

Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University's Student Assembly Minutes of the February 15th, 2023 Meeting 4:45 pm – 6:30 pm Memorial Room Willard Straight Hall | Zoom

I. Call to Order

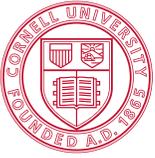
- a. P. Kuehl called the meeting to order at 4:45pm.
 1. *Members Present (23)*: D. Akkiraju, A. Akpan, L. Balestrieri, L. Barrett, F. Berry, S. Chan, D. Diao, Z. deRham, K. Everett, N. Hite, K. Jordan, C. Kim, P. Kuehl, C. Lederman, F. Meng, Y. Moitra, S. Parikh, C. Platkin, I. Rezaka, S. Son, A. Vinson, C. Ting, A. Wang
 2. *Members Absent (7)*: M. Bakri, A. Barry, R. DeLorenzo, C. Flournoy, A. Helkowski, D. Suarez, B. Terhaar
 3. *Also Present (8)*: A. Bangura, A. Coleman, E. Kalweit, N. Maggard, A. Mulpuri, J. Swenson, J. Wallen, J. Zhang

II. Reading of the Land Acknowledgement

- a. P. Kuehl stated the SA's acknowledgment of the Cayuga Nation.

III. Open Microphones

- a. A community member on behalf of the Advocacy Project highlighted many issues with high-quality and affordable student health access issues for low-income students following changes in policies that revoked the SHP+. The community member highlighted the need for SHP+ to be reinstated or for the cost of insurance to be factored into financial aid.
- b. P. Kuehl thanked the community member for their concerns and concurred.
- c. C. Ting noted work that has occurred since the summer to address the issue and highlighted the importance of bringing this issue back to life. C. Ting questioned if presentations previously conducted on addressing this change would be helpful if brought back.
- d. A community member agreed that the presentations could be helpful but highlighted that especially for out of state disabled students, access to New York Medicaid is unaffordable.
- e. D. Diao highlighted that in the initial released administration statement, there were promises made that still have not been fulfilled.
- f. A. Mulpuri noted that following research that has been done, lobbying efforts would be amplified in the coming semester.



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- g. J. Swenson questioned if there was any traction or communication with administration on the matter.
- h. The community member noted that there was a bit of outreach with some administration members, but that ultimately no
- i. J. Swenson asked for further clarification on if this problem was more with state government or the University administration.
- j. The community member clarified details.
- k. A. Wang noted meetings that could be helpful.

IV. Approval of the Minutes

- a. Approval of the February 1 meeting minutes
 - 1. C. Ting motioned to amend the call to order. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent. P. Kuehl motioned to approve the minutes. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
- b. Approval of the February 8 meeting minutes
 - 1. J. Swenson motioned to approve the minutes. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.

V. Consent Calendar

- a. There were no items.

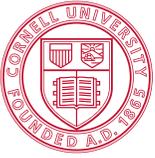
VI. Announcements

- a. Call for Social Chair Nominations
 - 1. P. Kuehl solicited for interest. P. Kuehl further noted an opening on the Student Assembly due to E. Ononye's resignation.
- b. Office of Ethics
 - 1. A. Bangura noted openings on the Office of Ethics and noted that for the first time in almost 2 years, an opening is available.
- c. External Communications Update
 - 1. S. Chan noted that purchase orders for items such as apparel are being made.
 - 2. S. Parikh noted that a report from the Fair Wages Committee is currently being worked on.

VII. Reports of Officers, Committees, and Liaisons

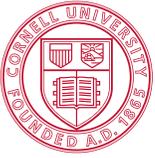
- a. There were no reports.

