



# Cornell University

## University Assembly

### Cornell University Assembly

Minutes of the March 27, 2018 Meeting

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

401 Physical Sciences Building

#### I. Call to Order (Chair)

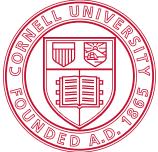
- a. Call to Order (1 minute)
  - i. G. Kaufman called the meeting to order at 4:30pm
  - ii. *Present:* J. Anderson, M. Battaglia, R. Bensel, A. Cohn, M. de Roos, M. Hatch, R. Howarth, G. Kaufman, E. Leow, E. Michel, C. Van Loan, C. Wiggers, E. Winarto
  - iii. *Absent:* L. Copman, K. Fitch, V. Guido, J. Kim, J. Kruser, K. Quinn, C. Schott
  - iv. *Others Present:* G. Giambattista, T. Malone
- b. Welcome and Introduction (2 minutes)
  - i. G. Kaufman welcomed Alexa Cohn, a new member of the University Assembly from the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly.
- c. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda (2 minutes)
  - i. M. Battaglia welcomed a candidate in the spring election to the UA.

#### II. Business of the Day

- a. Resolution 9: Reinstating the Budget Planning Committee (J. Anderson) (10 minutes)
  - i. J. Anderson said that he reached out to the Provost's Office and Paul Streeter, who has shared this resolution of reinstating the Budget Planning Committee to Provost Kotlikoff, and neither of them have concerns. The committee will be cut down to 7 members, having two presidential appointments, and one member from each constituent assembly, and the chair of the committee being approved by the University Assembly.
  - ii. J. Anderson motioned to **amend** the resolution and provided extensive language for the amendment to the assembly, which can be found on the corresponding resolution page at [assembly.cornell.edu](http://assembly.cornell.edu). R. Howarth seconded the amendment.
    1. M. Battaglia expressed his concern with two-year terms. He asked J. Anderson about the two-year term lengths. He also mentioned adding a representative from the University Assembly, bringing the membership of the committee to eight people.

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2. J. Anderson said that having two-year terms is the best option.
  3. M. Battaglia motioned to amend the amendment to read "The BPC shall consist eight members: two Presidential Appointments, one from the Student Assembly, one from the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, one from the Employee Assembly, one from the Faculty Senate, one from the University Assembly, and the Chair will be appointed by the University Assembly with approval by the President." J. Anderson seconded the motion.
  4. R. Howarth said that he supports the amendment.
  5. J. Anderson called the question. E. Michel seconded the motion.
  6. There was no dissent, and the amendment to the amendment was approved.
  7. M. Battaglia asked about how confidentiality will be enforced.
  8. R. Howarth said that he does not feel strongly about confidentiality, but the administration would want something referencing it.
  9. J. Anderson called the question on the amendment. M. Battaglia seconded the motion. There was no dissent.
  10. By a vote of 12-0-1, the amendment was approved.
- iii. C. Wiggers asked, between 2009 and now, what has been the mechanism for communication.
  - iv. M. Battaglia said that there were periodic reports on the budget in the form of "Town Halls" and presentations from Presidents and the Provost.
  - v. C. Van Loan said that this is a complex topic, but it will take a lot of work.
  - vi. R. Howarth said that this is taking it beyond discussion with the faculty.
  - vii. G. Kaufman said that the communication has mostly been the assemblies passing resolutions with the hope that they will be accepted. He said that there hasn't been much communication on the topic of the budget.
  - viii. M. Battaglia asked if this would amend the Bylaws and would that be acceptable to the administration.
  - ix. J. Anderson said that, with the email correspondence he has already been having, it does not seem like there will be push back.
  - x. G. Giambattista suggested that there be outreach to each of the constituent assemblies to encourage participation on the committee, because some assemblies are currently having staffing issues.
  - xi. M. Hatch asked about the definition of what will be discussed.
  - xii. J. Anderson said that it is in the Bylaws. He said that this is a great first step.

