

# Cornell University Student Assembly

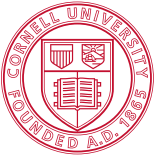
## Cornell University's Student Assembly

Minutes of the November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 Meeting

4:45 pm – 6:30 pm

Memorial Room Willard Straight Hall | Zoom

- I. Call to Order
  - a. P. Kuehl called the meeting to order at 4:47pm.
    1. *Members Present (25)*: D. Akkiraju, A. Akpan, M. Bakri, L. Balestrieri, A. Barry, F. Berry, R. DeLorenzo, Z. deRham, K. Everett, A. Helkowski, N. Hite, K. Jordan, C. Kim, C. Lederman, F. Meng, E. Ononye, S. Parikh, I. Rezaka, S. Son, D. Suarez, B. Terhaar, C. Ting, A. Vinson, A. Wang, P. Kuehl
    2. *Members Absent (6)*: L. Barrett, S. Chan, D. Diao, C. Flournoy, Y. Moitra, C. Platkin
    3. *Also Present (8)*: A. Coleman, N. Courtney, E. Kalweit, N. Maggard, A. Mulpuri, J. Swenson, J. Wallen, J. Zhang
- II. Reading of the Land Acknowledgement
  - a. P. Kuehl stated the SA's acknowledgment of the Cayuga Nation.
- III. Open Microphone
  - a. There were no speakers.
- IV. Approval of the Minutes
  - a. Approval of the October 26, 2023 meeting minutes
    1. J. Wallen motioned to approve the minutes. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
- V. Consent Calendar
  - a. There were no items.
- VI. Announcements
  - a. There were no announcements.
- VII. Reports of Officers, Committees, and Liaisons
  - a. Office of Ethics
    1. A. Coleman motioned to strike the Office of Ethics report from the agenda. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.

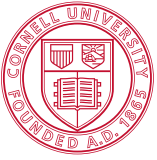


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### b. Vice President of Finance

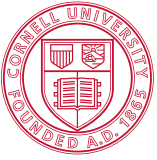
#### 1. Orientation

1. R. DeLorenzo gave a report on the Tatkon Center for New Students.
2. A representative from the Tatkon Center clarified that the Tatkon Center contribution of funds alongside CUPB for a speaker during Orientation would not increase.
3. J. Wallen stated support for the increase in allocation.
4. R. DeLorenzo stated belief that the increased cost of a pricier speaker is not equivalent to the increased noticeability by students.
5. The Tatkon Center representative stated that the increased allocation ask should be judged for CUPB, since Tatkon Center was not increasing funds for a speaker.
6. A. Barry questioned if not meeting the initial allocation ask would hinder the Orientation experience for new students.
7. The Tatkon Center representative stated that programming for a night of Orientation would be cut through this lack of funding.
8. R. DeLorenzo stated belief that lack of programming for a night from the Tatkon Center would be filled through programming from many other student groups on campus also hosting Orientation events.
9. I. Rezaka questioned why the Tatkon Center was being evaluated and stated belief that Orientation is highly important and should be funded as such.
10. The Tatkon Center representative noted that the amount of cost for free giveaways was minimal in comparison to rising costs of goods, foods, incentives, and more, noting that many students participating in Orientation were volunteers.
11. R. DeLorenzo noted costs spent on free goods and foods.
12. J. Swenson noted the integral importance of Orientation for new students. J. Swenson noted a lack of Orientation Leaders participating in comparison to what is needed due to a lack of incentive.
13. R. DeLorenzo noted belief that the holdback on Orientation Leader participation was due to overlap in schedules due to many having internships.



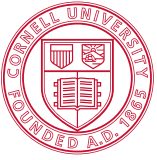
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14. The Tatkon Center representative stated disagreement, noting that the recruitment for even paid Orientation Leader positions is currently very difficult.
15. R. DeLorenzo stated belief that these issues were due to scheduling conflicts rather than lack of monetary resources.
16. The Tatkon Center representative noted that there were only a third of the Orientation Leaders needed in comparison to previous years.
17. J. Wallen stated belief that, having increased funds for Slope Day in the hopes of bettering programming for students, comparably Orientation should garner increased funds as well.
18. R. DeLorenzo noted that the SAFC cannot pay for Orientation Leaders and highlighted free excess bought for Orientation.
19. A. Barry noted the importance of having events such as Orientation programming available for new students to attend, particularly if they don't wish to engage in party culture.
20. R. DeLorenzo highlighted that funds should not be double counted, particularly given funds already allocated to CUPB.
21. K. Everett highlighted importance of Orientation for the Cornell experience and noted how difficult it is to pull off Orientation.
22. The Tatkon Center representative clarified the scheduling of the Welcome Back show can occur at any time.
23. R. DeLorenzo stated belief that wording was being changed to fit arguments.
24. I. Rezaka noted the need for parity in increasing funds for both the Outdoor Odyssey experience and Orientation.
25. R. DeLorenzo highlighted that the review of funds is not based upon the mission of the organization and is rather a purely financial decision. R. DeLorenzo stated belief that double counting allocation of funds would be foolish.
26. C. Ting acknowledged the high importance of the Orientation experience for incoming students.
27. R. DeLorenzo stated acknowledgement of this importance but highlighted that the decreased recommendation was only done to omit double counting and does not cut any programming.
28. K. Everett urged the Assembly to agree to an increase in allocation.
29. P. Kuehl noted a solution decreeing that CUPB must allocate funds to the shared Orientation programming.



