

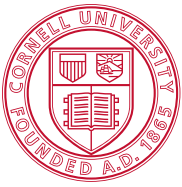
**Cornell University**  
**Student Assembly**

**Cornell University Student Assembly**

Agenda of the Thursday, September 22, 2016 Meeting

4:45pm-6:30pm in WSH Memorial Room

- I. Call to Order & Roll Call**
- II. Approval of the Meeting Minutes**
  - a. Minutes of the September 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting
- III. Open Microphone**
- IV. Announcements and Reports**
  - a. Rep Reichel
  - b. Rep Kasher
  - c. EVP Indimine
  - d. President Berger
  - e. VP Finance Li
  - f. DOE Ghandour
- V. Business of the Day**
  - a. Resolution 8: Requesting the Restoration of the Economics Department's CPT Policy
  - b. Resolution 9: Charter Updates
  - c. Resolution 10: Elimination of the Residential Life Committee
- VI. Anabel's Grocery Forum- 6:00pm**
- VII. Candidate Forum- 7:00pm**



# Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(9/15/16)
Type of Action:	TYPE: Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

1 S.A. Resolution #8  
2 Requesting the Restoration of the Economics Department’s CPT Policy  
3

4 ABSTRACT: This resolution asks for the restoration of the CPT work authorization by the  
5 Economics Department.  
6

7  
8 Sponsored by: Akhilesh Issur ‘17  
9

10 **Whereas**, Whereas, according to the Student Assembly (SA) Charter, Article II, the SA is charged with  
11 “the authority and the responsibility to examine any matters which involve the interests or concern the  
12 welfare of the student community and to make proposals concerning those issues to the appropriate  
13 officers or decision making bodies of the University.”  
14

15 **Whereas**, the Cornell University Economics Department has, in the past, provided independent study  
16 courses to allow its majors who are international students to obtain Curricular Practical Training (CPT)  
17 work authorization for paid summer internships; and  
18

19 **Whereas**, the Economics Department, after 2016, will cease to allow international students to obtain  
20 CPT authorization for paid internships;  
21

22 **Whereas**, the reasons cited for the change in the Economics Department’s policy in the extracts of the  
23 report provided by the Director of Undergraduate Studies are:

- 24 1. Abuse of the system by “inventing a course and claiming that the internship is required for it.”
- 25 2. “Little educational value in having our majors undertake these independent studies.”
- 26 3. Unfairness towards U.S. citizens who do not have the option to complete a one-credit  
27 independent study course relating to their summer internship.  
28

29 **Whereas**, the International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) clearly stipulates that CPT can be used  
30 for internships “if you receive academic credit in an independent study or course that uses the  
31 employment experience as research” in addition to “internships or other work that is required by the  
32 degree program (as defined in the course catalog)” (ISSO Website, 2016);  
33

34 **Whereas**, many of the internships that Economics majors pursue in fields, such as banking, finance, and  
35 general business, are integrally related to the study of economics;  
36

37 **Whereas**, the independent study courses in Economics can be a truly valuable academic experience that  
38 uses the practical training of an internship experience as research and merges it with theoretical concepts  
39 learnt in class;  
40

41 **Whereas**, independent studies that give CPT authorization can indeed be monitored in a more  
42 proficient way by various Economics professors who are experts in their respective fields, and need not  
43 be the concern of only the Director of Undergraduate Studies, and the Associate Director of  
44 Undergraduate Studies as has been the case until now;

45  
46 **Whereas**, a longer paper than a six/seven page paper for the independent study that uses internship  
47 experience as research, with clear requirements and set expectations, can be asked from Economics  
48 majors;

49  
50 **Whereas**, careful guidance from Cornell Economics professors paired with an equally careful research  
51 proposal from Cornell Economics majors before undertaking their internship to show how it would be  
52 integral to the independent study, should be expected to lead to an academic project with significant  
53 educational value;

54  
55 **Whereas**, getting credits for an independent study that uses internship experience and research as the  
56 basis for an intellectual project is significantly different than getting academics credits for an internship;

