



Ithaca College Student Governance Council  
Senate Meeting Minutes  
Minutes by: Carlos Abreu, Vice President of Academic Affairs  
**Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 | Start: 7:01PM | End: 8:58PM**

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Roll Call**

- a. **In Attendance:** L. Guibunda, C. Abreu, M. Powers, J. Zampetii, A. Ruffino, K. Yearwood, E. Moore (Late), G. Madeya, N. Viggiani, P. LaValley, T. Kurtz, V. Tavernese, C. Ingraham, L. Hitesman, L. Weiser, M. Holland-Bavis, M. Andia

**III. New Business**

**a. Approval of Minutes (November 8, 2021)**

- i. Tessa motion; Nick second  
1. Passed 7-0-0

**b. Community Session**

**c. Guest Speaker**

**i. Interim President of Ithaca College, La Jerne Terry Cornish.**

- a. President Cornish wants to focus on retention rates.  
b. We have gotten off to a good start compared to last fall (Fall 2020).  
c. The focus is also to create a community of care. The president has noticed that we have stopped caring for each other.  
d. Ithaca College has 7,000 alumni. The president wants to connect alumni with the school and students.  
e. President Cornish wants to focus on utilizing campus space and make it “student” friendly.

**1. Questions/Discussion**

- a. C. Watson: What is your take on the students’ mental health on campus?  
i. President Cornish: We are aware of students’ wellbeing. It is foremost. Faculty and staff have had to adjust to being in person as well. The focus is how to live with COVID-19. It is important to acknowledge that there are mental health concerns on campus  
ii. President Cornish: Alumni wants to connect with current students. They have a bunch to share with students. Alumni weekend was successful this past fall and they were able to celebrate their time at IC. We need to have fun again because it can help with the stress we are dealing with on a daily basis  
b. P. LaValley: How open is the college to adopt a hybrid model to accommodate students who need help with the transition?  
i. President Cornish: We made a decision to come back in person this academic school year. The school will stick with its decision. Faculty members are willing to work with students, and there are more faculty



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members that care than not. If a student is struggling with a faculty member, it is important to reach out to the Academic Dean/Dean of a particular school

- c. L. Weiser: Where is the school in terms of student interest for the next academic school year?
  - i. President Cornish: There will be a SLT/SGC meeting tomorrow at noon, so more information will be available. Because campus has opened up, more students have visited campus.
  - ii. President Cornish: the college will focus on admission and student recruitment this upcoming spring.
- d. C. Ingraham: What are the administration's thoughts on the theatre arts/music school merger and what is the priority?
  - i. President Cornish: The college is not prioritizing athletes over music students. Because there are less students on campus, there is more space for students to live on campus.
- e. T. Kurtz: Is the college focusing on interprofessional relationships?
  - i. President Cornish: The Strategic Plan is focused on collaboration and allowing students to take classes across different schools. The college is making the curriculum more flexible for students.
- f. L. Weiser: What was the decision behind merging the music school with the theatre arts department?
  - i. President Cornish: Conversations are happening now to determine the outcome of that decision. Music and theatre curriculums overlap significantly. The focus is to increase flexibility for students.
- g. J. Zampetti: Is it possible to have better communication between Ithaca College and Cornell University public safety departments?
  - i. President Cornish: Cornell police and Ithaca police communication is strong. Both institutions also communicate with the Ithaca City Police.
- h. L. Weiser: Where is the APP?
  - i. President Cornish: The hardest part of the APP happened last semester when the college reduced the size of the faculty. The college is still aligning the faculty staff to the student body.
- i. V. Tavernese: What is the current take on the graduate program in the Music school?
  - i. President Cornish: Christina Moylan is in conversation with those in the music department to restart some of the graduate programs. The college



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needs to have a plan. There is value in having graduate students in the music school.

- j. L. Weiser: How will the college deal with the rise of COVID cases after thanksgiving break? What are your thoughts on the mandatory staff vaccination bill?
  - i. President Cornish: We may see a rise in COVID cases but it is key that we see don't a rise in hospitalizations after the break. Vaccination helps with the COVID-19 symptoms
  - ii. President Cornish: You must be vaccinated, or you must test every week. That is the rule for the college.
- k. K. Yearwood: Is there any possibility of bringing back an archivist in the library?
  - i. There are librarian going through the archives to organize them. By next year, the college expects to fund that position again.

**IV. Confirmations**

- a. N/A

**V. Continuing Business**

**a. Senator Reports**

**i. Grace Madeya**

- 1. Will touch base with Leticia with dining bill
- 2. Helping Paloma with hybrid bill
- 3. Serving on the appropriation committee
- 4. Helping Tessa with gender neutral bathroom bill

**ii. Nick Viggiani**

- 1. Reached out to Tessa about mental health committee

**iii. Tessa Kurtz**

- 1. Working with mental health committee and braining storming ideas. Reach out if you have interest in that.
- 2. Met with HSHP student advisory committee to discuss interpersonal relations at the college
- 3. Working with Lilia, Grace and Soumyaa on the gender neutral bathroom bill
- 4. Working with SJSC on the new green deal
- 5. Working with the Communications Committee

**b. Bill Updates**

- i. N/A

**c. Miscellaneous**



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- i. SGC President, Deontae Guy, has stepped down—effective November 29, 2021.

**VI. Officer Reports**

**a. Vice President of Campus Affairs – L. Guibanda**

- i. Met with Kaylee Collins on the philanthropy team, focusing on giving Tuesday which will focus on student wellness.

**b. Vice President of Academic Affairs – C. Abreu**

- i. No updates!

**c. Vice President of Business & Finance – M. Powers**

- i. Treasure funding workshops

**d. Vice President of Communication – J. Zampetti**

- i. Matt Vosler collaboration to do mental health town hall in the SAC
- ii. SLT/SGC meeting will occur tomorrow at noon – be sure to attend

**e. Senate Chair – A. Ruffino**

- i. Dean Search Committee for the Business School will occur soon.
- ii. Data privacy meeting with IT will occur this Thursday!
- iii. Leticia and Austin met with Tri-Council and made significant progress on a charter
- iv. Confirmations are open: class of 2022, 2023, 2024, Business, Communication, senator at large, and graduate.

**f. Student Trustee – K. Yearwood**

- i. N/A

**g. Residence Hall Association Designee – E. Moore**

- i. N/A

**h. Student Liaison to the Alumni Association Board of Directors – N/A**

- i. N/A

**VII. Open Agenda**

**a. L. Weiser: can someone attend tomorrow’s SGC/SLT meeting for her?**

**b. P. LaValley: attended Cornell University’s Student Assembly meeting.**

- i. The meeting did not mention mental health or students’ wellbeing.
- ii. Wants to focus on collaborating with Cornell University and in writing a bill.
- iii. K. Yearwood: do you want to focus on collaborating with the local community or the colleges?

- 1. Paloma: the focus should be on both the local community and the universities, especially as it concerns mental health.



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- iv. A. Ruffino: next semester we will have a meeting with the OPS in their office.  
The mental health
- c. L. Guibanda: There will be a food drive for students to take advantage of before the thanksgiving break.

**VIII. Adjournment**

- a. Motion: Kurtz
  - i. No dissenting