



Cornell University
Employee Assembly

MINUTES
Employee Assembly
Wednesday, December 3, 2014
12:15-1:30 p.m.
401 Physical Science Building

I. Call to Order

G. Mezey called the meeting to order at 12:17pm.

Present: J. Ballerstein, N. Bell, D. Brooks, B. Cristelli, L. Croll Howell, M. de Roos, B. Esty, C. Ferguson, T. Grove, H. Hall, S. Jenks, G. Mezey, B. Schaffner, BJ. Siasoco, M. Stefanski Seymour

Absent: E. Lee, L. Morris, J. Rogan, P. Thompson

Also Present: G. Giambattista, C. Lender, L. Majani, A. O'Donnell

II. Late Additions to the Meeting

BJ Siasoco added a brief report on the Sustainability Summit to the executive committee report. S. Jenks asked to report on the UA meeting from December 2, 2014. Finally, M. de Roos requested the addition of a discussion on *The Daily Sun* article to the agenda.

III. Approval of the Minutes

T. Grove moved to approve the minutes and BJ Siasoco seconded the motion. The EA unanimously approved the minutes from November 19, 2014.

IV. Reports

A. *The Daily Sun* Article Discussion

G. Mezey explained the incident regarding *The Daily Sun* article published after the last EA meeting. He thanked BJ Siasoco and G. Giambattista for following up and quickly remedying the situation. BJ Siasoco, Mary Opperman, and G. Giambattista had a meeting with the editor in chief of *The Daily Sun* to discuss the misrepresentation of the EA in the article. It was suggested the EA should regularly meet with *The Daily Sun* in order to give them some reference as to what the EA does as well as current issues the EA is working on.

G. Mezey apologized for not informing the members a reporter was present at the meeting. He explained having a reporter in the room causes there to be different dynamic where colleagues feel comfortable/uncomfortable to speak. He urged the members to speak up if they feel uncomfortable they always have the opportunity to request a closed session. T. Grove mentioned in the past *The Daily Sun* would send quotes to the person to be approved before printing which helped a bit with decreasing misrepresentation.

B. UA Update

S. Jenks explained at the UA meeting on December 2, 2014 the topic of making Cornell a tobacco free campus was brought up. The request for this came directly from President Skorton. S. Jenks said the topic will be discussed more in the spring but the EA should begin to look into it as many employees could be affected by this topic. G. Giambattista added that the topic of divestment was again brought up and is being re-examined by the CIC.

C. Ferguson informed the EA at the CJC has been discussing the notice procedures, including examining staff's ability to participate in protests.

C. Transportation Advisory task force

G. Mezey explained the structure of the task force, which is that of a recommending body, and, as such, they will not be creating policy.

D. President Climate Action Summit

BJ Siasoco reported on the Sustainability Summit. An influential part of the event was the break out session that separated groups based on topics. He attended the Sustainability in Staff Performance break out session and will be uploading notes to the EA Dropbox. Other topics included Green Office and Lab, Sustainability Education, Energy conservation initiatives travel offset, etc. For more information on the topic of sustainability please visit: <http://www.sustainablecampus.cornell.edu/initiatives/climate-action-plan>.

V. Business of the Day

A. Structure Discussion

G. Mezey explained the goal of the EA is to begin a charter review in the spring. He then gave the floor to BJ Siasoco to lead the discussion on structure changes. BJ Siasoco gave a brief presentation on the current structure of the EA. There are nineteen EA seats filled with employees across campus. He then proposed three questions for the EA to consider moving forward: 1. How should representation be divided and what organizational groups should we consider? 2. Are there any groups not covered? 3. How do we get participation? The EA then went into a discussion about these questions.

BJ Siasoco wrapped up the discussion by asking what information is lacking that members would like to have in order to discuss the topic more in depth. B. Esty said population density as well as geographic location would be good to know especially if the EA is considering creating zones for each representative.

BJ Siasoco asked if there were any topics the EA would like to pursue at the December 18th meeting to please send him or G. Mezey an email.

VI. Adjournment

C. Ferguson moved to adjourn the meeting. M. Stefanski Seymour seconded and the Employee Assembly meeting of December 3, 2014 was adjourned at 1:32pm.