

Minutes
University Assembly
April 7, 2015
4:30pm – 6:00 pm
401 Physical Sciences Bldg.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 PM.

Attendance:

Present: R. Adessa, S. Balik, J. Barnett, J. Batista, M. Battaglia, J. Blair, R. Booker, J. Burns, M. Hatch, N. La Celle, E. Loew, G. Mezey, R. Wayne, C. Wong

Absent: J. Bergfalk, C. Best, E. Johnston, C. McGrath

Others Present: V. Bhaya, G. Borges, J. Corson-Rikert, G. Eels, G. Giambattista, M.B. Grant, M. Indimine, T. Marchell, A. Minikus

Call for Late Additions to the Agenda

The following item was requested: moving the last Business of the Day item (For Review: Debate Structure and Special Rules of Debate regarding UA Resolution #6) to just after the Gannett update (M. Hatch). Members agreed by unanimous consent to amend the Agenda.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of March 24, 2015, were approved as presented.

III. Abbreviated Updates

Executive Committee & Constituent Assembly Updates

J. Blair said that the first portion of the organizational meeting on May 5 will be a regular meeting for the purposes of voting on UA Resolution #8, as well as UA Resolution #13 which will be introduced on April 21. He also said that by May 5, 14 of the 18 seats on next year's UA will be filled; but this year, the Employee Assembly (EA) has changed their elections calendar, so it is possible up to three EA members will not be known until late May or June. This means that new Members will need to decide on May 5 whether to hold full or partial elections, or whether they will want to appoint interim temporary leadership to serve over the summer when the UA is out-of-session.

M. Battaglia said that the University Assembly received an invitation from Ulysses Smith to attend tomorrow's Bias Assessment Response Team (BART) meeting. He requested that the UA send volunteers. J. Blair said that this is probably an outgrowth of Resolution 11. He stated that Cora Best cannot attend due to other commitments. S. Balik said that several undergrads are attending from the Student Assembly. N. La Celle said he will attend.

M. Battaglia said that the UA has also been requested to appoint two members to the Policy 6.4

working group. M.B. Grant stated that the working group wants to make sure that they are including the community at the ground level rather than just waiting and coming back to the community with the finished product. They want to get ideas from people and not just assume that they have come up with the ideas that exist. The working group is not a huge time commitment, but it is a big thinking commitment.

J. Blair said that Policy 6.4 and the Campus Code are intertwined, so the UA really should have two people fully vested on this working group. J. Batista and M. Battaglia volunteered to serve on the working group. With the consent of the Members present, both volunteers were appointed to serve as the UA's representatives on the working group.

M. Battaglia said that Ulysses Smith will be at the UA meeting on the 24th giving presentations.

IV. Business of the Day

For Vote: UA Resolution #8: Updating the Campus Planning Committee Charter in the UA Bylaws

The Campus Planning Committee is working on some additional changes to the Charter, but they will not vote on those changes until April 21, so the Vote on Resolution 8 was postponed until May 5. If available, a status update will be presented to Members at the April 21 meeting.

For Vote: UA Resolution #9: Community Bill of Rights Resolution & UA Resolution #10: Charge of the Community Rights and Responsibilities Working Group

S. Balik said that the CJC worked very hard on these resolutions. J. Blair said that Amanda Minikus will be running late to the meeting. He asked S. Balik to clarify lines 17 and 18 of Resolution #9, that said there is "no established committee to ensure that all of these campus policies are consistent in their language and in their execution," because he stated that there is a policy office that has a website with all the policies listed. He did not want it to be construed that there is no one on campus managing the policies. S. Balik said she would be agreeable to an amendment that changes that language to read, "shared governance committee." R. Booker said that the nuance on some of the regulations is going to be complex enough where someone with professional oversight might be needed rather than having a committee that keeps on changing. S. Balik said that they could all be doing a better job collaborating and looking at all these things together. The point is that a committee exists, but a staff committee is different from a working group where new ideas can be formed, and where people actually have some sort of leverage to be able to make changes in policies on campus. M. Battaglia agreed that having a working group is important. He motioned to amend line 17 from "established committee" to "shared governance committee". The motion was seconded by S. Balik. J. Batista said she believes in this resolution because we are looking for ways to have precise language about what to do as a student, or a staff member, or faculty member. J. Barnett said that there are a lot of different things being talked about. The Resolution talks about consistent language, which is different from the fact that it confuses people. S. Balik responded by saying that they want to have a working group that is part of the UA's Codes and Judicial Committee (CJC) and that group should be able to draft a Bill of Rights so there is positive language, as Juliana stated. The rights would be coming from existing policies and existing language. S. Balik said they are also trying to make all campus policies centrally accessible via a Community Rights and Responsibilities webpage, which is talked about in Resolution 10. J. Blair clarified that there is a single webpage with all University

