



Cornell University Employee Assembly

MINUTES Employee Assembly Wednesday, May 6th, 2015 12:15-1:30PM 401 Physical Science Building

I. Call to Order

G. Mezey called the May 6th Employee Assembly meeting to order at 12:17 p.m.

He explained to the guests in attendance the difference between the last transportation meeting on March 4th with the representatives from TCAT and this meeting is with representatives from Cornell's Transportation Services.

Present: J. Ballerstein, N. Bell, D. Brooks, B. Cristelli, C. Ferguson, T. Grove, S. Jenks, E. Lee, G. Mezey, L. Morris, B. Schaffner, B. Siasoco, M. Seymour, P. Thompson, M. de Roos

Absent: L. Howell, B. Esty, H. Hall, J. Rogan

Also Present: N. Doolittle, G. Giambattista, A. O'Donnell, G. Borges, B. Brady, A. Ross, G. Cremeens, H. Steh, H. Dubin, S. Cowles, D. Sun

II. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda

G. Mezey said he would like to add the Slope Day Resolution as well as the Employee Survey Resolution to the agenda to be discussed at the end of the meeting.

III. Approval of the Minutes

G. Mezey postponed approving the minutes until next meeting.

IV. Business of the Day

A. Joint Resolution Congratulating President Skorton

G. Mezey explains how this resolution was a joint effort from all the assemblies and it was presented on stage by all the presidents/chairs to President Skorton at his "Goodbyes and Bowties" Event last week.

There was a motion to approve the resolution and there was a second. The resolution was approved by a vote of 13-0-0.

B. Election Term Resolution

C. Ferguson explains how the resolution is a continuation of the one presented at last meeting. He explained the resolution by stating those members running for this year's assembly would have a one-year term and the entire EA would be up for election/re-election next year. G. Mezey opened the forum for discussion.

T. Grove raises the question if this resolution can go against the current EA Charter? G. Mezey said he is confident the President would approve the resolution.

B. Cristelli asked if there should be a deadline to have this finished. T. Grove said they should list a recommendation. There was a motion to amend the resolution with a date. T. Grove added, "no later than January the 16th" to the resolution. There was a motion to amend the resolution and there was a second. The

resolution was accepted by a vote of 11-0-2.

There was a motion to close the discussion and there was a second. The discussion was closed. The resolution carried by a vote of 11-0-2.

C. Cornell Transportation

G. Mezey gave the floor to Bridgette Brady for her presentation. B. Brady introduced herself and said she has been the Senior Director of Transportation and Mail Services for about a year. She then said she is happy to answer questions during or after her presentation. She stressed the importance of parking on campus and how it is a necessity in everything that is done from staff and students to deliveries and construction workers. B. Brady explained briefly what is done by Cornell Transportation and gave some transportation system statistics. She explained why costs are so high for parking and said if they didn't charge for parking there would not be any parking spaces available on campus. She discussed the reconstruction of A Lot and the economics of supply and demand having to do with parking.

B. Brady then gave the floor to the other members of her team, A. Ross, G. Cremeens, H. Steh, J. Dubin, for them to introduce themselves.

G. Mezey then opened the floor for questions.

A guest staff member to the meeting expressed how she dislikes the change in the parking permits and how they are told they have 10 permits every 4 months. She wants to understand why this change was made. B. Cristelli said she agreed with the statement that 30 permits are not enough and the Park Mobile is a very expensive alternative when permits run out. B. Cristelli said she knows a staff member who ran out of permits and had to pay for the Park Mobile, which ended up costing over \$50 in one week. Another guest staff member stated the timing is very difficult, because they have to use the permits on a set schedule as opposed to when they are needed (i.e; academic year vs. summer). Therefore he would like to know about the rationale behind this change. A. Ross says they are trying to manage their resources, because they have a 50% turnover each year. G. Cremeens encouraged people to call the Transportation Services so they can help people on a case-by-case basis.

G. Giambattista asked why the high turnover. A. Ross says the turnover comes mostly from the international population. G. Giambattista wondered if there was a way to categorize permanent full time staff vs. those who do not. A. Ross said they had tried that before making this decision and they would be open to changing their policy. C. Ferguson said he felt Transportation should trust employees at their word in terms of if they need more parking permits they should be granted. He said he also thinks there should be more options as to where people could park with the permits. H. Steh spoke about the Blue Light Service at night and the 90 bus that provides transportation at night.

D. Brooks asks if Omni-Ride was based off one-year terms. A. Ross said new participants are given a 30-day trial period when they sign up for the Omni-Ride program. G. Mezey said he will put this discussion as a follow up. T. Grove says she thinks Park Mobile is great but asks why it goes in 1-hour increments instead of 30 minutes? A. Ross says it's not how many days you are using but you are using for the hours.

M. Roos wonders how they need to manage the permits? B. Brady says when they have 80,000 out at once, if everyone used their permits at once, this could potentially become a problem. This is the management component they are trying to consider-managing thousands of open permits.

A guest staff member then asked if they can have more advance notices of when these open meetings will be taking place. G. Mezey apologized for the late notice for the meeting and said in the future they will communicate these opportunities better. A guest staff member said they have found the transportation staff who

give the parking tickets seem to linger in the lots just waiting to give tickets. B. Brady said to please let her know if there are parking staff lingering in lots because they are not supposed to do that. G. Mezey asked for people to communicate directly with the EA directly if they have concerns before the open forums.

Another guest staff member asked if B lot has accessibility all day? Another guest staff member stated she is an OmniRider and they should not pay for permits until all 30 of them have been used. Another Visitor wants to know who in Transportation is responsible for the clearing of snow and ice on campus? J. Durbin said they can contact the Grounds Department directly or Cornell Transportation if there is a snow or ice issue.

G. Mezey says he is looking for some more information from B. Brady to stay in communication with her after this forum. He also thanked everyone for coming.

D. Slope Day Resolution

T. Grove explained the changes made on the resolution and how it is now stated how Slope Day is for the students but it would not be possible without many employees help and support.

D. Brooks asked who is offended by the Slope Day music? T. Grove replied there were members of the staff who were offended by some of the lyrics in the past. P. Thompson asked if the staff would be allowed to be included in the decision making process? T. Grove replied she felt the staff should not be involved in the choice because staff and students generally have different taste in music. She said they should however agree the artist's music is not offending the Cornell community. G. Mezey said there is a Dean within the Slope Day community therefore there is staff involved.

B. Siasoco said the language is encouraging but we don't want to tell the students what artist they are allowed to pick. We want the resolution to be an official statement from the Employee Assembly and therefore a first step to beginning the conversation.

C. Ferguson motioned to close the discussion and there was a second. The resolution was approved by a vote of 8-0-6.

C. Ferguson motioned to extend the meeting for 5 minutes. The motion was seconded. The meeting was extended for an additional 5 minutes.

E. Staff Engagement Survey Plan

T. Grove explained the changes and edits made to the resolution. Then B. Siasoco read the "Be it Therefore Resolved" clause. G. Mezey asked if the EA should own the resolution and be more part of the process? D. Brooks wondered if 5 years is enough time? G. Mezey said they can have a follow up resolution every 5 years, but they need to have results within 12 months. G. Mezey said the resolution will be in partnership with Human Resources.

L. Morris motioned to close the discussion and there was a second. There was then a vote, which was 12-0-1.

VI. Old Business

There were no Old Business items discussed.

VI. Adjournment

G. Mezey adjourned the meeting on May 6th 2015 was adjourned at 1:39 p.m.