

Minutes – February 5, 2015
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 4:47pm.

Members present: S. Ali Khan, B. Bacharach, s. Balik, J. Batista, Y. Bhandari, B. Brown, J. Fridman, L. Goldman, E. Johnston, G. Kaufman, M. La Pointe, D. Li, E. Liu, L. Liu, M. Masson, J. Selig, M. Stefanko, S. Tayal, P. Titcomb, D. Vakili, L. Wershaw, F. Yang, A. Zhou

Members excused: M. Chak, M. Henderson, R. Raglin, B. Sullivan

II. Open Microphone

None

III. Announcements and Reports

Open Course Evaluations Announcement – J. Fridman

In discussion with colleges – each has their own power to oversee their own evaluations. There's a white paper coming out about the issue, discussing the blindness of course selection at Cornell and models from other universities.

Community Life Committee and Arts Announcement – E. Johnston

New student council, similar to the one they have in the ILR school, meeting tomorrow. Safety survey was created to address accidents.

North Campus Study Space Report – E. Liu

They will promote the study space in Appel during orientation so that more students will be made aware of it. Right now it's difficult since it's already halfway through the school year.

Pink the Rink Announcement – L. Liu

Seeks to raise money for the Cancer Resource Center. \$3K has already been raised.

AIDS Week Announcement – J. Batista

Condom Couture Fashion Show tomorrow night at Alpha Delta Pi fraternity.

IV. President Skorton and Dean Hubbell

M. Stefanko had questions regarding the student health fee to be introduced in the fall: where will the \$350 be spent and is something else being increased as well to financially balance the fee (eg: financial

aid)? He also commented that it feels yet again that a decision was made before interested parties were notified, thus leaving them out of the conversation. Response: The \$350 will be completely spent on health services. The balance exists in the purpose of the fee: the one time payment will severely reduce the cost of visits to Gannett throughout the year. They apologized for the lateness of transparency, but felt it was a decision that had to be made.

J. Fridman mentioned that last semester during finals, there were students that said they were unable to secure appointments with Gannett. Will the student health fee go towards ensuring that that situation won't happen again? Response: That is a very serious concern and they would like to follow up on specifics afterwards. There's no guarantee that the fee will solve the issue, but hopefully it will move towards it.

A community members asked how much of the fee will go towards covering a deficit at Gannett that was the result of an administrative decision from years ago. Response: They don't have exact numbers, but will provide it to S. Balik as soon as possible so that she can make it public.

V. Business of the Day

Motion to move discussion on R.36 to the bottom of the agenda, **seconded, approved by unanimous consent**

R.44: Changes to SAFC Guidelines – M. Stefanko

Clarified dates and deadlines, set the efficiency spending percentage to 85%, clarified a rule in prohibited expenses, and improved questions in performance tier application

Call to question, seconded, approved by a vote of 20-1-0.

VI. New Business

R.42: February Break Services – J. Batista, Y. Bhandari, M. La Pointe, J. Selig, E. Liu

Created in response to student concerns for study, gym, and dining hours over February break.

Motion to amend, line 34 to read: "...late night offerings. The library is encouraged to have a convenient location open to all students at 16 hours of the day from any residential area."

P. Titcomb asked for clarification on the last phrase of the amendment. Response: Basically, they would be requesting that a library on central be open since that is a convenient location for many people.

Call to question on the amendment, seconded, approved by a vote of 21-0-1.

L. Goldman if information will be disseminated to places other than residence halls. Response: That is a great idea, and if there are suggestions for how to efficiently do that, they will gladly consider them.

Motion to move to Business of the Day, seconded, approved by a vote of 17-0-0.

Motion to amend line 41 to read: "...Residential Programs, the Student Assembly newsletter, and the Off-Campus Housing newsletter.

Call to question on the amendment, seconded, approved by a vote of 19-0-1.

Motion to amend: add a 2nd to last clause: "Be it further resolved, that the Student Assembly encourages Cornell Communications provides information about operating February Break library, dining, and residential life services through electronic means, which all undergraduate students have access to.

Call to question on the amendment, seconded, not approved by a vote of 6-7-6.

Call to question on the resolution, seconded, dissent expressed: the resolution merits more discussion. Vote to vote: 11-9-0, continue to vote, **approved by a vote of 19-3-2.** (SA vote: 17-3-2. Community vote: 7-0-1, contributes 2-0-0)

S. Balik adjourned the meeting at 6:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Chelsea Cheng