



MINUTES
University Assembly
December 2, 2014
4:30-6:00pm
401 Physical Science Building

I. Call to Order

J. Blair called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

Present: R. Adessa, S. Balik, J. Batista, M. Battaglia, J. Blair, T. Pratap Bollu, R. Booker, M. Hatch, E. Johnston, N. La Celle, E. Loew, R. Walroth, R. Wayne

Absent: J. Barnett, C. Best, J. Burns, C. McGrath, G. Mezey

Also Present: M. Foreman, G. Giambattista, *Judicial Codes Counselor Office*, C. Lender, B. Murphy, S. Murphy, A. Mittman, M. Opperman, *The Daily Sun*, K. Zoner

II. Approval of the Minutes

A. November 4, 2014 Minutes

The UA unanimously approved the minutes from November 4, 2014.

III. Committee Updates

Executive Committee

M. Battaglia reported that Dr. River will be attending the January 27th meeting. He also explained that the Campus Welfare Committee is making a shirt to support the fight against domestic violence and is in need of a help locating a shop that can quickly produce the shirts.

Campus Infrastructure Committee

N. La Celle reported the committee is planning to meet in December. The committee will be continuing its discussion on transportation as well as looking into sustainability and divestment.

Campus Welfare Committee

M. Foreman presented for C. Best. The executives on the committee will be conducting polling to see if a new meeting schedule would work better for members since attendance has been low. The CWC will be re-examining smoking on campus in the spring semester.

Codes and Judicial Committee

R. Wayne reported he met with Mary Beth Grant to go over Policy 6.4 and the mechanisms behind it. This is something that will continually be looked at by the committee. The committee has also begun to discuss the limited advance notice policy and whether or not this should be included in the Campus Codes. The CJC will be meeting on December 5th at 3:30pm in 401 Physical Science Building.

IV. Business of the Day

A. CSVP update and discussion

R. Adessa introduced Mary Opperman and Susan Murphy, the co-chairs on the Council on Sexual Violence Prevention. J. Blair thanked them for attending and opened the floor for the presenters.

S. Murphy gave a basic framework of what the council is doing and its connection with Policy 6.4. S. Murphy explained that following the *Dear Colleague* letter in 2011 every campus found itself addressing the issue and the expectations around addressing sexual violence. She said after this letter, a group of staff led by A. Mittman, decided it was necessary to move the adjudicating of sexual violence crimes out of the campus policy and under Policy 6.4. The first year after the council's creation the emphasis was on new members to Cornell and their education on the issue. The students led the way with the program "Speak About It," which was successful enough to continue with first year and transfer students as well as being expanded for faculty and staff as well.

S. Murphy further explained she and M. Opperman attended an engaging presentation by a Yale faculty member, Melanie Boyd, which focused on the issue of the culture and atmosphere on the campus. M. Boyd explained the work done at Yale is to move the discussion away from preventing rape and towards identifying and promoting the campus culture of healthy sexual relationships. M. Opperman added that M. Boyd framed sexual experiences on a continuum ranging from consensual welcome to not consensual. The topic of sexual violence becomes more challenging when presented with a consensual but unwelcome experience. The next council meeting will focus on the culture and reframing how sexual violence is thought. The minutes for this meeting as well as past meetings can be found on the Gannett website. S. Murphy then opened the floor for discussion.

J. Blair expressed a concern regarding the timing of the investigation. Once a report is brought forward, it appears as though Cornell is nowhere near adjudicating the issue within sixty days. K. Zoner explained the investigation has to be finished by sixty days but there are opportunities for appeals which all have specific allotments of time which can increase the duration of the proceedings. S. Murphy stated it is a long process and one issue she has observed is there is a shortage of investigation staff. This is caused, in part, by the increase in the number of cases coming forward now as compared to in 2011.

J. Batista asked if there are plans for a spin off program based on M. Boyd's presentation. S. Murphy said there is a group of staff that are working with the information presented by M. Boyd and are currently pulling together recommendations.

R. Booker explained his experience in college and the fraternities and asked whether Cornell has enough courage to think about a cultural shift, which would involve the removing them. He said a majority of the issues on campus occur around alcohol and/or fraternities and maybe it is time to consider looking at the option closing fraternities within the next four to five years. S. Murphy said with the current attitude at Cornell there is a hope that this is a topic that can now be discussed. However, she also mentioned of the four cases brought before her only one of them was Greek. She continued to say that while there is a higher risk at fraternities, as well as in athletics, there is also other research that shows some of greatest gains can come from the Greek system and athletics in term of leadership and involvement. The current position she takes is potentially the Greek system should examine their founding principles and attempt to get back to those, but as of right now there is no reason to consider removal of Greek life. J. Blair thanked M. Opperman and S. Murphy for attending the meeting and asked that any more questions for them be sent to R. Adessa.

B. CUPD Update

K. Zoner explained some of the reasoning behind the annual security report. The report is comprised of information on certain crime statistics as well as sexual violence incidences and victims' rights. K. Zoner then presented the data compiled for Cornell for 2014. The presentation covered crime statistics for Cornell campus as well as for the surrounding Ithaca, Tompkins County areas. At the end of the presentation the floor was opened for questions.

S. Jenks asked when a residential incidence is called in if it is recorded for both the residential and campus statistics. K. Zoner answered it is only added to both if it is a formal report. T. Bollu asked for clarification on the community/Ithaca police reporting and whether the incidences included have to be campus related? K. Zoner explained the incident only has to involve a student to be included in the data. J. Batista asked how a "non-forceable" sexual offense is defined. She also said many students have experienced burglaries but are unsure the steps to take and she asked for suggestions on how to help these students. K. Zoner said anything that makes somebody feel uncomfortable then the person should call 911 immediately. She said the CUPD would like people to bring these incidences forward as most typically involve extreme intoxication where the "perpetrator" is just in the wrong place at the wrong time; however, it could also be that someone has a serious issue and needs help. K. Zoner then explained "non-forceable" sexual offense is when consent is given but then the interaction morphs into something unwanted. For any further questions or comments the UA was asked to email K. Zoner.

C. Discussion with members of divestment of fossil fuels from the endowment

M. Hatch explained after attending the Sustainability Summit the issue of divestment should be reevaluated by the UA. He proposed the CIC take the issue up again as new information has surfaced which might change the attitude regarding divestment. J. Blair said he will discuss this issue with the chair of the CIC and ask that the committee sets a target date for presenting divestment to the UA.

The meeting was extended by five minutes by unanimous consent.

D. Discussion concerning making Cornell a tobacco free zone

J. Blair explained President Skorton has asked the UA to take up the idea of Cornell becoming a tobacco free zone. This was an issue the UA addressed three years ago but at the time it was considered a costly effort that would not be beneficial. J. Blair suggested the topic be brought up in the constituent assemblies to gauge their support.

V. Reports from Assemblies

This item was tabled due to lack of time.

VI. Adjournment

J. Blair adjourned the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Claire Lender
Assemblies Clerk