VIII. Presentations



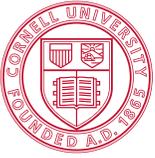
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- a. Charter Amendments - C. Lederman, N. Maggard, A. Coleman
 1. A. Coleman noted that there was a meeting with Dean Love after President Pollack rejected reconsideration of the Resolution. A. Coleman noted that some areas have been reworked in terms of wording and details.
 2. N. Maggard noted that soon Resolution 55, concerning Charter amendments, would be brought to the Internal Operations Committee. N. Maggard noted that this Resolution would be reviewed by Dean Love.
- b. Legislative Process - C. Lederman, N. Maggard, A. Coleman
 1. C. Lederman noted work being done on how to structure the way Resolutions enter the floor to give the Student Assembly legislative process more clarity. C. Lederman highlighted the desire for feedback.
 2. I. Rezaka inquired into adjusting the date where Resolutions be submitted past Sunday since most Committees meet on Monday. I. Rezaka stated that it shouldn't be necessary for the President to review the idea before writing the Resolution due to further bureaucracy that could slow down a Resolution.
 3. J. Wallen stated that presenting to the President as a recommendation rather than as something mandatory is good.
 4. K. Jordan noted some problems between the timing of this system with existing Committee meeting times.
 5. I. Rezaka stated belief that for Resolutions which are sent back to the Committee for review, they should be able to be worked on and presented in the meeting the next week if necessary.
 6. S. Parikh echoed other sentiments of moving the submission date later.
 7. D. Diao questioned if the committee is purely advisory in terms of committee referrals.
 8. C. Lederman noted issues with resolution numbering due to lack of clear chronology and communication that made this solution seem like the easiest.
 9. J. Swenson stated support for a time not too late or early.
 10. J. Wallen stated belief that 24 hours should be enough lead time for members to read.
 11. I. Rezaka highlighted that most committees don't meet on the weekend, and thus stated support for Tuesday.
 12. K. Jordan questioned what would convenience the OA more.
 13. E. Kalweit stated amenability to most times.
- c. Interim Expressive Activity Policy – P. Kuehl, J. Swenson



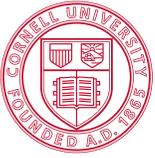
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1. J. Swenson noted that there will be a meeting with administration later tonight on the policy. J. Swenson gave context on the history and conceptualization of the policy and noted concerns such as the lack of opportunity for students and faculty to give input.
2. P. Kuehl expressed frustrations with the Policy. P. Kuehl noted that when given the opportunity to express concerns for the Policy, problems were raised but not seriously considered or addressed.
3. C. Ting highlighted the importance of fully reading the Policy line-by-line.
4. K. Everett stated how incredibly restrictive and problematic the Policy is and highlighted the importance of having student input.
5. P. Kuehl noted that much of the messaging surrounding the protest shut down due to the Policy is that this was different when it wasn't.
6. J. Swenson highlighted a disconnect where certain groups are reprimanded over others.
7. I. Rezaka stated belief that the policy is reactionary to the recent campus climate. I. Rezaka noted a meeting with the Freedom of Expression administrators where they stated that collaboration with the Student Assembly had occurred, when only Executive Committee had a meeting on the Policy the week before the rollout of the Policy. I. Rezaka highlighted the restrictive and inaccessible nature of the time restrictions for protesting and stated belief this is intended to deter students.
8. P. Kuehl acknowledged transparency concerns and stated hope that events could have occurred differently. P. Kuehl expressed frustration with the administration for pointing to working with students when realistically collaboration did not occur.
9. J. Wallen stated that it feels as though administration is speaking in circles and being dishonest. J. Wallen highlighted that this Policy primarily seeks to restrict expression.
10. J. Swenson agreed with J. Wallen's sentiments and highlighted concerns with the lack of involvement of shared governance that undermines trust.
11. P. Kuehl stated the importance of bringing people together, and belief that the administration's Policy actively makes this mission more difficult.
12. C. Lederman echoed frustrations, highlighting the secretive nature of the Policy that highly lacks transparency.
13. S. Parikh echoed frustrations and highlighted that the Policy kills free speech on campus. S. Parikh stated that the Student Assembly mimic the Faculty Senate's rejection of the Policy.



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14. K. Jordan questioned if there could be help for those who were subject to the Codes of Conduct due to the policy.
15. P. Kuehl stated that due to the current secrecy around the Judicial Code, it isn't possible to help individual people. P. Kuehl expressed issues with the Campus' current judicial structure.
16. Y. Moitra suggested the possibility of public hearings for Code of Conduct reviews. Y. Moitra highlighted the need to ask for clarity on specifics of the Policy. Y. Moitra suggested the possibility of working alongside other Assemblies to reject this Policy.
17. J. Swenson concurred with Y. Moitra's sentiments.
18. P. Kuehl emphasized the importance of freedom of expression.
19. K. Everett questioned if there could be work done soon to suspend certain details currently, such as recording of names during registration.
20. C. Ting noted that spontaneous demonstration is still allowed, though registration is encouraged. C. Ting stated that currently, there is a Protesters Board of Protection being formulated in response to the Policy.
21. J. Swenson noted from K. Everett's concerns that much wording is unclear and lends to misunderstanding.
22. A. Akpan questioned if and how the student body will be made aware of these changes, as current changes seem very secretive.
23. P. Kuehl stated that there is currently a guide on the Student Assembly website on the differences from the Policy. P. Kuehl suggested publication through newsletter or quarter card.
24. D. Diao highlighted logistical and ethical concerns with the Policy. D. Diao expressed desire to reach out and connect to students on the Policy since the Student Assembly name is being used as a cover for this Policy when the Assembly position is very removed.
25. J. Swenson concurred, noting the possibility of a Resolution cementing the Assembly's formal position.
26. F. Meng noted the possibility of utilizing the newsletter to clarify position on the Policy.
27. S. Parikh agreed with F. Meng's statement. S. Parikh stated that should there not be movement on the Policy from the administration, a referendum should be sent out.
28. P. Kuehl noted the possibility of hosting weekly community conversations.
29. I. Rezaka thanked P. Kuehl for his intentions but noted that this sort of environment might not be the best suited for reducing tensions.



