



**Minutes**  
**University Assembly**  
**Tuesday, March 25, 2014**  
**4:30 – 6:00 p.m.**  
**401 Physical Sciences Bldg.**

**I. Call to Order**

J. Blair called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Attendance:

Present: R. Adessa, S. Balik, J. Blair, R. Booker, D. Bunck, J. Burns, M. Lukasiewicz, C. McGrath, G. Mezey, A. Moore, G. Ruizcalderon, B. Schaffner, U. Smith, R. Wayne

Absent: M. Dumas, N. La Celle, E. Loew

Others Present: G. Giambattista, D. Howe, B. Kuo, K. Page

**II. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the February 25, 2014 and March 11, 2014 meetings of the assembly were approved by unanimous consent.

**III. Old Business**

*Vote on Updated Resolution 3: Bylaw Change Reflecting Disassociation of Public Safety Advisory Committee from the University Assembly*

D. Bunck introduced the resolution reminding members that the assembly had already passed a resolution with similar intentions that was returned by President Skorton due to some errors of fact regarding the names and duties of two committees that had been reorganized over the summer. This resolution corrected those errors. The assembly voted to approve the resolution.

*R11: Improving Transparency and Increasing Publicity of Toward New Destinations Progress and Campus Climate Research*

A. Moore introduced this resolution as a follow up to the discussion in December. The resolution calls for the university diversity officers to be invited to the UA each year. It also requests that any campus climate survey results be made public. Additionally, the resolution encourages the communication of actions taken by units and departments to comply with the Toward New Destinations standards. The resolution was entered for a vote at the April 22 meeting.

*R10: Investigating an Open Access Policy for Cornell*

Visitors gave a short presentation regarding the topics of the resolution, noting that the policies advocated in the resolution would allow for scholarly work from Cornell to be more effectively and equitably distributed. In addition to taking part in a worldwide shift toward providing unrestricted access to such works, this system would provide other benefits like creating a simple way to determine the number of papers the university generates in a year. This resolution looks to create a committee to address the feasibility of such an undertaking. B. Schaffner asked about the current arrangement many journals use, where users must pay to access articles. She wanted to know to whom the fee goes. The fee goes to the publishers. C. McGrath asked about the

publishers' stance on this. Clearly, for profit publishers dislike the idea, but many institutions have enacted similar policies and have not been met with any increased difficulty publishing. The resolution was entered for a vote at the April 22 meeting.

*R14: Addressing the TCAT deficit*

G. Ruizcalderon introduced the resolution. It seeks to meet both TCAT's and Cornell's financial needs while causing the least problematic reductions possible. Because Cornell would not increase their subsidy for bus transportation, the UA Campus Infrastructure Committee and TCAT ultimately decided to offer the elimination of free first year bus rides as a workable solution. Bus passes would be sold to these students at the same discounted rate as all other students. B. Schaffner asked what kind of demand was expected after the change. D. Howe said they modeled demand after the rate at which older (non-first year) students currently buy passes. There is a possibility that, due to their geographic concentration, freshmen may even purchase passes in greater numbers than this predicts. G. Giambattista suggested that the number of passes sold to first year students depends on how the pass is marketed to them. If it is presented as one of several steps when enrolling, not unlike signing up for a meal plan, more will be sold. A. Moore confirmed that this change would not affect the free night and weekend service. TCAT recognizes a safety concern for these times and will continue the free service. A. Moore further asked if there was any consideration given to keeping the free pass for graduate students because they tend to live relatively far from campus. B. Kuo said that this is not an option as TCAT does not differentiate beyond the student classification.

S. Balik brought up concerns about people who cannot afford to pay for the annual pass. G. Ruizcalderon reminded everyone that this decision was not well liked, but rather is a financial necessity. D. Howe suggested that the nights and weekends trips can be used for necessary errands. M. Lukasiewicz asked if the committee had considered giving freshmen a few free rides for emergency situations or if the university could reimburse students for a small number of pay per ride fares. B. Kuo said this would be difficult to implement. D. Howe added that it would be better to return to this in a year armed with data on how the new system works.

R. Booker asked about the more popular rides and routes. He suggested the a preferred route could cost more than others. He also suggested that bus services be subsidized by the student activity fee. B. Kuo reminded members that rides are heavily subsidized as it is. D. Bunck had concerns about the reversibility of the actions proposed in the resolution in the case the new pricing is unsuccessful. B. Kuo said it is not hard to reverse, although determining who is a first year student is a nontrivial task each year with the current system. B. Schaffner asked about state aid. D. Howe explained that TCAT receives forty cents per ride from the state. A visitor asked for an explanation for Cornell's refusal to increase the funding for TCAT. J. Blair explained the lack of room in the budget. G. Giambattista offered a historical perspective, recalling that the free first year passes have not always been offered. The resolution was entered for a vote at the April 22 meeting.

*R12: Updated Resolution to Modify Campus Code to Clarify the Rights of Complainants to Appeal Summary Decision Agreements*

G. Mezey offered a brief overview of the contents of this resolution. It deals in part with how the Office of the Judicial Administrator handles workflow. More significantly, the resolution offers

guidelines that describe the limited appeal rights of institutional complainants. The resolution was entered for a vote at the April 22 meeting.

*R13: Updated Resolution to Transfer Title IX Cases to Cornell University Policy 6.4*

G. Mezey quickly introduced this resolution. It makes some language changes in the code for the purpose of clarifying and aligning with Policy 6.4. The resolution was entered for a vote at the April 22 meeting.

*Update on UA Review of Faculty Senate Resolution on Carbon Neutrality and Divestment*

J. Blair noted that he has begun to prepare a list of guests to invite to speak at the April 8 meeting. There is little else on the agenda for that meeting.

#### **IV. Reports from Assemblies**

*Student Assembly*

S. Balik reported that the SA passed a Toward New Destinations resolution. They also approved the creation of a judicial commission. The SA will be hearing a resolution regarding their endowment and will also be hosting a Cornell Caring Community event called “Breaking the Silence.” The program is meant to facilitate a constructive dialogue around topics relating to bias and sexual issues.

*Graduate and Professional Student Assembly*

D. Bunck reported that the GPSA held its annual dine and discuss event. Topics of conversation included workers’ compensation and the lack of a pay increase for research assistants.

*Employee Assembly*

B. Schaffner reported that the EA heard a presentation on carbon neutrality and divestment. They also approved a new member. Two awards will be opening for nominations soon.

*Faculty Senate*

J. Burns reported having a long conversation with President Skorton about his last 15 months at Cornell. The Senate also recognized the complaints about the new academic calendar. They also proposed the new titles of Research Professor and Professor of the Practice. They also discussed faculty salaries.

#### **V. Committee Updates**

*Executive Committee*

J. Blair reported that President Skorton approved R4. He also announced the selection of the Judicial Codes Councilor. This position will require the confirmation of the UA.

*Campus Infrastructure Committee*

G. Ruizcalderon reported that he has received many emails with suggestions regarding the TCAT predicament.

The Campus Welfare Committee, The Codes and Judicial Committee, and The Policy Advisory Group had no report.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

J. Blair announced that the next meeting would be held on April 8.

J. Blair adjourned the meeting at 5:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Noah Wegener  
Assemblies Clerk