



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

### **Cornell University Student Assembly**

Agenda of the Thursday, April 25, 2019 Meeting  
4:45pm-7:00pm in Memorial Room, Willard Straight Hall

#### **I. Call to Order & Roll Call**

#### **II. Approval of the Minutes**

- a. April 18, 2019 Minutes

#### **III. Open Microphone**

#### **IV. Announcements and Reports**

#### **V. Business of the Day**

- a. Resolution 37: Denouncing White Supremacist Paraphernalia at Cornell-Affiliated County Fairs

#### **VI. New Business**

- a. Resolution 38: Establishing Formal Committee – Administrator Relationships
- b. Resolution 39: Establishing an Ad-Hoc Committee for Investigating Course Absence Policy Reform
- c. Resolution 40: Standardizing Recruitment for Executive Offices
- d. Resolution 41: Amending Appendix A

#### **VII. Convocation Speaker announced at 6:30pm**

#### **VIII. Adjournment**



# Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(04/18/2019)
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

## S.A. Resolution #37

### Denouncing White Supremacist Paraphernalia at County Fairs

ABSTRACT: This resolution denounces the presence of Confederate imagery at all state-funded, Cornell-affiliated fairs and calls upon Cornell University to support the efforts of “Fair for All” organizers as well as utilize all powers at its disposal to ensure the removal of white supremacist paraphernalia at county fairs across New York State.

**Sponsored by: Christopher Hanna '19, Joe Anderson '20**

**Whereas**, Cornell University, as well as Cornell’s local Cooperative Extension offices, provide crucial programming and logistical support to county fairs across New York State (NYS);

**Whereas**, these include fairs where racist merchandise is both prominently displayed and for sale;

**Whereas**, the presence and sale of Confederate flags and other white supremacist paraphernalia foster climates of hostility and danger for people of color;

**Whereas**, Confederate imagery, in particular, glorifies genocide, slavery, and racial subjugation and thus lacks a place in an inclusive public sphere;

**Whereas**, county fairs hold the right to forbid vendors for selling items they deem inappropriate (e.g. alcohol, pornography), and thus reserve the right to forbid racist items;

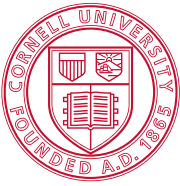
**Whereas**, for two years Delaware County-based New Yorkers belonging to the “Fair for All” organizing team have worked to ensure that all state-funded, Cornell-affiliated fairs ban the sale of white supremacist products;

**Whereas**, the emergence of far-right movements, including ones that use the Confederate flag as a proxy to assert white power, has coincided with an uptick in racist and antisemitic hate crimes on Cornell’s campus;

**Whereas**, the merchandise issue was first raised in the campus community by a July 2018 Cornell Daily Sun letter that powerfully stated: “If the university has even a speck of integrity during this political moment of intensified bigotry, it will publicly oppose the sale and display of racist symbols at county fairs affiliated with CCE, 4-H and Cornell at large.”

**Whereas**, subsequent talks among student organizers and administrators yielded a soft commitment from the latter to working with its cooperative extensions to develop and implement anti-racist education in NYS’s communities, particularly those where neo-Confederate sentiments have been most popularized;

**Whereas**, this tentative willingness is necessary but insufficient in demonstrating the university’s opposition to white supremacy, and ought to be accompanied by concrete action against racist profiteering at fairs that boast Cornell’s name on them;



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**Whereas**, Cornell has insisted that it has no sway over the cooperative extensions that bear its name and whose educational programs it supports;

**Whereas**, Cornell in fact provides educational programming for thousands of 4H youth throughout the state, and encourages them to attend county fairs where items that promote hate are openly sold and displayed;

**Whereas**, New York's new chief legal officer, Attorney General, Letitia James, and New York's Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets, Richard Ball, have firmly stated their opposition to the sale of Confederate flag items at NY's county fairs, in response to Fair for All's campaign;