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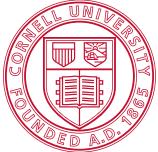
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- xiii. M. Hatch asked about the coordination between the Budget Planning Committee and the other committees, like the Campus Planning Committee.
  - xiv. J. Anderson said that he hopes it would be at least indirect, and maybe in the form of committee updates.
  - xv. M. Hatch said that there should be coordination at the early levels with the Strategic Planning Committee and others.
  - xvi. C. Van Loan said that the number one concern is that the budget model should inspire the kind of academic behavior that the University wants.
  - xvii. C. Wiggers asked about the time requirements of the committee. He also asked about assuring that the right experts from each group would be selected to make meaningful contributions to the committee.
  - xviii. J. Anderson said that that is always a concern. He said that there is always a learning curve, and with the two-year terms, it sets an expectation.
  - xix. M. Battaglia motioned to **amend** line 77 to strike the second “and” and **amend** line 78 to add “, and all matters relating to campus planning and infrastructure.”
  - xx. J. Anderson called the question. It was seconded. There was no dissent. The amendment was **approved**.
  - xxi. C. Wiggers motioned to table this resolution. There was no second.
    - 1. The discussion continued.
  - xxii. C. Van Loan asked J. Anderson about the Student Assembly Cornell Cinema divestment and asked if he thought the Student Assembly made the best decision.
  - xxiii. J. Anderson said that there was a lack of information.
  - xxiv. M. Hatch said that the chair of the reinstated committee should be convinced that the committee is valuable and seek community input. He said that the chair has to be vigorous and engaged with the Budget Planning Committee. He said that he wonders if it should be added that the chair should be someone active in the process as a vocation.
  - xxv. M. Battaglia motioned to table the resolution. The motion was seconded. There was no dissent. The resolution was **tabled**.
  - xxvi. M. Hatch asked J. Anderson if he would get a report for the Office of Budget and Planning for a report.
    - 1. J. Anderson responded “yes.”
- b. Resolution 10: In Support of E.A. R. 8: Furthering the Institutional Commitment to All LGBTQ+ Members of the Cornell Community (J. Anderson) (5 minutes)

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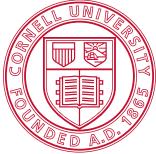
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- i. J. Anderson said that the meeting VP for Student and Campus Life Ryan Lombardi was successful. He said that there was an agreement to assess the University's communication. He said that there was talk of establishing a Council on LGBTQ Issues of Campus He said that there was general support of the idea.
  - ii. J. Anderson motioned to **amend** the resolution and provided extensive language for the amendment to the assembly, which can be found on the corresponding resolution page at assembly.cornell.edu. M. Battaglia seconded. There was no dissent.
    - 1. There were no comments.
  - iii. M. Battaglia called the question. E. Winarto seconded the amendment. There was no dissent. The amendment was **approved**.
  - iv. M. Battaglia called the question on the resolution. The motion was seconded. There was no dissent.
    - 1. By a vote of 12-0-1, the resolution was **adopted**.
- c. Resolution 12: Increasing Access to Gender Neutral Bathrooms on Campus (C. Schott) (5 minutes)
- i. Ian Wallace, a representative from the Student Assembly and Campus Infrastructure Committee, spoke about the concern of how there are many important buildings on campus with a lack of accessibility to gender neutral bathrooms. He said that there is the possibility to test out multi-stall gender neutral bathrooms.
  - ii. M. Battaglia said that different buildings have varying building codes. He said that a resolution similar to this one was presented by U. Smith and accepted by the President. He said that it has seemed to fall through the cracks over the years.
  - iii. E. Leow asked if there were any rules to regulate who goes into what bathrooms.
  - iv. E. Michel said that the general consensus and attitudes towards that idea are not positive
  - v. M. Battaglia said, while there are no rules stopping anyone from using whatever bathroom they'd like, this resolution is here to make people more comfortable.
  - vi. M. Hatch suggested that a survey be conducted to find which buildings this resolution would be applicable to, and to have the results presented to the assembly.