policies, but this Resolution would deal with a subset of policies. S. Balik said that they want to first give the CJC the authority to create and maintain a Community Bill of Rights. After giving them that authority, Resolution 10 talks about a specific working group that creates, maintains, and makes a Community Bill of Rights available. The committee should sit together, talk about rights and responsibilities of people on this campus. J. Blair asked if there were any objections to amending line 17. As there were no objections, the amendment was adopted. M. Hatch called the question on Resolution #9. Members agreed to close debate. J. Blair then called for a vote of Resolution #9 as amended. The Resolution was passed by vote of 8-0-3. M.

Hatch motioned to move Resolution 10. R. Wayne seconded the motion. J. Batista said further discussion of Resolution #10 would be helpful because it was not discussed as much as Resolution #9. The motion to call the question was defeated.

M. Hatch said he thinks they can move on unless someone would like to make amendments to Resolution #10. R. Booker said he is assuming the group will deal with procedural issues. S. Balik said the group is supposed to exist so inconsistencies do not exist. The working group is responsible for drafting the Bill of Rights, and people from different constituent groups who make up this working group can have a transparent discussion and perhaps edit campus policies. J. Blair clarified that they can only identify, not edit policies. M. Battaglia called the question on Resolution to question. Members agreed to close debate. Blair then called for a vote on Resolution 10. UA Resolution #10 was passed with a vote of 12-0-0.

For Vote: Reappointment of the Judicial Administrator until June 30, 2017

M. Battaglia motioned. Motion was seconded. Reappointment was passed by a vote of 12-0-0.

For Vote: Reappointment of the University Ombudsman until June 30, 2017

M. Battaglia motioned. Motion was seconded. Reappointment was passed by a vote of 12-0-0.

For Vote: Motion to accept Kai Weng Wong as a UA voting member from the GPSA in lieu of R. Walroth

M. Battaglia motioned to install Kai Weng (Catherine) Wong in lieu of Richard Walroth as a UA voting member for the remainder of the session. Battaglia stated that Walroth left Ithaca for a formal internship. As his voting seat is derived by his position as the GPSA Chair, Catherine should take his place as the now formally installed Ating Chair of the GPSA. The request is fully supported by the GPSA. E. Loew seconded the motion. Motion was carried by vote of 12-0-0. J. Blair welcomed MS Wong onto the Assembly and presented her with her voting credentials.

Gannett Update

Dr. Corson-Rikert said University Health Services is concerned with individual health and community health. They see students, faculty, and staff. Their effort is to have an integrated form of care where they are treating students as whole people, where mind and body are connected. Specialty services include lab and radiology tests. Student Disability Services is under their umbrella. She demonstrated the Secure Patient Portal. They are renovating the entire building they are in as well as adding onto it. They will also be having extended hours from April 27 – May 16. G. Eels said there is an increasing demand for their services. Most of their work is around doing individual therapy and group therapy; they are a full-service clinic for the whole

student body. The UHS does the interactive screen program about mental health and stress profiles. They work with the Dean of Students Office, do community support meetings, work with the Campus Alert team, and also with student groups like Cornell Minds Matter. T. Marchell discussed the Comprehensive Health Framework, which includes strategies to foster a healthy educational environment, identify people in need of care, and increase help-seeking behavior. The major leadership councils on campus regarding health policy issues are the President's Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs, Council on Mental Health and Welfare, Council on Sexual Violence Prevention, and Council on Hazing Prevention. Students, staff and faculty are members of all of these councils. He opened up the floor for questions.