**Whereas**, meanwhile President Pollack has steadfastly refused Fair for All's repeated requests to use her power to urge local fair boards to bar the sale of Confederate flags at their fairs;

**Whereas**, President Pollack's specious First Amendment argument in defense of this disappointing stance defies the absolute necessity of universities taking proactive anti-racist action to combat the rising tide of fascist politics in the U.S. and globally;

**Whereas**, as one of Upstate New York largest institutions — with cooperative extensions in dozens of counties and an endowment that makes it the 18th wealthiest university in the world — Cornell University holds major sway in public life and statewide politics;

**Whereas**, Cornell has openly declared its commitment to, “build a culture that values transparency, accountability, and communication around issues of diversity and inclusion; develop visible institutional statements and symbols of our priorities, and policies that are well-aligned with them; partner with the surrounding community on issues of diversity and inclusion,”

**Whereas**, Cornell's commitment to diversity and inclusion demands that it help secure an anti-racist victory for the people of New York by supporting Fair for All's efforts;

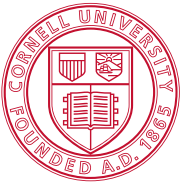
**Be it therefore resolved**, that Cornell University's administration provide a brief plan on how it intends to activate anti-racist education efforts in NYS to the Student Assembly by a month following President Pollack's receipt of this resolution;

**Be it further resolved**, that President Pollack ought to join Commissioner Ball and AG James in publicly calling on county fairs to stop selling these hateful items;

**Be it further resolved**, that Cornell University publicly utilize all other powers at its disposal to ensure all county fair boards in NYS take such action;

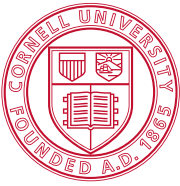
**Be it further resolved**, that Cornell University's cooperative extensions stop participating in county fairs that refuse to ban white supremacist paraphernalia;

**Be it finally resolved**, that Cornell University must commit to providing Fair for All with monthly updates on its progress towards these goals.



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92	<b>Respectfully Submitted,</b>
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94	Christopher Hanna '19
95	<i>Organizer, Tompkins County Workers' Center</i>
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97	Joe Anderson '20
98	<i>Executive Vice President, Student Assembly</i>
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100	Shivani Parikh '18
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102	Yana Kalmyka '21
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104	Leanna Zilles '21
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106	Kataryna Restrepo '21
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108	Steve Tarcan '20
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110	Max Greenberg '22
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112	Viraj Kumar '21
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114	Hansika Iyer '19
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116	Daniel Bromberg '20
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118	Matija Jankovic '20
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120	Lavanya Aprameya '19
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122	Laila Hayani '19
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124	Daniel Keough '20
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126	Kumar Nandanampati '20
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128	Colin Benedict '21
129	<i>Member, Diversity and Inclusion Committee</i>
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131	Jewon Sohn '21
132	<i>Member, Diversity and Inclusion Committee</i>
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134	Luis Delgadillo '21
135	<i>Member, Diversity and Inclusion Committee</i>
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137	<i>(Reviewed by: Diversity and Inclusion Committee, 11-0-6, 04/16/2019)</i>



# Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(4/23/2019)
Type of Action:	Internal Policy
Status/Result:	New Business

## S.A. Resolution #38 Establishing Formal Committee – Administrator Relationships

### ABSTRACT:

**Sponsored by: Varun Devatha '19**

**Whereas**, collaboration with members of the Cornell University administration are beneficial to the operations of Cornell Student Assembly committees,

**Whereas**, some Cornell Student Assembly committees currently enjoy informal relationships with members of the Cornell University administration,

**Whereas**, the extent to which Cornell Student Assembly committees communicate with members of the Cornell University administration varies each year,

**Whereas**, it would be beneficial to Student Assembly committees to ensure the consistency of relationships with Cornell University administrators from year to year,

**Whereas**, formalized relationships with members of the Cornell University Administration would ensure the inclusion of important points of view in Cornell Student Assembly committee operations;

