

Minutes
University Assembly
Tuesday, February 24th, 2015
4:30pm - 6:00pm
401 Physical Science Bldg.

I. Call to Order

J. Blair called the meeting to order at 4:34 P.M.

Attendance:

Present: S. Balik, J. Batista, M. Battaglia, J. Bergfalk, C. Best, J. Blair, R. Booker, E. Johnston, N. La Celle, R. Walroth, R. Wayne

Absent: R. Adessa, J. Barnett, J. Burns, M. Hatch, E. Loew, C. McGrath, G. Mezey

Others Present: V. Bhaya, J. Fridman, G. Giambattista, A. Minikus, A. Wadhwa

J. Blair informed Members that due to scheduling confusion, Dr. Corson-Rikert would not be able to attend today's meeting as was originally published. Blair stated the miscommunication was his fault, not Dr. Corson-Rikerts, and that he would attempt to reschedule the presentation. In addition, Blair informed the Members that due to weather, Vice President Murphy's flight back to Ithaca had been delayed and so she also would not be able to attend today's meeting.

Call for Late Additions to the Agenda

Three items were requested by Members: Status of UA legislative agenda (J. Blair), Introduction of UA Resolution #4 – Faculty Advisor for the JCC's Office (M. Battaglia), and a concern regarding Open Course Evaluations (J. Fridman) added to Agenda.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Approved by unanimous consent.

III. Reports from Assemblies

Student Assembly

S. Balik reported that the SA has been discussing a resolution regarding access to services during February break. Resolutions on open course evaluations, health fee, and the transparency on part of administration regarding finances were also being worked on. She stated that petitions for elections would be due on Friday, and the election results would be known March 19.

Graduate & Professional Student Assembly

R. Walworth announced that the GPSA is looking to pass a new resolution on greater transparency as related to new fees. Founded new ad hoc community on sustainability.

Employee Assembly

G. Mezey was absent. G. Giambattista reported that the recognition awards deadline was on the upcoming Friday, and that registration for Charter Day activities was now open.

Faculty Senate

R. Booker reported that a new title for professors is being adopted, and the Law School and College of Human Ecology have all voted to adopt it. President-elect Garrett did not agree to a resolution to cancel classes on the day of the Presidential Inauguration. Booker said there was also a discussion about the open space policy. G. Giambattista suggested inviting Laura Brown and Judith Appleton to talk about Engage Cornell.

IV. Committee Updates

Executive Committee

J. Bergfalk was officially welcomed back onto the Assembly. M. Battaglia reported that the UA received a letter with 157 signatures from Katherine Leigh, Class of 2015, requesting UA support for divestment. Her letter was referred to the Campus Infrastructure Committee. S. Balik was appointed as the UA Representative on the Judicial Codes Counselor Search Committee for the 2016 academic year. J. Blair noted the number of absences at today's meeting and reiterated that active attendance and participation at UA meetings is expected.

Campus Infrastructure Committee

N. La Celle reported that a subcommittee was formed to evaluate the viability of a resolution dealing with divestment from fossil fuels. La Celle then mentioned the Campus Planning Committee (CPC) was about to meet to update their Charter. J. Blair added that the CPC is an Associate Committee of the UA. Their establishing documents are different from the current UA bylaws, and we are working with the CPC to reconcile the differences.

Campus Welfare Committee (CWC)

C. Best reported that CWC is anticipating a visit from University Diversity officers. Additionally, CWC has been plagued by attendance problems this year. At the second roundtable meeting, CWC talked about the information that Vice President Murphy's office shared about the student health fee, and at the first meeting, the members looked at the qualitative climate report. She is coordinating a panel to select a new logo for the University Diversity Office; 32 designs have been submitted.

Codes & Judicial Committee

R. Wayne reported that A. Minikus would be talking later in the meeting about a review of the Campus Code of Conduct and Policy 6.4.

