

Minutes –December 4, 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 5:50pm.

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

Members excused: L. Liu, A. Zhou

II. Moment of Silence

III. Approval of the November 20, 2014 Minutes

Minutes approved by unanimous consent

IV. Open Microphone

None

V. Announcements/Reports

Domestic Violence Initiative – L. Wershaw and Y. Bhandari

Clothesline project: different t-shirts whose colors represents different acts of violence to be decorated and hung in the WSH Art Gallery

AIDS Week Announcement – J. Batista

Currently AIDS week – still many events planned for the remainder of the week

Appropriations Report CUEMS – M. Stefanko

Appropriations Report ALANA – M. Stefanko

Their organizational structure has improved greatly, but there's still some room to go. Will be meeting with individual umbrella organizations to work through some issues.

Dining Committee Report – R. Gademsky

Held the last meeting of the semester

Community Life Committee Report – E. Johnston

Financial Aid Review Committee Report – F. Yang

Working on reestablishing an internship program

Elections Committee Report – K. Aniket

Committee unanimously passed elections rules and calendar for next semester. Voting will be 3/10/15

Executive Committee Report – J. Batista

Communications Committee Report – L. Wershaw

Successful semester, newsletter sent out. Next semester, working on an inter-group dialogue event.

Ivy Council Committee – L. Liu

SACIDI & SADAC – M. Chak and S. Tayal

Reviewed DIPS for tier 2 and 3 organizations. SADAC has had many discussions regarding different groups on campus.

Appropriations Committee Report – M. Stefanko

The committee did a great job this semester and attendance was very high and consistent.

VI. Business of the Day

Motion to move R.37 up on the agenda, seconded, approved by 24-0-0

R.37: Approving the Student Assembly Finance Commission's Executive Board Members and Commissioners – M. Stefanko

The list of commissioners does not appear to be very diverse, but by nature of what the role entails, it was inevitable. Process: outreach in October, info sessions in November, applications request candidate resumes, granted 11 positions. Statistics on the commission: 60% male, 40% female, 6 international, 2 transfer, 57% members of special interest groups, 20% involved in cultural organizations, 7% involved in music and performance, 16% involved in club sports.

Call to question, seconded, approved by a vote of 24-0-0.

R.29: Calling for Implementation of Open Course Evaluations – J. Fridman

Asking for a committee to be formed (admin, faculty, students, registrar, etc.) to start working on online open course evaluations. Surveys would include qualitative and quantitative questions as well as a course syllabus. This has been successful at other schools, and this resolution has been presented to bodies of interest.

M. Henderson asked about the feedback from the Educational Policy Committee. Response: Everyone agreed that this is needed, but there were conflicts as to what should be included. Some wording needs to be fine-tuned.

Call to question, seconded, approved by a vote of 23-2-0. SA Vote: 21-2-0. Community vote: 4-0-3 contributes 2-0-0.

VII. New Business

R. 30: Changes to Special Projects Funding – M. Stefanko and J. Berger

Decided to implement a clause saying that no more than 2/3 of the funds can be spent in the Fall. This was okay for this semester since there was rollover from before, but want to keep a cap for the future. Rule 6 has been done in practice, but is added as a formal statement. Rule 8 states that the SA will be made aware of what remains in the fund at the end of the semester. Rule 9 asks that project requests be sponsored by an SA member whose constituency is related to said project. Rule 19 formally allows for tabling of a special projects request.

J. Batista asked how the 'designated sponsor' in Rule 9 would apply to an E-board position, say EVP. Response: The rule was meant to be a guideline for SA involvement, so it includes everyone on the SA.

S. Tayal asked if Rules 9 and 10 would allow for members to apply for some quick last-minute funding since there is still money in the account. Response: The hope is to abolish the mentality of last-minute funding. Actually, the fund was reduced from \$5k to \$3k this year because not all of it was being used. They're actually very happy with the amount that has been spent.

Motion to move to Business of the Day, seconded, approved by a vote of 24-0-0.

D. Vakili stated his concern for Rule 9. There are too many clubs and only so many SA members, so a club might not be comfortable reaching out for the sake of requesting special projects funding. Who would represent a sports club or a music club? Response: organizations are required to reach out to an SA member or the VP Finance before a special projects request can be brought to the Appropriations Committee.

D. Vakili also asked how special projects funding is advertised. Response: It's actually not. The original intent of special projects funding was specifically for SA initiatives. They have expanded it slightly, but other organizations also have many other avenues to seek funding.

Motion to amend typos on line 61: 'insure' should be 'ensure' and 'study body' should be 'student body'.

Call to question on the amendment, seconded, approved by unanimous consent.

L. Wershaw said that she was not aware that the VP of PR was responsible for publicizing the changes (as stated in the be it finally resolved clause). Response: This was added in last minute and is not asking for a big effort, simply that the resources should be made available online or in the newsletter, for example.

Call to question, seconded, dissent expressed: currently Rule 6 contradicts Rule 7. Vote to vote: 14-5-1. Continue voting. **Approved by a vote of 18-3-2.**

R.31: Developing an International Students Union – S. Tayal, M. Stefanko, Chanida Susumpow, and Binoy Jhaveri

Resolution presents changes to the constitution of the International Students Board (ISB) to allow for the development of an International students Union (ISU). The Appropriations heard a report from the International Students Board and is in full approval.

K. Aniket mentioned the impressiveness of the cultural heritage that this union would inherit and congratulated the sponsors on their resolution.

J. Fridman mentioned that the ISB would be absorbing 19.1% of the student population and was concerned about creating fair representation. Response: leadership from different groups will be coming together, and there are opportunities for new people to step up as well, as there is no person limit for the general body.

M. Masson, S. Ali Khan, and P. Titcomb stated a concern in the elections rules saying that all Vice Presidents were to be elected by the board instead of by the general public. Response: This has been the way elections have been held for the last 10 years, and this organization has been an exemplary case among byline funded organizations. It is also important to keep in mind the difference between functional and representative roles, of which the VPs would be functional.

Motion to move to Business of the Day, seconded, approved by a vote of 25-0-0.

M. Battaglia mentioned that if everything is being revamped to turn the Board into a Union, the argument of past experience doesn't really hold water – why not revise the elections process as well?

Call to question, seconded, dissent expressed: there are still opinions to be discussed, and there are still things that need to be resolved. Vote to vote: 7-17-1. Discussion continues.

Motion to table the resolution until tomorrow, seconded, approved by a vote of 23-2-0.

Resolution 32: Appending the Referenda Process – J. Batista and D. Vakili

A referenda is a call for an opinion from the entire student body. Resolution moves to expand the process so that any student can call for a referendum. Process: any student can propose a neutral question, if there are a certain number of votes for it, it would be brought to the SA to see if it would be

published as a formal referendum. It would then be sent to the entire student body via the Office of the Assemblies and results would be recorded and published.

S. Balik adjourned the meeting at 6:32pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Chelsea Cheng