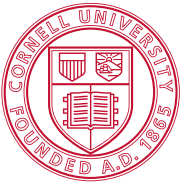
**Be it therefore resolved**, each Student Assembly committee will include a formal relationship with a member of the Cornell Administration,

**Be it further resolved**, each committee will have discretion in choosing their designated member of the Cornell University administration,

**Be it further resolved**, committee Chairpeople, committee members, and designated Cornell Administrators will have discretion in determining the details of their working relationship,

**Be it further resolved**, in the absence of additional consideration, the commitment required of a designated Cornell University Administrator will be attendance at one committee meeting each month,

**Be it further resolved**, if the committee chairperson and members believe that their interests would be better served by a different member of the Cornell University administration than the individual with whom they have a formal relationship, they may elect to select a different administrator,



## Cornell University Student Assembly

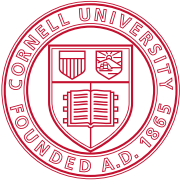
**Be it further resolved**, if a committee's designated administration member would like to terminate their relationship with their Student Assembly committee, they may elect to do so once a replacement has been secured.

**Be it finally resolved**, the following phrasing be included in the by-laws on line 305: "D. In order to ensure consistent and robust communications between Student Assembly committees and the Cornell Administration, a member of the Cornell University administration will sit as a formal member on each Student Assembly committee. Every Student Assembly committee will have discretion in choosing their designated administration member. The exact nature of this relationship may be determined at the discretion of each committee and their designated administration member.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Varun Devatha '19  
*President, Student Assembly*

*(Reviewed by: COMMITTEE, VOTE, MM/DD/YYYY)*



# Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(4/23/2019)
Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	New Business

## S.A. Resolution #39

### Establishing an Ad-Hoc Committee for Investigating Course Absence Policy Reform

ABSTRACT: This resolution establishes an ad-hoc committee with the goal of investigating Cornell's Course Absence Policy. At the conclusion of their investigation, the committee will issue recommendations to the Student Assembly and the Cornell Administration on actions which could be taken to ameliorate and enforce Course Absence Policies at Cornell University.

#### **Sponsored by: Varun Devatha '19**

**Whereas**, there are very few institutional requirements put into place dictating how Course Administrators must treat course absences,

**Whereas**, extensive anecdotal evidence suggests Course Administrators are often unwilling to permit excused absences, even in clearly extenuating circumstances,

**Whereas**, Cornell undergraduates are known to struggle with undue levels of stress in relation to academic matters and unduly restrictive absence policies clearly exacerbate this stress,

**Be it therefore resolved**, that the S.A. establish an ad-hoc committee titled "Cornell Student Assembly Task Force on Course Absence Policy Reform" (hereafter CAP-TF) effective immediately,

**Be it further resolved**, that the CAP-TF will be tasked with investigating existing course absence policies, drafting new course absence policies, and exploring systems by which these policies could be effectively implemented,

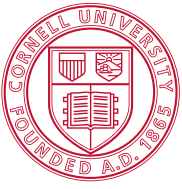
**Be it further resolved**, that all current and future efforts of the S.A. to reform course absence policies be settled exclusively through the CAP-TF,

**Be it further resolved**, that the CAP-TF will convene at least once each month. An agenda and relevant documents will be distributed to CAP-TF members at least 24 hours before the start of each meeting,

**Be it finally resolved**, that the Student Assembly will appoint members to the CAP-TF during the next executive session following the successful passage of this resolution.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Varun Devatha '19



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- 40 *President, Student Assembly*  
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42 *(Reviewed by: COMMITTEE, VOTE, MM/DD/YYYY)*





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Originally Presented on:	(4/23/2019)
Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	New Business

## S.A. Resolution #40 Standardizing Recruitment for Executive Offices

ABSTRACT: Resolution to standardize and make public the processes by which executive offices are recruited and organized.

