

# Cornell University Student Assembly

## **Cornell University Student Assembly**

Agenda of the Thursday, May 2, 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 25, 2019 Meeting 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
- b. Resolution 38: Establishing Formal Committee – Administrator Relationships
- c. Resolution 39: Establishing an Ad-Hoc Committee for Investigating Course Absence Policy Reform
- d. Resolution 40: Standardizing Recruitment for Executive Offices
- e. Resolution 41: Amending Appendix A

### **VI. 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

1  
2  
3  
4 ABSTRACT: This resolution denounces the presence of Confederate imagery at all state-funded,  
5 Cornell-affiliated fairs and calls upon Cornell University to support the efforts of “Fair for All”  
6 organizers as well as utilize all powers at its disposal to ensure the removal of white supremacist  
7 paraphernalia at county fairs across New York State.  
8

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

10  
11 **Whereas**, Cornell University, as well as Cornell’s local Cooperative Extension offices, provide crucial  
12 programming and logistical support to county fairs across New York State (NYS);  
13

14 **Whereas**, these include fairs where racist merchandise is both prominently displayed and for sale;  
15

16 **Whereas**, the presence and sale of Confederate flags and other white supremacist paraphernalia foster  
17 climates of hostility and danger for people of color;  
18

19 **Whereas**, Confederate imagery, in particular, glorifies genocide, slavery, and racial subjugation and thus  
20 lacks a place in an inclusive public sphere;  
21

22 **Whereas**, county fairs hold the right to forbid vendors for selling items they deem inappropriate (e.g.  
23 alcohol, pornography), and thus reserve the right to forbid racist items;  
24

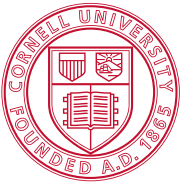
25 **Whereas**, for two years Delaware County-based New Yorkers belonging to the “Fair for All” organizing  
26 team have worked to ensure that all state-funded, Cornell-affiliated fairs ban the sale of white  
27 supremacist products;  
28

29 **Whereas**, the emergence of far-right movements, including ones that use the Confederate flag as a proxy  
30 to assert white power, has coincided with an uptick in racist and antisemitic hate crimes on  
31 Cornell’s campus;  
32

33 **Whereas**, the merchandise issue was first raised in the campus community by a July 2018 Cornell Daily  
34 Sun letter that powerfully stated: “If the university has even a speck of integrity during this  
35 political moment of intensified bigotry, it will publicly oppose the sale and display of racist  
36 symbols at county fairs affiliated with CCE, 4-H and Cornell at large.”  
37

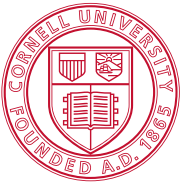
38 **Whereas**, subsequent talks among student organizers and administrators yielded a soft commitment  
39 from the latter to working with its cooperative extensions to develop and implement anti-racist  
40 education in NYS’s communities, particularly those where neo-Confederate sentiments have  
41 been most popularized;  
42