R. Wayne asked if they have influence on admissions. Marchell replied that they do not. Wayne asked what they would say to students if they did have influence over admissions. Dr. Corson-Rikert said she thinks that students being admitted are certainly capable, but there are people coming in with a breadth of medical diversity. J. Batista asked if construction would affect appointment schedules. Dr. Corson-Rikert stated that their plan is to not cut back appointments during construction. Batista asked where student voices were within the process of construction, such as what is being included, or how things are being integrated together. Dr. Corson-Rikert said that the construction has been a very rapid process because of construction limitations, and that they have been challenged to get input from even their own staff. T. Marchell said they are definitely going need some input along the way, such as when discussing signage. G. Mezey said that the services that they provide are very important and meaningful, and that he appreciates everything they do. J. Blair asked if there was anything the UA could do to help them. Dr. Corson-Rikert said they could give them feedback about they are doing during construction. Blair said that the UA can certainly send them meaningful representation if they need any help. He thanked them for everything they do.

For Review: Debate Structure and Special Rules of Debate regarding UA Resolution #6 on April 21, 2015

M. Battaglia recapped that at the UA meeting of April 7, when discussing special rules of debate regarding Resolution 6 on April 21, Members voted to limit the speaking time of members, as well as any committee members who request to speak, to two minutes. This limitation does not affect scheduled presentations. There will be 5 minutes for Introduction, 15 minutes for those who are for the Resolution, 15 minutes for those against, time for public comment, as well as UA debate, and then eventually a vote. The Resolution has been scheduled for the 21st.

For Introduction: UA Resolution #11: Improving Bias Reporting System Awareness

M. Battaglia said the Resolution is being withdrawn due to errors that need to be amended.

For Introduction: UA Resolution #12: Charge of the Pedestrian Safety Review Working Group

M. Battaglia sponsors this Resolution. Co-sponsor E. Johnston could not attend the meeting. M. Battaglia said that Matthew Indimine also had helped with this Resolution. This resolution tackles pedestrian safety on campus by calling for the creation of a working group that will evaluate the effectiveness of signs and crossings, among other things. This came about due to the tragedy of three members that were killed this past year. It is highly relevant. Battaglia yielded the remainder of the time to the Chair for any questions. J. Blair said upon the recommendation of the Office of the Assemblies he had sent emails to some additional stakeholders who were not

originally consulted. He said that the only comments he had received indicated that a group may already exist that is charged with similar duties as presented in the Resolution. If that feedback proves true, then perhaps the Resolution should be forwarded to that group versus calling for the creation of a new group. Currently the intent is to bring this Resolution to vote during the first part of the April 21 meeting, but if more things come to light between now and then, that plan might change. M. Hatch asked if there was any relationship between any working group that gets started and the Transportation Committee? He thinks there should be some coordination between the two. G. Mezey said there are many representatives on the Transportation Advisory Task Force, which is a new committee that has diverse and representative groups on it. There is also a standing committee, the Pedestrian Bike and Safety committee. He said he thinks this is a great topic but his concern with creating additional committees is that he personally believes there are groups of people on campus who have these types of issues as their charge. G. Giambattista said that if the Office of the Assemblies can ever serve as a point of reference, she can make sure they put people in touch with all the right stakeholders. E. Loew said that if the signage that exists was simply obeyed, we would not need any of these committees. He would like to hear what the Kathy Zoner [editor's note: Chief of the Cornell University Police Department] has to say about enforcing the signage. S. Balik asked G. Mezey if he would like to connect SA leadership to the people who are working on this issue. J. Batista said they should redirect the conversation to discussing what can proactively be done to change the campus transportation atmosphere into a safer one. C. Wong said she thinks there is at least one grad student on the Transportation Task Force.

M. Hatch said they need to have a more thorough discussion about traffic flows. He agreed that the Transportation Group is doing something, but sometimes the groups do not take into account the bigger picture. In summation, J. Blair said there is clearly passion among the Membership to focus on this set of issues and, as such, if Resolution 12 is not ideally worded yet, it can get there with a little more work. The sponsor agreed and will update Members at a future meeting.

V. Late Additions to the Agenda

Late Addition was an amendment of the Agenda.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Vishal Bhaya
Assemblies Clerk