



Cornell University
University Assembly

Minutes
University Assembly
Tuesday, January 27, 2015
4:30 – 6:00 p.m.
401 Physical Science Bldg.

I. Call to Order

J. Blair called the meeting to order at 4:33pm.

Attendance:

Present: S. Balik, J. Batista, M. Battaglia, C. Best, J. Blair, R. Booker, M. Hatch, E. Johnston, N. La Celle, E. Loew, C. Mc Grath, G. Mezey, R. Walroth, R. Wayne

Absent: R. Adessa, J. Burns, E. Loew, J. Barnett

Others Present: G. Giambattista, J. Malina, A. Mathios, A. Minikus, C. Schaffer, J. Siliciano, *The Daily Sun*, A. Wadhwa, L. Yager

There were no late additions to Agenda.

II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of December 2, 2014, were approved as presented by unanimous consent.

III. Provost Search Update

A. Mathios, Vice Chair of the Provost Search Committee and Dean of the College of Human Ecology; and J. Siliciano, Provost Committee Member and Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs updated Members on the Provost Search.

Mathias noted that the Chair of search committee is President-Elect E. Garrett. Mathios said the Provost touches lives of all three constituents and the job includes guiding academic programs and setting budgets for all units. J. Siliciano said the Provost is the second most important position at Cornell since he or she governs all budget and internal operations. A copy of the Provost Search Statement was passed out to Members. Mathios informed Members that a Provost Search website was now “live” and the Search Statement as well as links to apply for the position as well as to communicate directly with the Committee were present.

Mathios then summarized the Committee’s expectations for the next Provost. They hope to have a provost in place by Fall 2015. The floor was opened to questions.

J. Blair said the Committee should ensure there is a diverse pool of candidates before interviews were undertaken and that the chosen individual should be someone who has a background of proven results with the ability collaborate, but also to make decisions and move forward.

A Member asked if the Committee had a preference for an internal vs. external candidate. Mathios stated the committee has no preference. They want the best choice.

Blair asked if the committee is considering how long they would like the provost to stay. Mathios said they're looking for someone committed to long-term but it is not a primary criterion. He noted that Provosts usually turn over slightly faster than Presidents, staying for perhaps 4-6 years. The Provost will not be looking over Weill, but they will be looking over Cornell Tech. Therefore, he or she will have to juggle the Ithaca campus and the school in NYC. The previous Provost worked to simplify the complex budget map of funding. A good candidate would be able to further unfold that budget model.

J. Batista asked how the Committee is looking for a chosen candidate who will handle the different parts of Cornell including the departments that have been underrepresented before. Mathios responded the search committee looks diverse itself to represent the diversity of Cornell and Ithaca. They have tried to include people from the sciences, social sciences, and humanities to ensure equal voice to help work through the candidates.

Blair ended the discussion by saying he would summarize the general overview of the UA questions and comments for the committee and send it to them via their on-line e-mail address. He asked Members with unasked or unanswered questions to send them to him and he would get answers back from the Committee.

IV. Business of the Day

Open Access Policy

Professor C. Schaffer, Chair of the Open Access Committee, updated the Members on the status of an Open Access Policy at Cornell. A UA resolution passed last spring established a committee to investigate an open access policy. C. Schaffer summarized what an open access model means. The idea is to make scholarly work freely available to any interested reader. Costs of publishing are not covered by subscriptions, but the cost is shifted towards other sources such as author fees, university/society subsidy and all content of the journal is freely available. Cornell has a repository, eCommons, which is underutilized. Schaffer then summarized the recently updated federal access policy.

One of the reasons to consider an open access policy is it would be beneficial for cutting edge research to be openly accessible. There are benefits to researchers since free articles are accessed more often than those that sit behind a pay-wall. One of the benefits to Cornell is the University would be meeting the global motive to exchange research. One of the benefits to society is this open access policy accelerates multi-disciplinary breakthroughs in research. Research benefits will extend beyond a lab and reach small businesses, policy makers, educators and students.

The idea is consistent with Cornell's mission that already has a fund (COAP Fund) to pay for publication fees. In the past, the Faculty Senate has seen three resolutions encouraging open exchange of scholarly information. The potential downsides include costs associated with necessary staff time and infrastructure. Also, if posting in an open access forum is not mandatory, past experience shows it will not be done. If it is made mandatory, enforcement

mechanisms will need to be discussed. 36 other universities have open access policy and they widely encourage it.

The Open Access Committee has planned actions that include mapping these policies to Cornell in March.

CJC Report on Limited, Voluntary Advance Notice

J. Fridman said while the report from CJC will be accepted on January 27th, a resolution will not be sent to President Skorton for a while. J. Blair asked the assembly for feedback on the report. CJC agreed to not change the language or edit the code.

This item will be on the agenda for the UA meeting in February as well. While the topic was extensively discussed at the CJC meeting, they agreed to keep the code intact.

V. Committee Updates

Because meeting was over allotted time, committee updates were tabled until until the next meeting.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Aastha Wadhwa
Assemblies Clerk