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



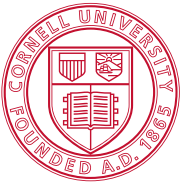
## Cornell University Student Assembly

- 46 **Whereas**, Cornell has insisted that it has no sway over the cooperative extensions that bear its name  
47 and whose educational programs it supports;  
48
- 49 **Whereas**, Cornell in fact provides educational programming for thousands of 4H youth throughout the  
50 state, and encourages them to attend county fairs where items that promote hate are openly sold  
51 and displayed;  
52
- 53 **Whereas**, New York’s new chief legal officer, Attorney General, Letitia James, and New York’s  
54 Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets, Richard Ball, have firmly stated their opposition to  
55 the sale of Confederate flag items at NY’s county fairs, in response to Fair for All’s campaign;  
56
- 57 **Whereas**, meanwhile President Pollack has steadfastly refused Fair for All’s repeated requests to use her  
58 power to urge local fair boards to bar the sale of Confederate flags at their fairs;  
59
- 60 **Whereas**, President Pollack’s specious First Amendment argument in defense of this disappointing  
61 stance defies the absolute necessity of universities taking proactive anti-racist action to combat  
62 the rising tide of fascist politics in the U.S. and globally;  
63
- 64 **Whereas**, as one of Upstate New York largest institutions — with cooperative extensions in dozens of  
65 counties and an endowment that makes it the 18th wealthiest university in the world — Cornell  
66 University holds major sway in public life and statewide politics;  
67
- 68 **Whereas**, Cornell has openly declared its commitment to, “build a culture that values transparency,  
69 accountability, and communication around issues of diversity and inclusion; develop visible  
70 institutional statements and symbols of our priorities, and policies that are well-aligned with  
71 them; partner with the surrounding community on issues of diversity and inclusion;”  
72
- 73 **Whereas**, Cornell’s commitment to diversity and inclusion demands that it help secure an anti-racist  
74 victory for the people of New York by supporting Fair for All’s efforts;  
75
- 76 **Be it therefore resolved**, that Cornell University’s administration provide a brief plan on how it intends  
77 to activate anti-racist education efforts in NYS to the Student Assembly by a month following  
78 President Pollack’s receipt of this resolution;  
79
- 80 **Be it further resolved**, that President Pollack ought to join Commissioner Ball and AG James in  
81 publicly calling on county fairs to stop selling these hateful items;  
82
- 83 **Be it further resolved**, that Cornell University publicly utilize all other powers at its disposal to ensure  
84 all county fair boards in NYS take such action;  
85
- 86 **Be it further resolved**, that Cornell University’s cooperative extensions stop participating in county  
87 fairs that refuse to ban white supremacist paraphernalia;  
88
- 89 **Be it finally resolved**, that Cornell University must commit to providing Fair for All with monthly  
90 updates on its progress towards these goals.  
91



## Cornell University Student Assembly

92	<b>Respectfully Submitted,</b>
93	
94	Christopher Hanna '19
95	<i>Organizer, Tompkins County Workers' Center</i>
96	
97	Joe Anderson '20
98	<i>Executive Vice President, Student Assembly</i>
99	
100	Shivani Parikh '18
101	
102	Yana Kalmyka '21
103	
104	Leanna Zilles '21
105	
106	Kataryna Restrepo '21
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108	Steve Tarcan '20
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110	Max Greenberg '22
111	
112	Viraj Kumar '21
113	
114	Hansika Iyer '19
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116	Daniel Bromberg '20
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118	Matija Jankovic '20
119	
120	Lavanya Aprameya '19
121	
122	Laila Hayani '19
123	
124	Daniel Keough '20
125	
126	Kumar Nandanampati '20
127	
128	Colin Benedict '21
129	<i>Member, Diversity and Inclusion Committee</i>
130	
131	Jewon Sohn '21
132	<i>Member, Diversity and Inclusion Committee</i>
133	
134	Luis Delgadillo '21
135	<i>Member, Diversity and Inclusion Committee</i>
136	
137	<i>(Reviewed by: Diversity and Inclusion Committee, 11-0-6, 04/16/2019)</i>



# Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(4/25/2019)
Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	Business of the Day

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## S.A. Resolution #38

### Establishing Formal Committee – Administrator Relationships.

ABSTRACT: This resolution establishes formalized relationships between Student Assembly Committees and the Cornell Administration to ensure consistent and robust communication.

**Sponsored by: Varun Devatha '19, Julian Kroll '20**

**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,

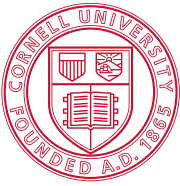
**Whereas**, formalized relationships with members of the Cornell University Administration would ensure the inclusion of important points of view in Cornell Student Assembly committee operations;

**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,

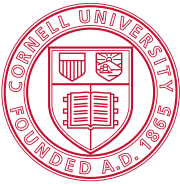
**Be it finally resolved**, the following phrasing be included in the Student Assembly Bylaws as Article VI: Committees, Section 1: Creation and Maintenance of Committees, Part D: “D. For the purposes of consistent and robust communication between Student Assembly committees and the Cornell Administration, a member of the administration shall be designated as a correspondent for each Student Assembly committee. The correspondent will not be granted voting privileges. Correspondents may recuse themselves from matters they may find to conflict with the interests of their administrative duties. Each Student Assembly committee will have discretion in choosing their designated administration member through a Bylaws amendment. Committees are required to meet with their correspondent at least once a month. The current correspondents are listed below:

