

**Minutes – March 12, 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 4:45pm.

Members present: S. Ali Khan, S. Balik, J. Batista, Y. Bhandari, B. Brown, M. Chak, M. Henderson, E. Johnston, G. Kaufman, M. La Pointe, D. Li, E. Liu, L. Liu, M. Masson, D. Reese, J. Selig, M. Stefanko, B. Sullivan, S. Tayal, L. Wershaw, F. Yang

Members excused: B. Bacharach, J. Fridman, L. Goldman, P. Titcomb, A. Zhou

Members unexcused: D. Vakili

S. Balik led the new Minority Liaison at Large representative, Denzale Reese, in the Oath of Office.

**II. Open Microphone**

F. Yang addressed the audience, asking people to contact him if they were interested in working with him on the Financial Aid Review Committee

M. Chak asked for members to contact her if they were interested in working on her safety platform.

**III. Approval of the March 5, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Minutes approved by unanimous consent.

**IV. Announcements and Reports**

**Five Days of Five Announcement – Dining Committee Chair Moffat**

For national nutrition month, working with Cornell dining to host the five days of five eating pledge. Participants pledge to eat 5 servings of fruits and vegetables for all 5 days. Counted over 2000 pledges. They are also receiving submissions for the best food and vegetable recipes – there will be a free tasting of the top 8 on Wednesday 3/25.

**FARC Announcement – F. Yang**

Asked members to contact him if they want to be involved, especially in regards to internships.

**Ivy Council Announcement – J. Batista**

Created a report that includes interesting potential projects, and the structure of other school's student governments. There are 10 schools involved and there is a lot of collaborative work going on. Encourages members to check out the report.

## **V. Business of the Day**

### **R.49: 2015 SAFC Allocation Appeals – M. Stefanko**

SAFC Allowed options within the Charter and Bylaws:

- 1) Accept the resolution and the groups do not receive funding
- 2) Reject the resolution
  - a. Goes back to the SAFC and the co-chairs discuss it, assess that they did not err (in that the approval signatures did not appear by the deadline), bring it back to the Appropriations Committee, bring it back to the SA, nothing changes.
  - b. Goes back to the SAFC, change the guidelines, then have the Appropriations Committee re-evaluate based on those guidelines.
- 3) Ignore the charter and bylaws in order to grant funding, get approval from President Skorton and legal counsel.

Members of appealing organizations stated their support for options 2 and 3. They understand that changes won't be immediate, but they ask that the SA be accommodating. It was also mentioned that the SAFC admitted to making mistakes themselves and that they, as a student organization, should also hold the groups requesting funding to the same standard that they hold themselves.

M. Battaglia, M. Masson, and S. Tayal stated that the Student Assembly can't do much without compromising its integrity, and that the best way to go will be to find alternative sources of funding for the affected student groups (for example: SA special project funding). M. Masson said that he will be a part of amending the rules for the future.

Cameron stated that the SAFC does do a great job, but the specific guideline regarding advisor signatures has consistently caused problems for many organizations and he requests that the SAFC and the SA look into changing that to make a more streamlined process.

S. Ali Khan stated that the SA shouldn't set the precedent of using Special Projects Funding to help these organizations. That fund should be reserved for its intended purpose of special projects. However, he does support helping organizations find other sources of funding and that the guidelines should be adjusted.

**Call to question on the resolution, seconded, approved by a vote of 16-0-2.**

### **R.50: 2015 2<sup>nd</sup> SAFC Allocation Appeals – M. Stefanko**

Hawaii Club and Cornell Democrats appealed to the Appropriations Committee. The SAFC rejected funding for Hawaii Club's requests for durable goods items, and the Appropriations Committee decided

tha the SAFC erred. The Appropriations Committee believed that the SAFC erred in denying funding to the Cornell Democrats, but did agree with denying funding for a specific event: the CDNY Conference.

**Call to question on the resolution, seconded, approved by a vote of 14-0-1.**

**Motion to suspend the agenda and discuss R.47 before R.46, granted by the chair**

**R.47: Attendance Policy Charter Changes – M. Henderson**

Basically the same resolution as the one past in December last semester.

**Motion to move to Business of the Day, seconded, approved by a vote of 15-0-0.**

**Call to question on the resolution, seconded,** the Chair decided to table the resolution until the following week as there aren't enough SA members present to fulfill the 2/3 requirement to pass a charter change.

**R.46: Opposing the Health Fee – Y. Bhandari, E. Johnston**

S. Tayal mentioned that the Cornell requires SHIP of is international students.

**Motion to amend:**

**First amendment:**

Insert as a final "Whereas" clause: "Whereas, international students have been required since 2014 to compulsory enrollment of Student Health Insurance plan (SHIP), thereby severely restricting the insurance options available to them."

Insert after the last "be it further resolved" clause: "Be it further resolved that the Student Assembly recommends that the Cornell University Administration reconsider its decision to make SHIP mandatory for international students, especially in cases wherein international students have comprehensive insurance plans, which meet the requirements of Cornell University Office of Student Health Insurance."

**Second amendment:**

Insert before the "be it finally resolved clause": "Be it further resolved, if the fee is to be implemented, the Administration should create a Student Health Fee Advisory Committee composed of students and administration to help make decisions regarding the fee, to discuss further changes to the fee, and to decide on additional services that will be provided as a benefit of the additional fee;

Be it further resolved, when the debt that has been absolved, the fee be reevaluated and adjusted;"

**end proposed amendments**

F. Yang recommended that the amendments be split into two as they seem to be about different issues: the health fee versus the health care system. M. Masson agreed.

**Motion to approve the first amendment, seconded, approved by a vote of 15-2-0.**

**Motion to approve the second amendment, seconded, approved by a vote of 15-1-1.**

**Motion to amend:** delete lines 9 and 10 as they are unnecessary attacks on the administration.

**Call to question on the amendment, seconded, dissent expressed, amendment approved by a vote of 12-3-1.**

L. Liu mentioned that lines 13-14 seem contentious, just like lines 9 and 10 that were just deleted. E. Johnston said that she talked to the members that were present at meetings with the administration and that the contentious lines were truthful. The resolution has a clause that states willingness to work with the administration, but it is also trying to make a statement and people shouldn't be afraid to state their opinions.

L. Wershaw agrees with everything in the resolution, but doesn't see President Skorton approving it or any changes coming from it.

**Call to question on the resolution, seconded, approved by a vote of 17-0-0.** (SA vote: 15-0-0, Community vote: 8-2-2 contributes 2-0-0)

## **VI. New Business**

### **R.48: Reaffirming the Important of Performing Arts at Cornell – J. Batista**

J. Batista directed members' attention to lines 48-50, that states that the SA will partner with the Schwartz Ambassadors to facilitate more student initiated projects (eg: Popshop)

F. Yang and M. Battaglia stated their support of the resolution.

S. Balk adjourned the meeting at 6:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chelsea Cheng