

Agenda – December 5, 2014
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 3:05pm

Members present: S. Ali Khan, B. Bacharach, S. Balik, J. Batista, M. Chak, J. Fridman, M. Henderson, e. Johnston, G. Kaufman, D. Li, E. Liu, L. Liu, M. Masson, M. Stefanko, S. Tayal, P. Titcomb, D. Vakili, L. Wershaw, F. Yang, A. Zhou

Members excused tardy: Y. Bhandari, L. Goldman

Members excused: B. Brown, V. Kejariwal, R. Raglin

II. Announcements/Reports

EPC Announcement– J. Fridman

J. Fridman is the undergraduate representative on the Educational Policy Committee. They passed Resolution 8 regarding mental health information on course syllabi. An issue they discussed was the number of prelim conflicts on Tuesday and Thursday evenings during the semester. They will be opening up Mondays and Wednesdays for prelims and decreasing the number of unplanned evening prelims and evening prelims in non-problem solving classes (those should be held in class). Study period will not see changes until 2017 and they are also working on the placement of February break.

III. Business of the Day

R.31: Developing an International Students Union – M. Stefanko, S. Tayal, Chanida Susumpow, and Binoy Jhaveri

They thanked assembly members for their comments yesterday.

E. Johnston asked how the relationship between the ISU and the new VP of Diversity and Inclusion will be maintained. Response: The VP is really only a liaison, and will keep in touch with ISU in case any resolutions or comments need to be brought to the SA.

L. Wershaw asked what the timeline would be for the ISU. Response: The hope is to be solid by the next school year.

Call to question, seconded, dissent expressed: there are still opinions to hear and questions to answer. Vote to vote: 9-8-1, continue to voting. **Resolution 31 passed by a vote of 16-1-1.**

Motion to suspend the rules and move R.36 up on the agenda, no second.

Motion to suspend the rules and move R.33 up on the agenda, seconded, approved.

R.33: Bias Incident Accountability – P. Titcomb and D. Li

This resolution seeks to address how Cornell administration responds to bias reporting. There has been some victim-blaming by the administration. The resolution asks for those subjected to bias incidents to complete an anonymous form of their own volition to evaluate the administration's (including CUPD, the Office of the JA, and OADI) handling of their case.

B. Bacharach asked what the next steps would be. Response: They will be collaborating with different groups on campus (eg: Greek system).

Motion to amend line 7: prepend: "Whereas, students of diverse backgrounds, including but not limited to", **seconded, approved by a vote of 18-0-0.**

Motion to move to Business of the Day, seconded, approved by 19-0-0.

J. Batista asked what the form would look like.

M. Chak asked what the sub group will look like in SACIDI. How will this be publicized? Response: They will be working with many groups to increase awareness. There is a current subgroup within SACIDI that handles bias incidents, and they will definitely make accommodations to anyone community member that wants to be involved.

L. Liu asked if this resolution moves to improve bias response. Response: Yes – the hope is to make people more aware of this and to improve responses.

Y. Bhandari stated that a big difficulty in the process is determining who to actually report to. She asked if the resolution would address the reporting itself to help alleviate this.

Call to question, seconded, dissent expressed: there are many helpful things that can be added. Vote to vote: 10-8-1, continue to voting, **approved by a vote of 21-0-1.** SA vote: 19-0-1. Community vote: 3-0-1 contributes 2-0-0.

R.32: Appending the Referenda Process – J. Batista and D. Vakili

Motion to amend: Line 61, after "hold the referendum." Add: "The vote will also make the provision for two collective community votes.", **seconded, approved by unanimous consent.**

M. Henderson stated that it doesn't make sense to have 4 different times for a referendum to be submitted. He also recommends using the word 'poll' instead of 'referendum'. Response: This is modeled after peer institutions, that do call it a referendum. The term also adds a bit more clout.

Motion to amend: Line 87 to change 24 to 36, **seconded, dissent expressed:** would like discussion to be had. Vote to vote: ,continue to vote, **approved by a vote of 14-1-2.**

P. Titcomb mentioned a concern that since NetIDs are public on People Search, they should ask for student ID numbers instead.

Motion to amend: line 44, replace NetID with Student ID number. Line 49, replace NetIDs with Student ID numbers.

B. Murphy: The Office of the Assemblies has talked to the appropriate parties and if this were to be done with student IDs, then the administration would turn it down because of privacy issues with the ID number. The Office is very much in support of how the sponsors have constructed the resolution.

Call to question on the amendment, seconded, failed by a vote of 2-16-1.

E. Johnston stated her support for the resolution. Having multiple periods per semester is a good idea since many things come up, and it's a good idea to keep the term at 'referendum'.

Y. Bhandari asked if there would be screening of questions. Response: Yes, that's why it has to be voted on by the SA first.

Motion to table until first Spring meeting, seconded, approved by a vote of 17-0-0.

Motion to suspend the rules and discuss R.36, seconded, approved by a vote of 17-0-0.

R.36: Divestment from Coal: Towards a Sustainable Endowment – E. Johnston, Alex Ilich, and Cole Norgaarden

Cornell does not invest in coal anymore – the resolution calls for Cornell to refrain from investment in coal in the future, and that it be publicized to the community.

M. Henderson asked if they talked to the administration and relevant parties regarding future investments. Response: They've sat in on a few meetings where it was stated that coal is not a smart investment anymore and there is no plan for it in the future.

L. Wershaw asked about the concreteness of the 2035 date. Response: That is the date that the school published by which they would be carbon neutral.

M. Battaglia mentioned a concern that this resolution ties the hands of the investment office. Most students concerns regarding the endowment is the ability to keep tuition low. If coal does become profitable in the future, then it might be good to keep that option open for the sake of profitable

investment. Response: They don't anticipate coal to be profitable, and they are following the example of many other universities.

L. Liu on behalf of S. Ali Khan: The Student Assembly should not be spending its time voting on political initiatives.

Motion to table until next semester, seconded, approved by a vote of 14-3-1.

Motion to adjourn, seconded, dissent expressed: there is another resolution that has yet to be presented, **adjourned by a vote of 9-5-1.**

S. Balik adjourned the meeting at 5:11pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Chelsea Cheng