



Minutes
University Assembly
September 8th, 2015
4:30pm - 6:00pm
401 Physical Science Bldg.

I. Call to Order

M. Battaglia called the meeting to order at 4:31 PM.

Attendance:

Present: M. Battaglia, M. Hatch, K. Herleman, R. Howarth, M. Indimine, G. Kaufman, E. Loew, M. McBride, G. Mezey, BJ Siasco, U. Smith, P. Thompson, A. Thomson, R. Walroth

Absent: J. Batista, R. Booker, J. Burns, N. La Celle

Others Present: V. Bhaya, J. Kunk-Czaplicki, G. Giambattista

Introduction and Welcome

Members introduced themselves to one another.

Call for Late Additions to the Agenda

No late items were requested.

II. Approval of Minutes

i. May 5, 2015

Minutes of May 5, 2015 were approved by unanimous consent.

ii. September 1, 2015

Two amendments of the Minutes were:

R. Howarth, and not R. Walroth, was appointed as a member of the Campus Infrastructure Committee.

R. Howarth was appointed as Campus Planning Liason, not as "Transportation

Task Force Liaison.”

There was a motion to change the heading “Preliminary discussion of OSWG report” to “Preliminary discussion of Outdoor Space Working Group” and to strike the content under it, as well as to strike the content under “Other discussion regarding interim Judicial Administrator”.” These amendments were approved by unanimous consent. The amended Minutes were also approved by unanimous consent.

III. Business of the Day

i. For Vote: Appointment of the Interim Judicial Administrator

G. Mezey said he was excited to have J. Kunk-Czaplicki on board. E. Loew motioned to approve her appointment as Interim Judicial Administrator. By a vote of 12-0-0, J. Kunk-Czaplicki was approved as Interim JA.

ii. Report on UA Executive Committee actions taken since the end of the previous session

M. Battaglia stated that there were four temporary UA Exec members over the summer. M. Battaglia was the Undergraduate representative, M. Hatch was Faculty, G. Mezey was Employee, and A. Thomson was Grad/Professional. Per request and information from a community member that the Office of Transportation Services may be raising parking rates, the UA contacted them over the summer and was informed that the 8% increase included sales tax when previously it did not. The actions taken by the UA Exec since the end of the previous session were approved by unanimous consent.

iii. UA Overview Presentation

M. Battaglia said that the UA’s delegated authority comes from the president and Board of Trustees. The Assembly must approve appointment or reappointment to the JA, University Ombudsman, and the Judicial Codes Counselor. R. Howarth said that the Campus Code says that the UA Chair and UA Exec lead the search for the JA and asked M. Battaglia if he has been doing that. M. Battaglia responded saying that a national search requires money and time so the UA is trying to find a way to play a large role in the process.

M. Hatch stated that there is only 1 attorney in the JA office so there should be some search to structure a position description on that role. G. Mezey said the JA is

not an attorney so the legal-mindedness of the position should be up for debate. He further stated that when the UA practices delegated authority, they need the resources to do so. M. Battaglia said the UA has Standing Committees, Associated Committees, and Ad hoc committees/working groups. In the past few years they have moved away from Ad hoc committees and towards working groups. The Assembly's goal is to get an issue assigned to the proper place.

BJ Siasco asked if the Dashboard is helping with public comment; M. Battaglia said he believes it will help expedite the process.

G. Mezey stated that the UA has a formal process but he does not know if they necessarily need to have the most formal of environments. They are all peers at the University and should have the opportunity to create an environment that doesn't feel formal but that maintains the formal process, so that others can view themselves as equals. They need to create a space that is welcoming and engaging.

G. Kaufman said that the SA is dealing with the same issue; they are starting to have informal meetings and not follow Robert's Rules, per say. M. Hatch said he agrees with Mezey; he recommended that the previous "lawyer" discussion be one of the first discussions they have. R. Howarth said he agrees with Hatch—the UA should definitely take a role in choosing the JA.

G. Giambattista clarified that the charter and bylaws of the Assembly supersede Robert's Rules.

iv. For Vote: Adoption of UA Meeting Schedule

M. Battaglia said he thinks that twice-monthly meetings will allow the UA to be more efficient, and that the subject was open for discussion. R. Walroth said his concern with bimonthly meetings was that all Standing Committees meet at the same time, and that this schedule might be cumbersome by increasing the meeting load. M. Battaglia said that having meetings twice a month allows the UA to take on a bigger role and to keep on moving. M. Battaglia has to have a discussion with Committee Chairs to discuss their schedule of meetings. A. Thomson asked if they could drop meetings if they are not needed. M. Battaglia said that if they could get through their assigned task more quickly, they could have an Assembly retreat instead of a meeting, because they would already have the time penciled in.

G. Kaufman said he liked this idea because it seems that the UA has struggled with attendance in the past, so having more frequent meetings would be better for the continuity of discussion. G. Mezey said he agreed and said that sometimes the UA

needs to talk about issues and the limited frequency with which they meet hinders that. He said that if a UA member is unable to make the time commitment, there may be someone in his/her constituency who can better represent them. By a vote of 12-0-1, the UA Meeting Schedule was adopted.

v. Review and Referral of Items to Committees

M. Battaglia recapped the Resolutions that were handled last year.

Resolution 1 dealt with the appointment of University Hearing and Review Board (UHRB) members. Resolution 2 formally welcomed President Garrett. R3 was a response to President Skorton's request for "limited, voluntary advance notice."

Resolution 4 provided a Faculty advisor to the Office of the Judicial Codes Counselor. R5 regarded support for the University Ombudsman. R6 was about Divestment from Companies producing Fossil Fuels and holding Fossil fuels Reserves. Resolution 7 called for Implementation of an Open Course Evaluation Working Group. Resolution 8 regarded Updating the Charter of the Campus Planning Committee in the University Assembly Bylaws. Resolution 9 was a Community Bill of Rights Resolution. Resolution 10 dealt with the charge of the Community Rights and Responsibilities working group. Resolution 12 was about the Charge to the Cornell Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee. Resolution 14 was Recognition of Outstanding Support to the AY 2015 Legislative Session.

Resolution 14 regarded a bylaws change establishing a Student Insurance Advisory Committee Liaison. Resolution 15 was about UHRB members for the Academic Year 2015-2016.

vii. Discussion: Initial UA Focus for AY 2016

Regarding the Initial UA Focus presentation, U. Smith said that there are so many other issues that other constituencies and this Assembly should be addressing. He said that there are huge policies that need to be made and that the UA needs to actually address some more pertinent issues as opposed to things that are very small in scope. The Assembly must be flexible, nimble, and accessible to people.

A. Thomson asked U. Smith if he had a few examples of actionable items. M. Hatch suggested that U. Smith look at the list and give the Assembly a few bullet points of things he thinks they should be doing. A. Thomson said he agrees that the UA needs to make substantive changes. M. Battaglia said that the presentation had general recommendations and that he is excited to hear specifics from U. Smith. E.

Loew said they can either be reactive or raise issues. The presentation was not a boundary; they have usually been so reactive that they have not had time to be proactive. He thinks they can have a balance between both. M. Battaglia said these should be seen as a mold, not a box.

vi. Report of Standing Committee Vacancies

M. Hatch discussed the number of representatives from each constituency that were still needed on each Standing Committee. K. Herleman said she thinks it would be good to have off-the-record meetings and retreats. G. Giambattista informed the members of the Assembly that they were all invited to participate in the Procession at the Inauguration on September 18.

IV. Late Additions to the Agenda

No late items were requested.

V. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Vishal Bhaya
Assemblies Clerk