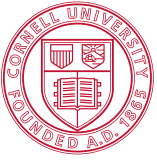
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30. M. Bakri noted that if double counting already has existed and there is still a need for funds, funds should still be given.
31. R. DeLorenzo clarified that funds were not previously double counted.
32. J. Swenson asked for clarification on P. Kuehl's suggestion.
33. P. Kuehl gave clarifications on his statement to illuminate details.
34. I. Rezaka motioned to reject the Appropriations Committee's decision. The motion to reject the decision **failed**.
35. R. DeLorenzo acknowledged financial and human capital constraints to operate Orientation.
36. J. Wallen questioned why other members would vote to deny the increase in appropriations.
37. R. DeLorenzo clarified the scope of the discussion.
38. P. Kuehl motioned to extend time by 30 minutes. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
39. K. Jordan asked for clarification on if the \$50,000 given to CUPB was enough to cover the specific event.
40. The Tatkon Center representative stated that there is still a \$10,000 difference, and that it would be important for the Tatkon Center to have financial contribution to the event as well.
41. R. DeLorenzo noted the previous year's split of costs between CUPB and Orientation to host the programming and noted belief that the \$10,000 difference can be picked up between either CUPB or Orientation.
42. R. DeLorenzo stated belief that CUPB will be able to run the programming smoothly given increased student enrollment and increased synergies.
43. D. Akkiraju questioned if the \$12,000 previously allocated two years ago could not be matched this year.
44. R. DeLorenzo stated belief that the funds could be sourced from costs previously spent on free giveaway items.
45. The Tatkon Center representative stated that this \$12,000 would incite cuts from other members of the program.
46. A. Barry questioned if there could be a motion to transfer money from CUPB back to the Tatkon Center to return autonomy.
47. R. DeLorenzo stated this could be done.
48. The Tatkon Center representative stated agreement with R. DeLorenzo.



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49. Z. deRham questioned what feedback was received from this year's Orientation and asked what increased funding could do.
50. The Tatkon Center representative stated that the primary feedback received was that a singular program a night was not enough.
51. R. DeLorenzo noted that there was also displeasure with the wait time in lines for free giveaway items.
52. I. Rezaka motioned to table until the next meeting. The motion **passed**.
2. SAFC
  1. R. DeLorenzo gave a report on SAFC.
  2. A SAFC representative addressed the large rollover and noted many brainstormed solutions for the rollover to remedy the issue.
  3. P. Kuehl motioned to postpone the vote until the November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
3. Student Assembly
  1. P. Kuehl motioned to table the report. The motion **passed**.
4. Outdoor Odyssey
  1. I. Rezaka motioned to place Resolution 30 above presentations. The motion **failed**.
  2. R. DeLorenzo gave a report on Outdoor Odyssey.
  3. P. Kuehl noted the significant and impressive role Outdoor Odyssey has taken and the impact it has made on students.
  4. K. Jordan asked for some clarification on the \$2.90 recommended allocation following some brainstorming for additional programming events.
  5. R. DeLorenzo noted the timeline of events that led to the \$2.90 allocation recommendation.
  6. J. Swenson asked for further input on the reasoning behind the asked for increase in allocation.
  7. An Outdoor Odyssey representative noted that the original \$4.00 ask was done due to the debt incurred from the previous year, but under the realization that certain costs could not be covered through SAF, the new ask became \$3.30. The representative noted that given inflation, increased financial aid costs for students, and increasing forms of programming, costs have increased.
  8. L. Balistreiri motioned to reject the Finance Committee's recommendation of \$2.00. The motion **failed**.



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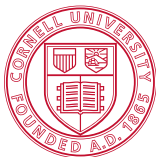
9. I. Rezaka noted that giving funds based upon potential programming rather than prior programming is unaligned with previous decisions.
10. R. DeLorenzo noted that the Executive Board of Outdoor Odyssey is spread across class years, ensuring transfer of communication across years.
11. I. Rezaka noted feelings of bias given that in previous decisions, organizations were judged based on experience rather than future possibilities.
12. R. DeLorenzo acknowledged this sentiment and noted some concerns with the scheduling of existing programming, as well as some different avenues for sourcing revenue.
13. P. Kuehl noted differences between Outdoor Odyssey and other byline organizations and highlighted that it is student-funded because it supports equality of access across all students regardless of socioeconomic background.
14. R. DeLorenzo disagreed with P. Kuehl's statements, noting that the byline funding covers more costs than just financial aid assistance for students.
15. L. Balestrieri stated belief that oftentimes, funding is not entirely decided upon based on experience rather than future potential. L. Balestrieri noted that simply leaving Outdoor Odyssey at their previous allocation given rising inflation costs would be unfair.
16. P. Kuehl motioned to reject the Appropriations Committee's recommendation. The motion **passed** through a vote of 16-0-4.
17. J. Wallen motioned to increase funding to \$2.90. The motion **passed**.