57  
58 **Whereas**, instead of cancelling independent study courses that use internship experience as the basic  
59 research for an intellectual project for international students, the Economics Department could give this  
60 opportunity to all students including American citizens if they are able to show how their internship  
61 experience relate fundamentally to the study of Economics, and are willing to pursue such independent  
62 studies that lead to educational value;

63  
64 **Whereas**, the purpose of an independent study is to pursue an academic project in an original way;

65  
66 **Whereas**, international students are open in submitting research proposals before undertaking  
67 internships to demonstrate concretely how there is a significant link between their internship experience  
68 and intellectual project;

69  
70 **Whereas**, many universities across the US, including Columbia, Stanford and the University of Michigan  
71 allow international undergraduate students majoring in Economics the possibility to obtain CPT  
72 authorization for independent study courses;

73  
74 **Whereas**, most other majors at Cornell both in the College of Arts & Sciences and other colleges allow  
75 international students to obtain CPT authorization;

76  
77 **Whereas**, the CPT authorization is the only practical work authorization for summer internships, as  
78 Optional Practical Training (OPT) - the other work authorization possible with the F-1 student visa - is  
79 virtually used in all cases for post-graduation jobs only, taking on average 3 months to be granted, and  
80 costing \$380;

81 **Whereas**, international students are permitted by the Federal Government of the United States of  
82 America to remain in the United States for 12 months after graduation under the Optional Practical  
83 Training program (OPT) if they are able to be hired for a job related to their major;

84  
85 **Whereas**, even if international students are able secure OPT authorization for summer internships by  
86 surmounting its time and financial constraints and risks, the number of months that the internship lasts  
87 will be deducted from the 12 months of work allowed under OPT;

88  
89 **Whereas**, the effect of the granting of CPT credit for jobs related to an international student's area of  
90 study is that it allows them to remain in the United States after graduation for a full 12 months instead of  
91 12 months minus the total time they spent working during the summers under OPT;

92  
93 **Whereas**, because US firms will not hire recent college graduates unless they can remain in the US for at  
94 least 12 months because most job contracts require at least a one year ability to work before other types  
95 of sponsorship work visas become open to international college graduates;

96  
97 **Whereas**, summer internships are in most cases an essential requirement to get a job offer, especially in  
98 areas fundamentally related to Economics such as banking and business;

99  
100 **Whereas**, getting a job is one of the ultimate goals of an undergraduate education, along with character  
101 development and shaping of critical skills;

102  
103 **Whereas**, international students make up 10% of the undergraduate student body at the University and  
104 their ability to succeed as Cornellians is contingent upon their ability to obtain internships and job  
105 opportunities;

106  
107 **Whereas**, a very significant number of international students want to be able to pursue at least an initial  
108 career in the United States;

109  
110 **Whereas**, international students majoring in Economics, as a result of the Economics Department  
111 ceasing to offer independent studies that use internship experience as the integral basis of a research  
112 project, now necessarily face a tradeoff between:

- 113  
114 a) Taking a summer internship (but cannot get a summer internship without reducing 12 OPT  
115 months in the case that they are even able to get the OPT which has heavy constraints in the  
116 case of summer internships, and has virtually only be used for post-graduation jobs by Cornell  
117 international students)
- 118 b) Getting hired after graduation (cannot get hired without internship experience or if they cannot  
119 work for at least a one year contract)
- 120 c) Remaining an Economics major (other majors in the College of Arts & Sciences such as  
121 Government, Mathematics, and Information Science, continue to give CPT work authorization)

- 122 d) Remaining in the College of Arts & Sciences (ILR, CALS, the Dyson School, the School of  
123 Hotel Administration and the College of Engineering all have majors related to Economics that  
124 give CPT work authorization)
- 125 e) Remaining at Cornell (many big research universities, private liberal arts and IVY league  
126 institutions continue to give the CPT work authorization).

