

Cornell University
University Assembly

Cornell University's University Assembly
Agenda of the September 28th, 2021 Meeting
4:30 PM – 6:00 PM
401 Physical Sciences Building | [Zoom](#)

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Roll Call
 - b. Land Acknowledgment of the Gayogohono (Cayuga Nation)
 - c. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda
- II. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. [September 14, 2021](#)
- III. Open Forum
 - a. Updates Regarding Potential Invitees and Guest Speakers
- IV. Business of the Day
- V. New Business
 - a. Late Additions to the Agenda (if applicable)
- VI. Assembly Reports
 - a. Student Assembly
 - b. Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
 - c. Employee Assembly
 - d. Faculty Senate
- VII. Committee Reports
 - a. Executive Committee
 - b. Codes and Judicial Committee
 - i. Changing Committee Name?
 - c. Campus Welfare Committee
 - d. Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology and the Environment
- VIII. Liaison Reports
- IX. Adjournment

If you are in need of special accommodations in order to fully participate, please contact Student Disability Services at (607) 254-4545 or the Office of the Assemblies at (607) 255-3715 or assembly@cornell.edu prior to the meeting.



Cornell University University Assembly

Cornell University Assembly
Minutes of the September 14, 2021 Meeting
4:31 PM – 6:00 PM
Seminar Room 700, Clark Hall and Zoom

- I. Call to Order
 - a. B. Fortenberry called the meeting to order at 4:31pm.
 - b. *Members Present:* I. Akisoglu, V. Aymer, M. Benda, R. Bense, D. Cady, N. Danev, J. Feit, B. Fortenberry, T. Fox, P. Hanley, D. Hiner, D. Howell, C. Levine, M. Louis, A. Ononye, J. Withers
 - c. *Members Absent:* E. DeRosa, J. Richards, S. Tanis
- II. Land Acknowledgment of the Gayogohó:ñoꞖ (Cayuga Nation)
- III. Approval of the Minutes (August 31, 2021)
 - a. Richard Bense moved to accept the Aug. 31st minutes.
 - i. N. Danev seconded the motion.
 - ii. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.
- IV. Open Forum
 - a. President Pollack's Appointment of Ms. Liang to the role of Interim Judicial Administrator During the Transition Period of Pending Judicial Cases.
 - i. D. Cady motioned to accept the appointment.
 1. T. Fox seconded the motion
 2. The motion **passed** without any objections.
 - b. Inquiring about Potential Invitees and Guest Speakers
 - i. Cornell University Police Department
 1. A. Ononye suggested the assembly invites PSAC (Public Safety Advisory Committee) alongside CUPD.
 2. G. Giambattista also stated PSAC will be hosting community listening sessions and this may be a good place to touch base.
 - ii. N. Danev would like to invite the Graduate Student Union to talk as it impacts both graduate students and those they teach.
 - iii. A. Ononye suggested inviting Title IX to speak as they are working with faculty and student relationships.
 1. B. Fortenberry gave an explanation as to what 6.3 is in Title IX.
 - iv. R. Bense asked if they could post the invitations to the meetings so questions could also come from the broader community.
 - v. J. Feit proposed getting more clarity on sustainability within Cornell.
 - vi. J. Withers asked if they could send B. Fortenberry and idea for a presentation later.
 1. B. Fortenberry accepted.
- V. Business of the Day
 - a. Resolution 1: Calling Upon Cornell University to Require COVID-19 Vaccination for All Faculty, Staff, and Students



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- i. N. Danev stated that they would like to table this resolution due to the recent executive order by Pres. Biden and the unclear nature of how it will affect Cornell. They asserted if there are no changes in the vaccination requirements, then they will bring forward the idea of offering a discount on health insurance for those who are vaccinated.
- ii. N. Danev motions to postpone the Resolution to the next meeting
 1. J. Feit seconded the motion.
 2. The resolution was **tabled** with 14-0-1

VI. Late Additions

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

VII. Assembly Reports

a. Student Assembly

- i. A. Ononye reported that the SA approved charters for funding. They also had a resolution that passed in solidarity with the Gayogoḥó:ṇoꝓ people, and another resolution calling for the university to make a statement on Texas' SB8. Additionally, they will be voting on their by-laws, standing laws, and constitution next week.
- ii. The SB8 is described to be "a recently passed piece of legislation that limits access to healthcare in the form of abortion, infringing upon the constitutionally protected reproductive rights of Americans and endangering the health of pregnant people" by the resolution.
- iii. B. Fortenberry asked A. Ononye to expand on the Gayogoḥó:ṇoꝓ nation resolution.
- iv. D. Cady reported that it was brought forward by NISAC to acknowledge leadership issues in the Bureau of Indian Affairs and asking for support and solidarity.