### VIII. Presentations

- a. There were no items.

### IX. Old Business Calendar

- a. Resolution 30: Removing Median Grades
  1. J. Wallen introduced the Resolution.
  2. A. Barry acknowledged the fact that students from different socioeconomic backgrounds come into Cornell with various levels of preparation and experience to handle the challenging academic rigor.
  3. A. Wang emphasized the high variability in averages across colleges and may accidentally harm other students.



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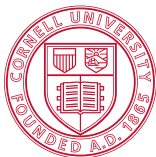
4. J. Wallen stated belief that emphasis on grades would only be more harmful.
5. B. Terhaar noted that for engineering and pre-med students, contextualizing grades is important.
6. J. Wallen stated belief that there is no basis, given that other comparable institutions don't publish median grades.
7. I. Rezaka stated belief that pre-med students would support the Resolution, noting the cutthroat culture median grades fosters.
8. J. Wallen stated the importance of fostering collaboration in the community to uplift other students.
9. J. Wallen stated belief that median grades will not impact job-opportunities.
10. K. Jordan noted that for many engineering courses, comparison is important when evaluating transcripts, and asked for the opportunity to have a referendum.
11. J. Wallen stated belief that regardless of a referendum, median grades in a transcript are not best practice.
12. K. Everett stated that given course grading isn't standardized across professors, median grades is unhelpful.
13. J. Wallen highlighted the different socio-economic positioning of many students upon entering Cornell.
14. P. Kuehl motioned to extend time by 5 minutes. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
15. K. Everett motioned that a straw poll be conducted. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
16. R. DeLorenzo noted that the initial decision to include median grades on the transcript was unilateral and without student input and felt that Student Assembly should not follow suit, encouraging a referendum.
17. Z. deRham highlighted that other comparable institutions don't include median grades.
18. J. Wallen motioned to end debate. The motion **failed** through a vote of 13-7-0.
19. K. Everett motioned to extend time by 10 minutes. The motion **passed**.
20. S. Parikh highlighted the importance of including student input and views.
21. J. Wallen stated belief that the point of the Student Assembly is to represent the views of students.
22. J. Swenson noted the long tenure of the Resolution being debated and that it be fair for it to be voted upon.



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23. S. Parikh motioned to amend the Resolution to make it a Referendum. J. Wallen dissented.
  24. C. Ting highlighted the importance of engaging in gaining support from the community and expressed support for a referendum.
  25. F. Berry noted that the lack of median grades would only put Cornell students on a level playing field with other institutions.
  26. R. DeLorenzo stated belief that the Student Assembly is not fully representative of the student body's beliefs and expressed support for a referendum.
  27. K. Everett stated support for a referendum.
  28. L. Balestrieri highlighted the primary concern students have with Student Assembly that it does not represent students.
  29. P. Kuehl motioned to extend time by 5 minutes. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
  30. The motion to amend the Resolution into a referendum **passed** through a vote of 14-3-0.
  31. J. Wallen motioned to end debate. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
  32. The motion to approve the Resolution passed through a vote of 17-0-0.
  - b. Resolution 32: Amending the Student Assembly Charter in Allyship with HAVEN
    1. K. Everett gave an overview of the Resolution and noted the change where a trusted person would check the member list for HAVEN for confirmation to ensure confidentiality while maintaining a level of oversight.
    2. J. Swenson noted his support for the Resolution.
    3. C. Ting noted that in the past, HAVEN has previously already been given exemption in previous years but noted the importance of the Resolution by codifying these protections into the Charter.
    4. I. Rezaka echoed the support given for the Resolution.
    5. The motion to approve the Resolution **passed** through a vote of 23-0-3.
    6. J. Swenson floated the possibility of having a secret ballot for particularly polarizing motions to omit the possibility of audience sway.
  - c. Resolution 34: OSGR Deputy Director
    1. Item was moved to the next agenda.
- X. Resolutions Calendar
- a. Resolution 36: Ensuring Equity and Fairness in 2023-2024 Voting Seat Appointments





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1. Item was moved to the next agenda.
- b. Resolution 37: Election Day as a University Holiday
  1. N. Hite motioned to move Resolution 37 up the agenda. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
  2. S. Parikh introduced the Resolution.
  3. E. Ononye noted support.
  4. K. Everett motioned to pass the Resolution. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.

### XI. Appointments and Vacancies Calendar

- a. There were no appointments.

### XII. Adjournment

- a. This meeting was adjourned at 7:16pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Jenny Zhang*

Clerk of the Assembly