V. Liaison Updates

Council of Sexual Violence Prevention (CSVP)

S. Balik reported on behalf of R. Adessa and said that CSVP talked about the role of domestic violence and ways to address domestic violence issues on campus. R. Booker said that the University may offer funds for research regarding sexual violence on campus.

Policy Advisory Group (PAG)

R. Wayne reported on behalf of E. Loew that the Department of Education had recently interpreted a law a certain way, and as a consequence, the PAG recently had to review a change to Policy 6.4 in order to ensure it was consistent with the Department of Education's interpretation. The discussion was about the wording of the policy to make it as consistent as possible.

VI. Business of the Day

UA Resolution #3: Response to the President's Request for "Limited, Voluntary Advance Notice."

R. Wayne said that Cornell allowing free speech is part of the Code, and that numerating what counts as disruptions is impossible. G Giambattista asked to strike lines 36-40. The amendment was passed. No public comments were received. The Resolution was carried with a vote of 8-1.

Judicial Codes Counselor (JCC) Update

The current JCC, A. Minikus, stated that the JCC is an office of four students who are hired to assist all members of the Cornell community typically accused of violating any of three major policies (Code of Conduct, Academic Integrity Policy, or University Policy 6.4). The JCC seeks to improve these policies. Minikus submitted that landlord-tenant problems also affect members of the community and sometimes in large numbers. The Good Samaritan policy exists so people can receive amnesty from their own misconduct but the policy is often misleading. The entity that would be responsible for the collection of policies could be a feedback mechanism for receiving recommendations.

S. Balik said that they are looking for a group of people to compile all the rights and responsibilities in one place. The Preamble to this Bill of Rights would have positive language.

J. Batista clarified that the documents already exist, but they just need to be centralized. A. Minikus stated that she is a proponent of having one process.

C. Best said that it seems that the role of JCC is to represent Cornell community members and asked if another organization would be in charge.

G. Giambattista recommended having an interaction with the Employee Assembly, saying that little bureaucracy is needed, but more resources are needed.

A. Minikus said that the priority is to get everything together and make someone responsible for it. She said to start small and then build on it in future years.

J. Batista claimed that this is a way to empower the shared governance system.

VII. Late Additions to the Agenda

R. Battaglia – U.A. Resolution #4

The resolution is a proposal to have a faculty advisor to the Office of the Judicial Codes Counselor. He reported that it was his understanding The Dean of Law School and Office of the

President support the appointment of a faculty advisor. J. Blair said this Resolution is just being introduced, so it will not be voted on until the next meeting. A. Minikus said to have an experienced attorney and mentor to turn to in legal matters would be very valuable. R. Walroth noted that to many graduate and professional students, a faculty advisor is, in effect, their boss. Walroth stressed that if this was not part of the intent of this resolution, then the duties of the faculty advisor should be clarified to ensure the faculty advisor is not expected to have direct authority over the JCC. A UA member noted the word 'tenured' was used and asked if that was intentional. J. Blair stated that it was intentional because when dealing with issues of campus discipline, especially related to defense, having a tenured faculty member avoided any potential issue of coercion being injected into the situation.

University Assembly Legislative Agenda Update

J. Blair reviewed the status of the legislative agenda adopted by UA Members back in September. He noted many items had been achieved, but there were still too many items left to accomplish in the remaining schedule. He therefore requested March 10 and April 7 be added to the meeting calendar.

S. Balik and R. Wayne supported April 7, but recommended against adding March 10 to the schedule. In particular, R. Wayne had already planned a full CJC meeting for March 10. M. Battaglia reiterated his belief that the UA should hold this additional meeting on March 10.

After discussion, the motion to add March 10 and April 7 to the meeting calendar was put to vote. The motion carried 3-2 with the remainder abstaining.

Open Course Evaluations

J. Fridman said that Cornell's competitors all have a similar system to learn about courses. This system would allow students to explore more courses rather than those that are simply most popular.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Vishal Bhaya
Assemblies Clerk