

Minutes – November 6, 2014
Cornell University Student Assembly
4:45pm – 6:30pm, Willard Straight Hall Memorial Room

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

S. Balik called the meeting to order at 4:45pm.

Members present: S. Ali Khan, B. Bacharach, S. Balik, J. Batista, Y. Bhandri, B. Brown, M. Chak, J. Fridman, R. Gademsky, L. Goldman, M. Henderson, E. Johnston, G. Kaufman, V. Kejariwal, E. Liu, L. Liu, M. Masson, M. Stefanko, P. Titcomb, D. Vakili, L. Wershaw, F. Yang, A. Zhou

Members excused: W. Bitsky, R. Raglin

Members unexcused: D. Li, S. Tayal

II. Approval of the October 30, 2014 Minutes

Minutes approved by unanimous consent.

III. Open Microphone

None

IV. President Skorton and Dean of Students Hubbell

M. Battaglia asked if there was anything President Skorton wanted the SA to look into before he leaves. Response: Hoping to develop a collectively agreed upon set of things to push through to finality before his term is over. Hoping to make progress on TCAT and sexual violence prevention and response. Also highly encourages student leadership to get to know President Garrett.

J. Fridman mentioned that there seems to be a pattern of student-action, administration-reaction. Response: Sometimes, the administration misses things, and sometimes the students help the administration make hard decisions.

Max Weisbrod asked what is been worked on to earn more revenue to pay for TCAT. Response: They are still working on it, and it is definitely something he wants worked out by the end of his term.

D. Vakili asked how Engage Cornell would strike a balance between the commitments of study abroad and New York State. Response: Believe that students have a hunger to combine real-life experiences with their academic education. Need to make the most of the generosity of the Einhorn family.

L. Wershaw asked what the administration has done regarding domestic violence and abuse on campus. Response: Believe that the best thing to do regarding stigma is to talk about it.

V. Announcements/Reports

Operation Start Up NY – F. Yang

They look at and review different business that they want to partner up with to facilitate business in upstate NY. Added in another criterion for companies: whether or not the company provides opportunities for students as interns or employees.

SAIF Update – R. Gademsky

Had their first meeting earlier in the week. Asks the SA to alert their constituents to apply.

International Students Board Report – M. Stefanko

Looking to transform themselves into an international students union.

Class Councils Report – M. Stefanko

They have made great improvements since last year. Seeing Cornell Concert Commission, Slope Day Programming Board, and Cornell University Programming Board next week.

VI. Business of the Day

R.24: Attendance Policy Charter Changes – M. Henderson and J. Berger

Motion to amend: replace “, will lose their right to vote and their position will be considered vacated.” with “will have their position vacated.”

Call to question on the amended, seconded, approved by a vote of 22-0-0.

Call to question on the resolution, seconded, approved by a vote of 21-1-0.

R.25: Calling for an Investigation of the Quarter System – B. Brown, W. Bitsky, Spencer Nord

There are no sober monitors, Cayuga’s Watchers, or MGLC/ILC/Panhel policies in unregulated environments.

Elibility Rules for Greek Events:

Need to be in good standing with the University and the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Living

Need to have a presentation on consent education

Needs to be 1 sober monitor/20 guests, Cayuga’s Watchers service needs to be present,

Minors have an X on their hand

Snacks must be provided

Based on a recent survey, 93% of current fraternity members sought out Collegetown as a means of socializing with freshmen.

Motion to amend: On line 32, add “and maintain at least one freshman and at least one member of each Tri-Council body, which includes the IFC, Panhel, and the MGLC.”

Call to question on the amendment, seconded, dissent expressed. Vote to vote: 5-14-1. Continuing discussion

J. Fridman mentioned that co-ops are also affected by prohibition, so it might be worth considering collaborating with them. Response: They fall under the jurisdiction of Independent Living, so they were not really considered.

Y. Bhandari asked how they plan on appealing to freshmen. Response: The hope is that they can rely on the freshmen representatives of the SA to reach out to their constituents.

G. Kaufman mentioned that it might be worth having more freshmen on the committee as it seems they are the largest group that it would affect. Response: The resolution calls for an investigation of the system, which is probably better suited to upper classmen that have knowledge of the process.

M. Battaglia asked if administrators have been reached out to. Response: The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Living is a great resources, but believe that having administrators on the committee would defeat the purpose of gathering student opinion.

V. Kejariwal recommends incorporating co-ops into the resolution. Response: The Quarter System doesn't affect co-ops, only the Greek system.

S. Ali Khan recommends that the Staffing Committee determines who sits on the investigation committee.

Call to question, seconded, dissent expressed. Vote to vote: 8-13-0. Discussion continues

Max Weisbrod: The reason the amendment is being debated for so long is because there are other kinds in the resolution. The SA should vote down the amendment, table the resolution, and refer it to the Community Life Committee to iron things out. Groundwork can be done on the resolution before the investigation committee is formed. Response: Groundwork has definitely been done, and they don't see the harm in passing the resolution that empowers the investigation that should have happened two years ago.

M. Stefanko: Recommends that the amendment be voted down so that other changes can be discussed and to allow another comprehensive amendment to be voted on after discussion.

Call to question on the amendment, seconded, approved by a vote of 14-7-1.

Motion to amend: In line 30 to read: “even representation among Greek and non-Greek students and freshmen, and a student that would serve as administrative liaison and a student to serve as a liaison to the cooperative system and that the staffing process be undertaken with input from the Staffing Committee.”

M. Stefanko stated that there shouldn't be so much time spent on composition as that would be the responsibility of the Staffing Committee. Should focus on the merits of the resolution and get it moving.

B. Brown reiterated that the coop system is not affected by the Quarter System, and that they do not see the need for an administrative liaison.

Call to question on the amendment, seconded, failed by a vote of 1-17-1

Motion to amend: at the end of the Be it Finally Resolved clause, add: “Committee membership will be approved by a majority vote of the Staffing Committee.”

Call to question on the amendment, seconded, approved by a vote of 19-0-1.

J. Batista asked where how plan on starting the investigation. Response: They will begin by surveying the student body.

K. Aniket mentioned that the resolution rests on the assumption that freshman can legally drink. If they cannot, then it doesn't matter if they seek the social scene in Collegetown or in fraternities, as they are not allowed to drink at all.

S. Ali Khan asked how they plan on keeping it unbiased and what they want the SA to vote on. Response: The composition should help prevent bias and the results of the investigation will be recommended to the SA at which point the SA can do as they see fit.

L. Liu asked if they have reached out to affected parties, such as Cayuga's Watchers or Collegetown Council.

Motion to table until next week, seconded, approved by unanimous consent.

S. Balik adjourned the meeting at 6:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Chelsea Cheng