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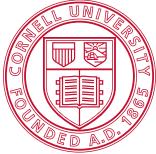
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- vii. I. Wallace said that Cornell maps currently show gender neutral bathrooms.
  - viii. M. Battaglia motioned to suspend the agenda and move into the presentation from President Martha Pollock and VP for University Relations Joel Malina. There was no dissent. The motion was adopted.
  - ix. E. Michel motioned to table the resolution. The motion was seconded.
    - 1. E. Michel withdrew the motion.
  - x. E. Winarto asked about the trial period and what that might look like.
  - xi. I. Wallace said that the trial period is meant to be forward thinking.
  - xii. E. Winarto asked about what will be measured.
  - xiii. E. Michel motioned to table the resolution, there was no dissent.
    - 1. The resolution was tabled.
- d. Resolution 13: Risley Crosswalk Resolution (C. Schott) (5 minutes)
- i. I. Wallace, also speaking on this resolution, said that this has been an issue in the past, and responses were that it would be dealt with down the road. He said that the group seeks an official University response to this resolution.
  - ii. M. Battaglia said that three years ago, the UA passed a resolution for pedestrian safety that looked at crosswalk safety. He said that it would be good to see where the work Pedestrian Safety Working Group is going. He said that this is a good resolution.
  - iii. M. Hatch said that this particular crosswalk was brought up at the last Campus Planning Committee meeting. He said that more people can be active in the University-wide committee positions that look at these issues. He said that there needs to be a major renovation for safety reasons.
  - iv. E. Michel motioned to table the resolution. The motion was seconded.
    - 1. M. Hatch dissented. E. Michel withdrew her motion.
  - v. M. Hatch said that he advocates for passing this resolution because nothing further can be said.
  - vi. E. Leow said that he agrees with M. Hatch.
  - vii. R. Bensel said that he agrees with M. Hatch.
  - viii. M. Battaglia said that he personally believes that this resolution needs time.
  - ix. J. Anderson called the question. The motion has been seconded. There was no dissent.
    - 1. By a vote of 13-0-1, the resolution was adopted.
- e. Resolution 14: Making Cornell's Economics program STEM-certified (C. Schott) (1 minute)



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- i. E. Michel motioned to table the resolution. There was no dissent. The resolution was **tabled**.

### III. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Committee (E. Michel) (1 minute)
  - i. E. Michel said that she is seeking opinions on the Consensual Relationships Policy from everyone by next Friday.
- b. Codes and Judicial Committee (M. Battaglia) (2 minutes)
  - i. M. Battaglia said that JCC search is ongoing. He said that UHRB applications are open.
  - ii. M. Battaglia motioned to direct the Office of the Assemblies to formally provide information on the number of UHRB applicants of each constituent group to the CJC. The motion was seconded. There was no dissent.
    - 1. C. Wiggers asked why this is necessary, especially since the Office of the Assemblies is composed of two people.
    - 2. M. Battaglia said that, two years ago, there was a similar situation, where the CJC was not given the information.
    - 3. M. Hatch called the question. E. Leow seconded the motion. There was no dissent.
      - a. The motion was **adopted**.
- c. Campus Welfare Committee (J. Anderson) (2 minutes)
  - i. J. Anderson said that the Campus referendum does not cover electronic cigarettes. He said that the Office of the Assemblies does not have the bandwidth to receive the inflow of information. He said that Cornell Health is on-board and recommends that the process takes place next semester.
- d. Campus Infrastructure Committee (C. Schott) (1 minute)
  - i. There were no updates.

### IV. President Martha Pollack and Vice President for University Relations Joel Malina (30 minutes)

- a. President Pollack said that rumors about her potentially stealing the Campus Code of Conduct from the University Assembly are completely false. She said that she does think it needs revision, and that there are serious risks within it, as is, but that she looks forward to working with the assemblies to resolve the issues and risks.
- b. President Pollack said that the Presidential Task Force is moving forward with their initiatives. The Dean of Students Office has expanded and is continuing to expand. In the last Fall, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) was expanded. She said that The Center For Teaching Innovation is releasing a course for faculty and

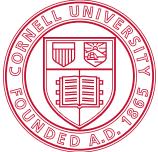


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graduate students about teaching in diverse environments. She said that Orientation is now a day longer to include training for students to learn to live in diverse environments.

