

Minutes – February 19, 2015
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. Bhandari, B. Brown, M. Chak, J. Fridman, L. Goldman, M. Henderson, E. Johnston, G. Kaufman, M. LaPointe, D. Li, M. Masson, M. Stefanko, B. Sullivan, S. Tayal, P. Titcomb, D. Vakili, L. Wershaw, F. Yang, A. Zhou

Members excused: J. Selig

Members unexcused: E. Liu, L. Liu, R. Raglin

II. Open Microphone

Ross Gitlin encouraged freshmen and sophomores to run for Student Trustee and asked the assembly members to encourage others to run as well.

III. Approval of the February 12, 2015 Meeting Minutes

IV. Presentation from the Judicial Codes Counselor – Amanda Minikus

The Office of the Judicial Codes Counselor is composed of 4 law students working within Cornell's different disciplinary systems (Academic Integrity, Code of Conduct, and University Policy 6.4)

She walked through the process within each disciplinary system and discussed some concerns that have been noticed in the past few years: perfecting Policy 6.4, temporary suspension, the Code of Conduct, academic integrity, CUPD action, and requests for other kinds of assistance. The idea is to create something along the lines of a Student Bill of Rights.

Discussion followed between Amanda and the Student Assembly regarding what the next steps should be to addressing the presented problems.

V. Announcements

Open Course Evaluations Announcement – J. Fridman

Evaluations are a college-level matter at Cornell, and it will not be considered farther, and no meeting requests were approved. J. Fridman will be meeting with individual colleges to try to continue moving this forward.

VI. Business of the Day

R.36: Divestment from Coal: Towards a Sustainable Endowment – E. Johnston

A few changes to the resolution were made after a conversation with the Chief Investment Officer.

Motion to amend said changes, seconded, approved by a vote of 22-0-0.

S. Tayal stated that while he personally supports the resolution, he is concerned that having the SA support it might give the impression that it is supporting a certain subset of groups on campus and not consulting the opinions of other groups.

Call to question, on the resolution, seconded, approved by a vote of 22-1-1 (SA vote: 19-1-1.

Community vote: 10-1-1 contributes 2-0-0)

VII. New Business

R.43: Addressing Cissexism – P. Titcomb and S. Tayal

Cissexism is the assumption that a person's gender identity and their sex assigned at birth are the same. The resolution recommends that the administration collect data and adjust all intra-university forms to allow students to choose what their preferred gender is.

S. Ali Khan asked why the sponsors decided to take the route of altering forms rather than educational and awareness efforts.

K. Aniket thinks the resolution has a great intent, but needs to be more specific in order to bring about something actionable. Response: They definitely agree and would be happy to work together to adjust the language.

Ulysses Smith seconded K. Aniket's statement about specificity and offered some suggestions on improving the language. He also provided more knowledge on the subject.

Motion to amend: that the 2 clauses on line 23 and 27 read (respectively):

Be it therefore resolved, that the SA recommends that the university collect information regarding LGBTQ+ status by inserting voluntary demographic questions including sexual orientation and gender identity in addition to data about legal sex as required by the federal government into the undergraduate application for admission.

Be it further resolved, that all intra-university forms and documents, where demographic information is collected, provide undergraduate students the option to choose their preferred gender or gender identity."

Motion to approve the amendments, seconded, approved by a vote of 22-0-0.

Motion to move to Business of the Day, seconded, dissent expressed: more time should be taken to iron out some specifics, **approved by a vote of 15-8-0.**

Motion to table, seconded, dissent expressed: the sponsors don't want to table the resolution, so tabling should be voted on, **not tabled by a vote of 7-13-2.**

Call to question on the resolution, seconded, dissent expressed: vote to vote: 9-11-2, **motion fails.**

Ulysses Smith mentioned that there is definitely merit in having more time to work on the resolution and to bring to the other shared governance bodies, but at the same time, assembly members had several weeks to contact the sponsors about the resolution and should have done so.

S. Balik adjourned the meeting at 6:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Chelsea Cheng