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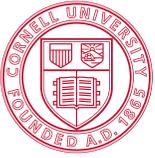
30. F. Berry supported the idea of creating spaces to have conversation. F. Berry highlighted the need for timeliness and urgency on passing a Resolution.
31. D. Almeda suggested that it might be better to stand in a more neutral position and give avenues for students to express their direct opinions on the Policy.
32. P. Kuehl stated during outreach that he has heard concerns over student safety due to feeling fearful and unsafe on campus.

IX. Old Business Calendar

- a. There was no business.

X. Resolutions Calendar

- a. Resolution 52: Approving Special Projects Funding Request for Chinese Students and Scholars Association
 1. P. Kuehl gave a presentation on the special projects funding request.
 2. F. Meng gave additional context, noting that there were intentions to give a gift to all attendees of the event. F. Meng stated that registrations to attend exceeded expectations, leading to the need for more funding.
 3. I. Rezaka expressed her support for increases in cultural events on campus. I. Rezaka motioned to end debate. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
 4. I. Rezaka motioned to approve the Resolution. The Resolution **passed** through a vote of 20-0-0.
- b. Resolution 53: Funding for Ornithological Conservation Projects
 1. A. Vinson introduced the intent of the Resolution to support ornithological conservation efforts.
 2. C. Lederman stated support of the Resolution. C. Lederman motioned to amend the Resolution to strike the final clause to state "be it therefore resolved that \$5,000 dollars will be transferred from the Student Assembly Investment Disbursement Account to the Environmental Committee Account." The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
 3. I. Rezaka stated confusion with use of Student Activity funds.
 4. P. Kuehl stated that the Student Assembly can direct these funds outside of just student organizations.
 5. C. Lederman questioned if the money would be received directly by the Lab of Ornithology.



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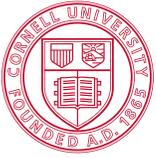
6. A. Vinson stated that currently, the money would be received then transferred by the Environmental Committee.
 7. S. Parikh motioned to close debate. The motion passed through unanimous consent.
 8. P. Kuehl motioned to approve the Resolution. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
- c. Resolution 54: Creating an Ad-Hoc Committee to Enrich Professional Resource Access
1. F. Berry motioned to extend meeting time by 5 minutes. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
 2. Y. Moitra introduced the intent of the Resolution to create an ad-hoc Committee to make professional development opportunities more accessible and known by all students.
 3. A sponsor for the Resolution echoed the possibilities to help students that the Committee could offer.
 4. P. Kuehl stated support for the Resolution.
 5. I. Rezaka highlighted the exclusivity of pre-professional organizations on campus and noted previous conversations addressing this issue last semester that also yielded a committee.
 6. K. Everett clarified if a similar resolution had been previously passed.
 7. P. Kuehl motioned to extend time by 5 minutes. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
 8. C. Ting noted the distinction between now and the previous Resolution as focusing on professional development rather than academic development.
 9. Y. Moitra emphasized the Resolution focuses on highlighting access rather than regulating other student organizations.
 10. S. Parikh stated support for the Resolution. S. Parikh motioned to end debate. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
 11. The motion to approve the Resolution **passed** through a vote of unanimous consent.

XI. Appointments and Vacancies Calendar

- a. Executive Archivist of the Student Assembly
 1. A. Coleman was appointed to the position of Executive Archivist.

XII. Adjournment

- a. This meeting was adjourned at 6:37pm.



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Respectfully Submitted,
Jenny Zhang
Clerk of the Assembly