the University observes any special day off.
    - 5. V. Aymer stated that they could change it to "everyone associated with the University including faculty, staff, and students" to be more precise.
    - 6. D. Cady stated that this language has been passed in the other assemblies, and they could vote on this change now. After the meeting, they could look at previous university language and make amendments accordingly.
    - 7. T. Fox notes the difference between specifying veterans in 'veteran staff' as opposed to 'University affiliates.'
    - 8. D. Cady seconded the amendment



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- a. The motion **passed**.
- iii. I. Akisoglu asked to added as a sponsor.
  1. J. Feit agreed.
- iv. T. Fox stated that they voted against the amendment as they wanted to vote for the resolution as it was presented. They worked for the University Calendar Revision and reported that there are many constraints such as a New York state mandated 75 days of classes a semester. Additionally, large courses that have laboratory will loose of week of instruction. They suggest giving those affiliated with Veterans a day off, in a similar manner of how they handle religious holidays, as a floating day off for all students has a low chance of being approved by the administration.
- v. D. Howell stated they are the veteran's representative to the EA and chair of the Veteran's Colleague Network Group. The VCNG met to review this resolution last Thursday and declined to support the resolution as the VCNG feels that the University sufficiently supports and recognizes Veteran's Day.
- vi. R. Bensel stated a current New York law may require more credit hours. They suggest asking someone to visit the UA and speak to this subject.
- vii. V. Aymer asked if there is a compromise in choosing a weekday day, similar to how the University navigates observing Martin Luther King Jr. Day, to observe Veterans Day. They inquire if D. Howell's constituents might be interested in this option or if the university would be more amendable.
- viii. I. Akisoglu stated in the case Veteran's Day is treated the same as a religious exemption, students will most likely not feel free take a day off for fear of falling behind in classes.
- ix. D. Cady responded the V. Aymer. They stated that the administration is capable of making adjustments if necessary and they should support this resolution in the most direct way by addressing the actual date of November 11<sup>th</sup>.
- x. J. Withers stated that if they wish for EA support, they rely on the VCNG, so working with them might garner more support.
- xi. P. Hanley asked why the VCNG did not support this resolution.
  1. D. Howell stated that there is clear acknowledgment and support from the University already and the resolution brings into question how to treat other days that are not observed by the University.
- xii. R. Bensel stated that the UA should be clear in what they want.
- xiii. J. Feit acknowledged that if they pass the resolution as-is then the results may not be favorable. They propose to amend line 5 and 47 of the resolution to add "University holiday where course and employment attendance does not require the veteran affiliates of Cornell University".



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1. D. Cady seconded the motion.
2. I. Akisoglu stated that this is better than no solution, but students may not be inclined to use this exemption.
3. T. Fox stated this accommodation isn't an empty gesture as classes are required to accommodate for exemptions, even in the case of no-make-up prelims.
4. D. Howell stated that there are Veteran's Day events and recognition that happens.
5. D. Cady motioned to vote on the amendment.
  - a. T. Fox seconded the motion.
  - b. The motion **passed** with 7-1-4.
- xiv. B. Fortenberry passed chair ship to R. Bensel.
- xv. J. Feit motioned to strike the line from "cancel" to "on" in the resolution. Additionally, they motioned to amend line 46 to read "Be it finally resolved that Cornell University administration will establish Veteran's Day as a university holiday where course and employment attendance is not required for veteran affiliates of Cornell University on November 11."
  1. D. Cady motioned to vote on the amendment.
    - a. T. Fox seconded the motion.
    - b. The motion **passed** with 7-1-3.
- xvi. J. Feit motioned to amend line 46-48 to read "Be it finally resolved that Cornell University administration will establish November 11 as Veteran's Day, a university holiday where course and employment attendance is not required for veteran affiliates of Cornell University"
  1. D. Cady seconded the motion.
  2. The motion **passed** with 7-1-3.
- xvii. J. Feit motioned to table the resolution.
  1. D. Cady seconded the motion.
  2. The resolution was **tabled** with 11-0-1.

### VII. Assembly Reports

#### a. Student Assembly

- i. D. Cady stated that they had two meetings since the last meeting. They swore in new representatives and heard a presentation on Interim Policy 6.3 from the Office of Student Equity and Title IX. They also saw and approved appropriations committee bylaw reports for Slope Day and Collegiate Readership Program. Additionally, new appropriation reports came from EARS and MGLC.

#### b. Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

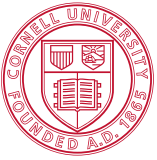


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- i. P. Hanley stated they had a presentation on PSAC and Interim Policy 6.3, passed a variation of the resolution presented today, and performed internal housekeeping.
- c. Employee Assembly
  - i. J. Withers stated they are currently voting in a special election and filling liaison roles. They are returning to EA Resolution 2 tomorrow on Interim Policy 6.3, and they have scheduled a hybrid President's address to staff.
- d. Faculty Senate
  - i. E. DeRosa stated that three resolutions were approved. Two resolutions were title changes and the third was a Senate-sponsored resolution for the Senate to play a role in approving new academic programs. They brought the updated consensual relationships policy from the EA to the Faculty Senate, and LaDreena Walton gave a presentation on that update. They updated the senate on the academic year plan for the Financial Policy Committee. The Faculty Senate also introduced the implementation of the New York State credit hour compliance through the Education Policy Committee. The Vice Provost for International Affairs gave a presentation on a "Global Hugs" program. The Faculty Senate are also creating a taskforce for reviewing the research, teaching, and extension (RTE) faculty.
  - ii. R. Bensei stated the Faculty Senate resolution that was approved is the aforementioned resolution that faced stiff opposition from the central University. The Provost and Vice Provost were invited to weigh in, but the Faculty Senate approved over their opposition. R. Bensei also reports three resolutions are not being added onto the agenda, constraining the ability of the Faculty Senate to act as a free assembly for discussion of major issues.
  - iii. J. Feit asked why the resolutions are running into difficulties being added to the agenda.
    - 1. R. Bensei stated before the first meeting of the Faculty Senate there were three resolutions submitted to the Dean of Faculty. Those resolutions have not come before the faculty senate as New Business.
  - iv. V. Aymer asked about impetus behind committee to review RTE positions and the goal of the committee.
    - 1. R. Bensei stated E. DeRosa would be the best person to answer.

### VIII. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Committee
  - i. J. Feit stated that they did not have a meeting last week.
- b. Codes and Judicial Committee
  - i. T. Fox stated they had a meeting a week ago and discussed what role they may have.



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- c. Campus Welfare Committee
    - i. D. Howell stated they had their first meeting yesterday. They are hoping to invite past members to speak about their experience and what they were previously working on. Additionally, they are looking to invite chairs of other assembly groups to see how they could best work together. They also reported their two Faculty Representatives are both non-Senators.
  - d. Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology, and the Environment
    - i. I. Akisoglu stated they had their first meeting. They discussed several initiatives: placement of trash and recycling receptacles around campus, construction of additional lighting in commonly walked areas, and the construction of electric vehicle charging stations. There was some discussion to obtain more information, namely safety studies done by architects, on the Earth Source Heating Project's trial well.
    - ii. R. Bensele asked for their thoughts on the borehole project.
      - 1. I. Akisoglu stated that they believe switching to earth-sourced heating is admirable but does not have enough information about the technicalities of the project to formally put forward an opinion.
- IX. Liaison Reports
- a. J. Feit asked about the Campus Planning Committee.
    - i. I. Akisoglu stated the committee has not met yet.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:49pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Clerk of the Assembly