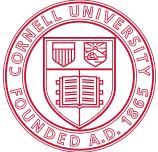
- c. President Pollack said that when she accepted resolution 11, it was in support of working with the University Assembly to establish a formal process. She said that she is happy to meet the May 1 deadline, but she needs the help of the assembly.
- d. M. Battaglia thanked President Pollack and Dean Peñalver for the work that they are doing. He asked what the Codes and Judicial Committee could do to be in support of the work that is being done.
- e. President Pollack said that the Campus Code of Conduct is hard to read. She said that it would be helpful to take on a serious revision of the Campus Code of Conduct. She said that the assembly should consult with her and the Vice Presidents of the University.
- f. M. Hatch asked about the role of the University Assembly, beyond the point of the Campus Code of Conduct, in Shared Governance.
- g. President Pollack said that the University Assembly's job is represent the constituents and constituent assemblies. She said that, in certain places, like the curriculum, the Faculty own that, and in terms of management and budgeting, the administration owns that because of the specific responsibilities of the administration.
- h. R. Bensel said that the Hate Speech Working Group did not feel comfortable reporting in May.
- i. President Pollack said that she'd wait until the Hate Speech Working Group is ready provide a report.
- j. President Pollack said that, during the horrible events in Collegetown last semester, she felt as if it was important to address the issue of the campus climate. She said that she is not pushing R. Lieberwitz to have something by the end of the semester. The Presidential Task Force was established to provide recommendations. She said that the University Assembly owns the Campus Code of Conduct.
- k. R. Howarth said that, with regard to the Campus Code of Conduct, it is relatively easy to add things on, but it is much harder to start fresh, and that is a challenge.
- l. President Pollack said that the Campus Code of Conduct is cumbersome and complicated. She suggested looking at the policies of other institutions. She also suggested being willing to throw certain parts out completely. A third suggestion that she gave was to separate some processes that pertain to faculty and students respectively.



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- m. J. Anderson asked where the discussion of Greek life is going, with regard to it going under the Campus Code of Conduct.
- n. President Pollack said that she does not have an answer now, but that that it is a really important issue.
- o. M. Hatch said that he would be very concerned with looking at the policies of other institutions because, in the past, they have seemed to be more stringent in areas in which Cornell has wanted to be more lenient.
- p. President Pollack said that, to be clear, she is recommending the University Assembly to look at other institutions Codes of Conduct to assess the structures, not the content.
- q. M. Hatch asked about the University Assembly's role with regard to Campus Planning.
- r. President Pollack said that the role is clear, and that it is to provide guidance, to ensure that the administration has a sense of what is important to the faculty, and to make recommendations and priorities
- s. President Pollack said that she takes the resolutions seriously. She said that, if she has to say “no,” it might mean that she does not have the resources, or that she does not support what the resolution is aiming to do.
- t. M. Battaglia asked how Cornell Tech is progressing.
  - i. President Pollack said that Cornell Tech is progressing ahead of all of the metrics for assessment.
- u. J. Anderson asked about the plans for student-staff members on campus, and specifically, plans for residential advisors, with respect to supporting the individuals in these roles with the current campus climate.
- v. President Pollack said that VP for Student and Campus Life Ryan Lombardi is looking at planning for student residential staff, and that she is also looking at Teaching Assistants, and their roles.
- w. G. Kaufman asked about other issues on which the University Assembly could provide feedback.
- x. President Pollack said that a really important issue to weigh in on is the social sciences discussion. She said that the Campus Code of Conduct, the JA appointment/reappointment process, and the Consensual Relationships policy are other important issues that need work and feedback.
- y. R. Bensel, representing one of his undergraduate honor students, who is also the president of the Cornell Republicans chapter, said that the Dick Cheney talk was



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cancelled, and originally scheduled for one location, but it was changed by administration, and so there is a lot of confusion.

- z. President Pollack said that it was apparently done by the police, but that she does not know the details, and that it was unfortunate that it was delayed.

V. Adjournment (1 minute)

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 6:04pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Terrill Malone  
Clerk of the Assembly