

Minutes – March 29, 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, B. Bacharach, S. Balik, J. Batista, Y. Bhandari, B. Brown, M. Chak, J. Fridman, L. Goldman, M. Henderson, E. Johnston, G. Kaufman, M. LaPointe, D. Li, E. Liu, L. Liu, M. Masson, J. Selig, M. Stefanko, B. Sullivan, S. Tayal, P. Titcomb, L. Wershaw, A. Zhou

Members excused: D. Reese, D. Vakili, F. Yang

II. Open Microphone

Olivia (President of ALANA): \$116K for this bureaucratic role rather than being spent on resources. The position will be given a raise and expanded.

Ross Gitlin encouraged SA members to publicize the Student Trustee election.

III. Approval of the March 12, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Minutes approved by unanimous consent

IV. Announcements and Reports

Organizational Spotlight – L. Wershaw

SPLASH - a one day event where high schoolers and middle schoolers come to Cornell's campus to learn. Their second event will be on 4/18. She congratulated J. Fridman on his efforts.

Know the Power of Your Words Announcement – Y. Bhandari

Event meant to break down barriers between communities. To be held May 5 in G10 Biotech.

Appropriations Committee Reports - M. Stefanko

None this week

University Assembly Announcement – M. Battaglia

The UA will be discussing R.6 regarding fossil fuels. S. Balik will be proposing several resolutions from the CJC regarding a student Bill of Rights.

Open Course Evaluations Announcement – J. Fridman

After some more discussion, it was decided that there was no reason not to move forward with this initiative, so they will be creating an open course evaluation system soon.

Elections Announcement – K. Aniket

The 2015 Spring SA and University Assembly elections just ended. A little over 4,000 votes were casted. He thanked everyone involved.

V. Business of the Day

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

Call to question on the resolution, seconded, approved by a vote of 22-0-1.

R.48: Reaffirming the Importance of Performing Arts at Cornell – J. Batista

It's been about 5 years since ~\$1 million was cut from the budget of the Department of Performing and Media Arts (that came out of salaries) and a result is a decrease (near disappearance) of student events and interaction with the Schwartz center. The resolution is meant to bring this knowledge to the highest levels of the administration and to try and create an avenue to move forward.

M. Stefanko asked if any progress could be made if no funds are available. He also stated a slight concern that the composition is slanted towards people in PMA. Response: At the very least an attitude change needs to happen. In terms of the composition, while it is a bit slanted, there is a concern that people not in PMA might not understand what's going on.

B. Brown asked what steps the task force would take. Response: the 4 main fronts will be looking into Collegetown relations, programming by PMA, programs in Schwartz, and what the future vision is.

Motion to amend: Line 68 to read: "Four undergraduate students, including 2 PMA majors and 2 non-PMA majors involved in Department activities" and at the end of line 76: "a non-Cornell 4th ward resident"

Call to question on the amendment, seconded, approved by a vote of 24-0-0.

Motion to amend: line 67 to read: "force consisting of at least the following:"

Call to question on the amendment, seconded, approved by a vote of 23-0-1.

Call to question on the resolution, seconded, approved by a vote of 25-0-0.(SA vote: 23-0-0, Community vote: 6-0-0 contributes 2-0-0)

VI. New Business

R.51: Cornell's Inter-college Global Affairs Major – E. Johnston and S. Tayal

There is already an International Relations minor and this resolution asks for the creation of an Inter-college Global Affairs Major. This would be the most accentuated form of this major across Ivy Leagues, which is very exciting.

There is already a committee formed looking into this and alumni have expressed interest and potential funding support. Main goals are to make this major interdisciplinary and a secondary major.

L. Goldman asked which colleges this would be open to. Response: Right now, the “critical mass” is seen in the College of Arts and Sciences and CALS so the major will initially only be open in those places. However, it will ideally be available to all colleges in the near future.

Motion to move to Business of the Day, seconded, moved by a majority vote.

M. Masson stated that he felt ILR should be involved in the discussion since they have a lot of internationally focused programs.

B. Brown asked if the major is just another form of the International Relations minor or if there is more to it. Response: It will definitely be more in depth.

Motion to amend: strike “Bachelor of arts” in line 44.

Call to question on the amendment, seconded, approved by a vote of 22-1-0

Motion to amend: the following grammar errors:

Line 13: comma after economics

Line 16: “I would found”

Line 17: “can find instruction”

Line 17: comma after study

Line 24: ‘and’ before “New York University”

Line 24: comma after “New York University”

Line 25: insert “in” between “or” and “an”

Line 34: strike “had”

Line 35: replace “which submitted its report” with “and chaired a report submitted by the committee”

Line 38: insert “and” before “Barry Strauss”

Line 46: eliminate comma after “affairs”

Lines 55-56: replace semicolons with commas

Line 60: delete comma after “major”

Line 64: delete commas after “include” and “composition”

Line 69: insert "and" before Interim

Line 70: insert "to" before underscore

Line 71: comma after "major" and "to" between "and" and "expedite"

Call to question on the amendment, seconded, approved by a vote of 20-0-1

Call to question on the resolution, seconded, approved by a vote of 25-0-0. (SA vote: 23-0-0, Community vote 5-0-1 contributes 2-0-0).

S. Balik adjourned the meeting at 6:08pm.

Respectively submitted,
Chelsea Cheng