



Minutes
University Assembly
Tuesday, January 28, 2014
4:30 – 6:00 p.m.
316 Day Hall

I. Call to Order

J. Blair called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Attendance:

Present: R. Adessa, S. Balik, J. Blair, N. LaCelle, M. Lukasiewicz, C. McGrath, A. Moore, G. Ruizcalderon, B. Schaffner, U. Smith, R. Wayne

Absent: R. Booker, D. Bunck, J. Burns, M. Dumas, E. Loew, G. Mezey

Others Present: D. Howe, B. Kuo, K. Page, K. Zoner, G. Giambattista, A. O'Donnell

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the December 3, 2013 meeting of the assembly were approved by unanimous consent.

III. Reports from Assemblies

Student Assembly

U. Smith reported that the byline funding cycle has completed and that the related fee will be voted on the day following this meeting. He also noted that a resolution that would require staff to take the Respect at Cornell training failed. Lastly, the Student Assembly is considering how they will direct the proceeds of their endowment.

Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

A. Moore reported that the GPSA recently introduced a resolution in support of University divestment from fossil fuel related holdings. He expects the resolution will be voted on at their next meeting.

Employee Assembly

B. Schaffner reported that the EA has been working to increase participation in self-governance. Additionally, she noted that they are trying to understand why upwards of 60% of positions are filled by outside hires. Finally, the EA continues to work to increase the representation of those who are currently constituents of neither the EA nor the FS. A new assembly to cover these individuals was considered but is not likely to be implemented. J. Burns added that there have been discussions with senior staff regarding this topic and that another possibility is to include representatives of the as yet unrepresented to either the FS or the EA.

Faculty Senate

J. Burns reported that the Financial Policy Committee thought the Start Up NY proposal was reasonable but the lack of faculty involved in its oversight caused concern. Also,

there will be a forum later this semester to discuss strategies for developing guidelines to use when working with institutions in other countries. These institutions may observe different ethical standards, freedoms, and customs than Cornell. He also said the senate would be looking into distance learning.

IV. Reports from Committees

Executive Committee

J. Blair announced that President Skorton accepted R2 Resolution to Make Bylaw Changes Regarding Establishment of Policy Advisory Group Liaison. R3 Bylaw Change Reflecting Disassociation of Public Safety Advisory Committee from the University Assembly was returned by Skorton due to factual errors. The errors will be simple to fix.

Campus Infrastructure Committee

G. Ruizcalderon discussed the plan housing website that would allow for ratings of landlords and overall experiences to be available to future tenants. J. Blair expressed some support for the plan and asked for an update by February 10 from the committee. This way, people from the appropriate areas of the university can provide the maintenance and moderation support required to keep the website running.

Campus Welfare Committee

A. Moore reported that the committee would be talking about its previous panel discussion.

Codes and Judicial Committee

R. Wayne reported that two resolutions would be discussed in today's meeting. The UA intends to vote on R4, Resolution to Modify Campus Code to Disclose Misconduct of University Registered Organizations by the end of the meeting. R5, Resolution to Clarify Responsible Free Expression in the Campus Code of Conduct, is to be introduced in this meeting and voted on at the next meeting.

Policy Advisory Group Liaison

E. Loew submitted a report in absentia. There is nothing to report because there has been no meeting since the most preceding UA meeting.

V. Old Business

R4, Resolution to Modify Campus Code to Disclose Misconduct of University Registered Organizations

J. Blair gave a summary of the resolution and its purpose. G. Giambattista offered two minor changes. These were incorporated as friendly amendments. U. Smith pointed out that Ezra's Army is a point of contention regarding the scope of this resolution. J. Blair admitted that there exists a grey area should Ezra's Army be solely charged with misconduct. However, the athletics department's actions are covered under the resolution.

R. Wayne discussed the phrase "or advisable" which was struck from the resolution by the CJC. He offered that the phrase be returned to the resolution to ensure President

Skorton's approval. M. Lukasiewicz stated that the resolution should be voted on as-is, leaving it up to Skorton to approve or deny based on the language preferred by the members of the UA. J. Blair asked for those in favor of ending debate on the resolution. All were in favor. J. Blair proceeded to request a motion to vote. B. Schaffner made the motion and A. Moore seconded it. The resolution passed by a vote of 11 in favor, 0 against, and 1 abstaining.

VI. Business of the Day

Presentation and Q&A on Transportation

B. Kuo gave a presentation that served as an overview of the transportation situation. He spoke about issues with TCAT passes and the actual fares being received, especially from student riders. He also reported that TCAT recently insourced its drivers, as opposed to the previous arrangement which involved drivers being provided from an outside company. Additionally, he said parking areas are going to begin incorporating more advanced payment technology, allowing customers to pay by phone call, text message, or via a mobile application. Further, consideration of non-vehicular transportation including cyclists and pedestrian as well as the interface with the downtown area is becoming increasingly prevalent. He also discussed parking rate transitions meant to simplify the pricing system by eliminating some permit types. He announced a 1.7% increase to all parking rates.

D. Howe stated that the TCAT system was the top ranked system among those with fewer than four million riders annually. He noted that TCAT has not raised the prices for the university in several years and that the current price paid is less than a dollar per ride. They would like this to increase to \$1 per ride. D. Howe also expressed an interest in meeting with the CIC to discuss ways to make up a roughly \$700,000 shortfall. To give an idea of scale to the shortfall, D. Howe said eliminating free rides for first year students would close the hole. As another route to the same goal, the annual bus pass fee would have to more than double to cover the same gap.

N. LaCelle offered the idea of a transportation system that is free within the campus, but requires a fare to be paid to leave campus. A. Moore asked if studies have been done to see how people use the free first year student rides. D. Howe responded that they do not have the technology to do such a study.

U. Smith offered that increasing the OmniRide fee is not a terrible alternative because such an expense can be used to request a budget increase regarding financial aid considerations. He added that people cannot track the buses as well as they would like to and that fitting the bus to a personal schedule could be unreliable.

D. Howe and B. Kuo responded by saying various improvements are being investigated, including time-to-arrival clocks at bus stops. These improvements are limited by cost.

J. Blair asked for consent to refer this issue to the CIC with a report due to the assembly at the February meeting. There were no objections. J. Blair also suggested that the other assemblies be made aware of these issues.

VII. New Business

R5, Resolution to Clarify Responsible Free Expression in the Campus Code of Conduct

J. Blair recounted a summary of the history of the resolution and the issues previous drafts have faced. As the acting chair of the CJC, R. Wayne expressed gratitude for the work that G. Mezey did as chair of the CJC for a year and a half and noted that he ensured the process of creating and discussing resolutions was fair and efficient.

R. Wayne stated that the contentious portion of the resolution was that which suggested informing authorities of events through the use of the Use of University Property form even when not required.

K. Zoner noted that the police elevate their concern and their actions when groups do not cooperate with them to change the tone of an event. R. Adessa offered that the phrase, “requires the respect for the rights of others” addresses this issue. K. Zoner agreed, adding that some groups do not respect rules and laws. The police attempts to manage events for the purpose of protecting public safety and the rights of all individuals.

R. Wayne read the resolved clauses of the resolution and noted the major changes.

J. Blair accepted the CJC report and put the resolution on the agenda for possible voting at the next meeting. He also stated that the resolution would be posted publicly for comment before the next meeting.

J. Blair announced that the next meeting of the UA would be held on February 25, 2014. President Skorton will be visiting and the UA will also hear annual reports from the CUPD and the Ombudsman. Materials for the meeting are due February 10.

VIII. Adjournment

J. Blair adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Noah Wegener
Assemblies Clerk