**Sponsored by: Varun Devatha '19**

**Whereas**, the individuals who comprise the office of the president possess the intention to develop and execute projects relevant to the policy prerogatives of the Student Assembly President,

**Whereas**, the individual members of the Office of the President exercise a limited but significant degree of autonomy in the manner in which they choose to pursue the execution of said projects,

**Whereas**, the members of the Office of the President will carry with them the authority of the Student Assembly President in actions which are directly pursuant to the Presidential Office's projects,

**Be it therefore resolved**, the recruitment processes by which Executive Office Holders gather their office members will be standardized. Relevant materials including application forms, candidate lists, recruitment methodology, and a list of selected office members will be submitted to the Office of the Assemblies,

**Be it further resolved**, the reporting structure within an Executive Office will be established at the discretion of the Executive Officer to whom the office belongs. If senior roles are established within Executive Offices, the process by which individuals are appointed will be disclosed to the Office of the Assemblies,

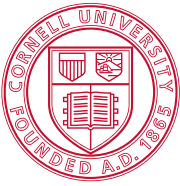
**Be it finally resolved**, the following phrasing be included in the by-laws on line 305: "The recruitment processes by which Executive Office Holders gather their office members will be standardized. Relevant materials including application forms, candidate lists, recruitment methodology, and a list of selected office members will be submitted to the Office of the Assemblies. The reporting structure within an Executive Office will be established at the discretion of the Executive Officer to whom the office belongs. If senior roles are established within Executive Offices, the process by which individuals are appointed will be disclosed to the Office of the Assemblies."

**Respectfully Submitted,**



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40 Varun Devatha '19  
41 *President, Student Assembly*  
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43 *(Reviewed by: COMMITTEE, VOTE, MM/DD/YYYY)*



# Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	04/25/2019
Type of Action:	Internal Policy
Status/Result:	New Business

## S.A. Resolution #41 Amending Appendix A

ABSTRACT: This resolution makes minor amendments to Appendix A of the Student Assembly Charter in preparation for the Fall 2019 Byling funding cycle.

**Sponsored by: Dale Barbaria '19**

**Whereas**, Appendix A of the Student Assembly Charter contains “Guidelines for the Allocation of the Student Activity Fee;”

**Whereas**, the Student Assembly is tasked with reviewing Appendix A “at least every four years in a non-fee-setting year;”

**Whereas**, the Student Assembly noticed problems with the majorities required for approval and overturning of Appropriations Committee recommendations during the Fall 2017 funding cycle;

**Be it therefore resolved**, §2.A.ii of the Definitions section Appendix A of the Student Assembly Charter be amended to the following:

ii. SAFC: Student Activities Funding Commission, ~~a committee of the Student Assembly~~ the designated Finance Commission of the Student Assembly

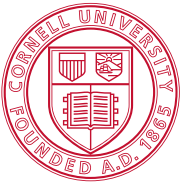
**Be it further resolved**, §2.A.viii of of the Definitions section of Appendix A of the Student Assembly Charter be amended to the following:

viii. Appropriations Committee: a committee of the Student Assembly as outlined in ~~Bylaw 7.6.a.1~~ the Student Assembly Bylaws

**Be it finally resolved**, §7, the Voting Section, of Appendix A of the Student Assembly Charter be amended to the following:

### Section 7: Voting

Proxy votes shall not be permitted for decisions of the Student Assembly regarding the SAF during the SAF allocation process. The Student Assembly must approve the appropriations committee decisions by a majority of ~~the voting membership of the~~ Student Assembly members present at the meeting and can overturn an appropriations committee decision by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of Student Assembly members present at the meeting. If the Student Assembly overturns a decision of the appropriations committee, the Student Assembly must decide Activity Fee funding for that organization by a majority of the Student Assembly members present at the meeting. After all appropriations committee decisions have been



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approved or overturned, the Student Assembly must approve the SAF by a majority of the voting membership of the Student Assembly.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Dale Barbaria '19

*Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly*

*Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 5-0-0, 04/23/2019*