127

128 **Whereas**, as a result, the Economics Department, the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), and Cornell  
129 University will lose high-performing and ambitious international students who would have otherwise  
130 majored in Economics, studied in CAS, or attended Cornell, due to the strong disincentive to be an  
131 international student majoring in economics at Cornell generated by the recent change in policy;

132

133 **Whereas**, it is in the best interest of the Economics Department, CAS, and Cornell University to  
134 continue to attract high-performing international students; and

135

136 **Whereas**, independent studies that use internship experience as the basis of a research project can be  
137 very formulated and coordinated when there is appropriate faculty supervision and requests of research  
138 proposals before the start of the internship to see whether there is indeed a fundamental link between  
139 the internship and a worthwhile academic project relating to Economics and leading to high educational  
140 value, when expectations are clearly stipulated by the Department;

141

142 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Student Assembly strongly recommends that the Economics  
143 Department restore independent studies giving CPT work authorization for all Economics majors;

144

145 **Be it further resolved**, that the Student Assembly strongly recommends that independent study  
146 opportunities continue to be offered to all Economics majors, international and domestic students, who  
147 can thoroughly demonstrate that their internships would be a valuable experience to merge intellectual  
148 and practical knowledge in an academic project before being granted the ability to pursue the  
149 independent study;

150

151 **Be it finally resolved**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the President of the University, the  
152 Office of the University Counsel, the Dean of the Faculty, the Faculty Senate, the Dean of the College of  
153 Arts and Sciences, the Chair of the College of Arts and Sciences Educational Policy Committee, the  
154 Chair of the Department of Economics, and the Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department  
155 of Economics for their review.

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157 **Respectfully Submitted,**

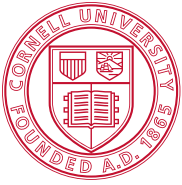
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159 Akhilesh Issur '17  
160 *International Liaison At-Large*

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162 Yashvi Gattani '18  
163 *VP Internal Affairs, Cornell Undergraduate Asia Business Society*

164  
165 Imtisal Qadir '18  
166 *Member, Pakistani Students Association*  
167  
168 Archana Choudhary '17  
169 *Advocacy Team Member, International Students Union*  
170  
171 *(Reviewed by: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 5-0-0, 9/13/16)*



# Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(09/15/16)
Type of Action:	Internal Policy
Status/Result:	New Business

## S.A. Resolution #9 Charter Revisions

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ABSTRACT: This resolution updates the Charter to remove outdated information and inefficiencies.

Sponsored by: Matt Indimine '18

**Whereas,** aspects of the Charter are outdated and inefficient;

**Whereas,** the Student Assembly Charter is a “living document” that must be updated in order for the Student Assembly to better serve students;

**Be it therefore resolved,** that the Student Assembly Charter be amended as follows, in red, to correct an inconsistency in Article IV: Membership, Section 5 Absentees:

Any voting members who are absent for ~~three consecutive~~ regularly scheduled meetings ~~or for six regularly scheduled~~ meetings cumulatively during their term will have their position vacated. At the discretion of the Executive Committee, a member will not be counted as if they were absent for an interview for a job, graduate school, or scholarship; if they were attending a required academic event for which accommodations could not be made; if they were representing the Student Assembly in an official capacity; if they were tending to a family emergency; if they are observing a religious holiday; or if they were under the care of a physician. The Executive Committee will review each circumstance individually and will determine a decision within 7 days of the request. Executive Committee may avert such a vacancy by a ~~unanimous vote~~ two-thirds of all voting members of the Executive Committee. The vote would be conducted by secret ballot. The Executive Committee should consider the reasoning for past , the likelihood of future absences, and the representative’s supplemental actions to represent their respective constituency in making their decision. The same action must be taken if the Executive Committee wishes to avert a vacancy whenever the three consecutive absences or the ~~three six~~ cumulative absences mark is exceeded. The Director of Elections will serve as Chair for these meetings.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Matt Indimine '18  
*EVP, Student Assembly*

Dale Barbaria '19  
*Parliamentarian, Student Assembly*

*(Reviewed by: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 4-0-0, 9/13/16)*





43 Respectfully Submitted,  
44  
45 Mitchell McBride '17  
46 *Vice President of Internal Operations, Student Assembly*  
47  
48  
49 *(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 4-0-0, 9/13/16)*