



**Cornell University**  
**Employee Assembly**

**MINUTES**  
**Employee Assembly**  
**Wednesday, October 15, 2014**  
**12:15—1:30pm**

**I. Call to Order**

G. Mezey called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m.

*Present:* D. Brooks, B. Cristelli, L. Croll Howell, M. de Roos, B. Esty, C. Ferguson, H. Hall, S. Jenks, E. Lee, G. Mezey, L. Morris, M. Stefanski Seymour, P. Thompson

*Absent:* J. Ballerstein, N. Bell, T. Grove, J. Rogan, B. Schaffner, BJ Siasoco

*Also Present:* G. Giambattista, A. O'Donnell, U. Smith, L. Majani, D. Roth, E. Moore, C. Halladay

**II. Late Additions to the Agenda**

G. Mezey added an update on clothing drive during Reports from Chair. U. Smith proposed an addition to New Business to discuss temporary employees as part of the internal applicant process for available positions.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

**A. Approval of Minutes from October 1, 2014** - C. Ferguson made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded. The minutes from October 1, 2014 were approved as printed.

**IV. Report from the Chair**

**A. President's address update** – L. Croll Howell shared updates on the food for the President's Address. She has not heard a confirmation from the Dining Office yet, so she will follow up. G. Mezey and BJ will put together photos of the President with staff from his time at Cornell. An award will be presented to him at the end. The address will also be available for live streaming and it will be recorded.

**B. Fall Employee Celebration** – Employee Celebration day this semester will be held on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2:30-5:00 p.m. G. Mezey opened the floor to discussion if they want to continue past year's traditions. A member suggested a table with information about how employees can sign up for classes and hand out desk cubes again. G. Mezey said he would set up a Google document to have people sign up for shifts to volunteer. It would be great to have an EA presence at the event although it is not a typical workday.

**C. Clothing Giveaway** – Clothing giveaway is organized for October 21<sup>st</sup>, 11:00am-3:00pm at 700 Clark. If anyone is interested in volunteering, contact B. Cristelli. G. Mezey will circulate a Google document for people to sign up. Gary Cremeens from the Transportation department volunteered to pick up items from individual offices, if required, to eliminate hassle of dropping them off.

Anyone interested in volunteering at the Red and White hockey game to collect funds for employee CARE fund, contact B. Cristelli. They need 2 volunteers at the game, 6:30-7:45 p.m. B. Cristelli would also like an EA representative for the CARE fund since she wants to step down. H. Hall volunteered to replace her since she has experience being on the CARE fund. There will be more information shared at the November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, but the Sesquicentennial event will charge a small fee for attendance for each event and the employee CARE fund will likely be one of the beneficiaries.

## **V. Report from the Chair**

**Sustainability** – G. Mezey welcomed Daniel Roth, Director of Campus Sustainability Office, Erin Moore, Manager of Think Big Live Green Engagement Program, and Chris Halladay, Member of Acceleration Working Group. D. Roth shared updates from the last 6 months since the carbon neutrality resolution was passed. He goal for the meeting was to present an update and have an open discussion with members.

Dan Roth presented Cornell's sustainability efforts ranking, one of which is Gold Ranking since 2011 under STARS, the most comprehensive database that tracks sustainability. Sierra Club declared Cornell the #1 Greenest Ivy. He then shared data on carbon emissions as well as the 2014-2015 Climate Action Plan that is a list of 62 goals on how we can accelerate achievement of carbon neutrality.

Erin Moore then explained this program is under Staff Sustainability Literacy, Green Labs and Offices Certifications Programs (39 certified offices and 6 certified green labs) were pioneered in College of Engineering last spring. It was expanded university wide in 2014. It is self-audited and any lab on campus can participate to see where they stand. Energy Conservation Initiative continues and the Committee is looking into whether it is feasible to achieve this goal by 2035. College Engagement Programs is a comprehensive education and engagement campaign that educates the Cornell community on sustainable actions.

Some of the ways committee has come up with to move towards neutrality are reduction in energy demand, incorporation of carbon costs into operations, securing renewable energy supply, and fundraising initiatives. The next steps in this initiative are a presentation to the Board of Trustees, a campus forum to create dialogue, as well as new climate action working groups. D. Roth ended the presentation by saying while technology is necessary, a change in behavior is crucial to move towards neutrality.

## **V. Old Business**

### **A. R.2: Welcome and Invitation to Incoming Cornell President Elizabeth Garrett**

This resolution is an invitation to the new president to the shared government and ensures this system remains an important portion of the president's responsibilities. The other assemblies have or are in the process of passing similar resolutions to welcome her. There was a motion to close discussion and vote on it.

Resolution 2 passed with a vote of 14-0.

## **VI. New Business**

In the interest of time, G. Mezey skipped discussion of talking points for David and Mary's visit. He asked members to think about them and email him and BJ so they can put together a presentation for the President's office.

G. Mezey then opened the floor to U. Smith who introduced himself as ex-SA president and a temporary employee at the Johnson. He brought up concerns about temporary employees not being counted in the primary employee application pool. G. Mezey said a possible solution to the problem would be to change the tone and articulate the importance of temporary employees to Cornell. He feels the discussion should rather be about how temporary employees can be made to feel a part of Cornell. A continued discussion on this topic in the form of a resolution would be great.

## **VII. Adjournment**

G. Mezey adjourned the meeting at 1:34 p.m.