

Cornell University University Assembly

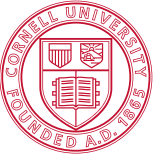
Cornell University's University Assembly

Minutes of the February 6th Meeting

4:45 pm – 6:15 pm

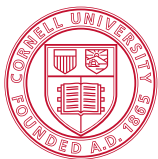
700 Clark Hall | Zoom

- I. Call to Order
 - a. S. Williams called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.
 - i. *Members Present:* M. Benda, E. Crawley, E. DeRosa, D. Dinner, A. Haenlin-Mott, I. Hewson, J. Kruser, M. McEntee, B. Milles, J. VanHouten, A. Vinson, J. Wallen, S. Williams.
 - ii. *Members Absent:* P. Kuehl, M. Matthews, C. Ting.
 - iii. *Members Excused:* A. Broad, M. Heeney.
 - iv. *Also Present:* E. Kalweit, O. Karim, D. Thomas Varner, J. Withers
- II. Land Acknowledgement of the Gayogõhõnoꞓ (Cayuga Nation)
 - a. S. Williams stated the UA's acknowledgment of the Cayuga Nation.
- III. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda
 - a. None received.
- IV. Approval of the Minutes from the January 23rd, 2024
 - a. J. Kruser motioned to approve the minutes from the January 23rd, 2024 meeting.
 - i. A. Hanelin-Mott seconded the motion.
 - ii. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.
- V. Business of the Day
 - a. Presentation on Cornell's Interim Expressive Activity Policy and Interim Anti-Doxing Policy from Donica Thomas Varner, Vice-President and General Counsel
 - i. D. Varner provided a brief presentation providing an overview of both policies to the Assembly.
 - ii. Questions posed to D. Varner addressed what constitutes political activity under the policies; concerns over the breadth of the restrictions on expression that do not have time/place/manner justifications and warrant disciplinary actions; how requests for large events are interpreted under the policy and its implementation; the chilling effect of the messaging accompanying the policy; the boundaries for indoor activity under the policy; the policy's guidelines for amplified sound; the policy's requirement of registering protests of 50 or more individuals; where students can go for



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- providing feedback on the policy; and how the university plans to ensure the policy is applied consistently across groups.
- iii. Questions posed to D. Varner addressed the role of the University Assembly in drafting the policy and providing input; whether Cornell's campus has experienced events that warrant the initiation of this policy; what guidance public safety officials have received for how to handle disruptive moments and whether officers are required to be present at registered events; the standardization of enforcement under the policy; the pipeline and timeline for feedback on improving the policy; the relationship between the policy and the Campus Code of Conduct; the precision and intention of the words used in the policy as well as the truth of their motivation and their implications for the Cornell community; the role of Cornell Police keeping the community safe and whether the community can trust them; whether applicants have to specify an event type when they register an event; whether an event can move in the instance of a march; and whether an event can be shut down simply because the university cannot provide support for it.
 - iv. E. Crawley put forward a motion to extend the meeting to end at 6:35pm.
 1. J. Wallen seconded the motion.
 2. The meeting was extended to end at 6:35pm by unanimous consent.
 - v. Questions to D. Varner addressed the nature of the support that the university intends to provide to events over fifty people; the policy's time limit guidelines for poster removal; the policy's emphasis on protests not disrupting ordinary business; the anti-doxxing policy's lack of protection for students of color; the proactivity of the university in addressing underlying concerns; how the policy interferes with the teachings of democratic values at the university; the policy's impact on international students; whether expectations under the policy are applicable as Code of Conduct issues; and how the policy impacts norms of freedom of speech and expression.
 - vi. J. Wallen put forward a motion to extend the meeting to end at 6:40pm.
 1. B. Milles seconded the motion.
 2. The meeting was extended to end at 6:40pm by unanimous consent and all additional agenda items were moved to the assembly's next meeting.
 - vii. Questions posed to D. Varner addressed the role of Cornell as a contracted college with the state in implementing the policy; how the community prevents digital harassment under the policy; and how the policy addresses subjects of discrimination.



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VI. Adjournment

- a. E. Crawley motioned to adjourn the meeting.
 - i. J. Kruser seconded the motion.
 - ii. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.

This meeting was adjourned at 6:38pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

P.J. Brown

Clerk of the Assembly