b. Graduate and Profession Student Assembly

- i. P. Hanley reported that they had three elections the night before and rescinded two previous passed resolutions. One resolution asked for a budget to establish another website outside of the OA website, but it was decided the resolution was passed in haste. The other resolution added two positions to the executive committee, but they decided that it needed to have been passed in a regular committee. They also reported election results.

c. Employee Assembly

- i. J. Withers reported that they had their first regular meeting on September 1st and had their first meeting on the UHRB. They will also be having a meeting on Title IX and talking about appointments in different committees. The EA is also having an election to fill committee seats and hosting a reception to honor staff graduates.

d. Faculty Senate

- i. R. Bensel reported that they met in a special session on Sep. 9th for pandemic-related issues. Two resolutions came before the senate, affirming the right and responsibility of individual rights of responsibility of the teacher's dedication to faculty and student safety. There was a report of a shortage of classroom space,



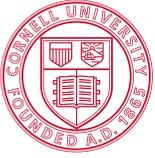
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leaving classrooms crowded, and sometimes without ventilation. They reported a disconnect between the university with understanding how they teach. The other resolution was on disabilities as some faculty and students have disabilities that make them susceptible to the virus or have susceptible family members. Both resolutions passed as expressions of faculty disagreement with the current central university's handling of the pandemic.

- ii. T. Fox asked the process for when someone gets sick with a different disease.
- iii. R. Bensel stated the problem isn't one or two students becoming sick, but rather half of the class getting sick.
- iv. A. Ononye would like to voice their support of the resolutions. They state that some students are uncomfortable missing two weeks of classes.
- v. J. Feit motioned to go into discussion regarding open vacancies on committees.
 1. N. Danev seconded the motion.
 2. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

VIII. Open Vacancies on Committees

- a. R. Bensel reminded the body that membership within a committee is required.
- b. T. Fox asked if this requirement is limited to standing committees or if it includes associated committees.
- c. B. Fortenberry stated that the requirement includes both standing and associated committees.
- d. V. Aymer nominated themselves for CITE.
 - i. I. Akisoglu seconded the appointment.
 - ii. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.
- e. T. Fox nominated themselves for the Codes and Judicial Committee.
 - i. N. Danev seconded the appointment.
 - ii. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.
- f. J. Feit nominated D. Cady for the Campus Welfare Committee.
 - i. D. Cady accepted the nomination.
 - ii. N. Danev seconded the motion.
 - iii. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.
- g. P. Hanley nominated themselves for the Campus Welfare Committee.
 - i. N. Danev seconded the motion.
 - ii. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.
- h. J. Withers nominated themselves for the Coalition on Sexual Violence Prevention.
 - i. N. Danev seconded the motion.
 - ii. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.
- i. N. Danev asked if the document including other committee/assembly vacancies could be shared.
 - i. B. Fortenberry agreed to send it out.
- j. N. Danev asked how they will reach out to the committees which they have been appointed to be liaisons.
- k. G. Giambattista stated that after all the appointments they will organize communication.



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- l. B. Fortenberry suggests that they also reach out to their respective committees.
- IX. Liaison
- a. Campus Planning Committee
 - i. I. Akisoglu reported that they had an information brief about a structural addition to Thurston Hall. They also spoke about baseball infrastructure and casual art installations
 - ii. B. Fortenberry asked for clarification on the baseball infrastructure.
 - iii. I. Akisoglu stated that the completion of a baseball clubhouse facility is set to be Spring 2022.
 - b. Carbon Neutral Campus Committee
 - i. I. Akisoglu reported the meeting was largely informational with discussion of the Cornell ClimateX initiative as well as the possibility of a green hydrogen store for surplus energy on Cornell's grid. Additionally, they talked about blue versus green hydrogen and the goal to achieve full support for the green hydrogen initiative. They also reported an issue with the well due to a New York state policy change.
 - ii. R. Bensel stated that there was a geothermal initiative in past years and was curious as to that status
 1. I. Akisoglu stated that this is still being discussed
 - iii. J. Feit asked what the wells were being used for and what policy change created an issue.
 1. I. Akisoglu stated there is a New York state law for falling into wells.
 - iv. N. Danev asked for the well's purpose.
 1. Akisoglu stated they are for geothermal energy purposes.
 - v. J. Feit asked where these wells were located.
 1. Akisoglu didn't have that information on hand.
 - vi. T. Fox asked about the geothermal resolution presented last year and expressed concerns about the relationship between these wells and earthquakes.
 - vii. R. Bensel asked whether the government subsidized the drilling.
 - viii. G. Giambattista asserted that the project was presented before the assembly last year as the "Earth Sourced Heat" presentation.
 - ix. T. Fox recalled that it was a feasibility study.
- X. A. Ononye motioned to adjourn
- a. N. Danev seconded the motion.
 - b. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Clerk of the Assembly