- Committee on Dining Services – Director, Cornell Dining
- Health and Wellness Committee – Assistant Director, Skorton Center for Health Initiatives
- Environmental Policy and Planning Commission – *Vacant*
- City and Local Affairs Committee – Campus Community Liaison
- Academic Policy Committee – *Vacant*



## Cornell University Student Assembly

- 45 Financial Aid Review Committee – *Vacant*  
46 Student Assembly Infrastructure Fund Commission – Assistant Vice President for Student and  
47 Campus Life  
48 Communications and Outreach Committee – Associate Director of Marketing and Communications  
49 for Student and Campus Life  
50 Diversity and Inclusion Committee – Senior Associate Dean for Diversity and Equity”  
51  
52 **Respectfully Submitted,**  
53  
54 Varun Devatha ‘19  
55 *President, Student Assembly*  
56  
57 Julian Kroll ‘20  
58 *Parliamentarian, Student Assembly*  
59  
60 *(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 4-0-0, 04/23/2019)*



# Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(4/25/2019)
Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	Business of the Day

## 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, Julian Kroll '20**

**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. The findings of the committee shall culminate in a report delivered to the Student Assembly and made available to the greater Cornell community,

**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,

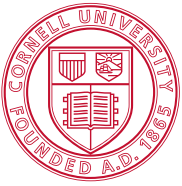
**Be it further resolved**, that the CAP-TF will be composed of 4 members and 1 chair. The members may be voting/ex-officio members of the Student Assembly or of the Student Assembly Academic Policy Committee. The chair shall be a voting/ex-officio member of the Student Assembly,

**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



## Cornell University Student Assembly

- 45 *President, Student Assembly*
- 46
- 47 Julian Kroll '20
- 48 *Parliamentarian, Student Assembly*
- 49
- 50 *(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 4-0-0, 04/23/2019)*





# Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(4/25/2019)
Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	Business of the Day

1 S.A. Resolution #40  
2 Restructuring Student Assembly Executive Offices

3  
4 ABSTRACT: This resolution seeks to standardize and make public the processes by which executive  
5 offices are recruited and organized. Additionally, it adds new offices for the remainder of the  
6 Executive Committee.

7  
8 **Sponsored by: Varun Devatha '19, Julian Kroll '20**

9  
10 **Whereas**, the individuals who comprise each office possess the intention to develop and execute  
11 projects relevant to the policy prerogatives of the respective Officer,

12  
13 **Whereas**, the individual members of each Office exercise a limited but significant degree of  
14 autonomy in the manner in which they choose to pursue the execution of said projects,

15  
16 **Whereas**, the members of each Office will carry with them the authority of the respective Officer in  
17 actions which are directly pursuant to the Office's projects,

18  
19 **Whereas**, Offices are currently limited to the President, Executive Vice President, and Vice  
20 President of Internal Operations,

21  
22 **Be it therefore resolved**, Section 12: Offices of Officers now reads:

23  
24 "A. Officers of the Student Assembly will each have independent offices titled respectively: "The  
25 Office of the President, The Office of the Executive Vice President, The Office of the Vice  
26 President of Internal Operations, The Office of the Vice President for Finance, The Office of the  
27 Vice President for Diversity & Inclusion, The Office of the Vice President for External Affairs."  
28 Members of each office will aid their respective officer in the execution of any requested tasks and  
29 duties. Members of each Office will be appointed by the respective officer's discretion and will not  
30 require further Student Assembly approval. Members of each Office will be included in both the  
31 general Student Assembly Listserv and the Executive Board Listserv. Chiefs of Staff shall be allowed  
32 to sit in on Executive Sessions of the Student Assembly.

33  
34 B. Each Office is permitted to develop its own recruitment process. Relevant materials including,  
35 but not limited to, application forms, candidate lists, recruitment methodology, and a list of the  
36 selected office members shall be submitted to the Office of the Assemblies after the recruitment  
37 process has been completed. The reporting structure within an Executive Office will be established  
38 at the discretion of the Executive Officer to whom the office belongs. If senior roles are established  
39 within Executive Offices, the process by which individuals are appointed will be disclosed to the  
40 Office of the Assemblies."

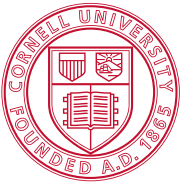
41  
42 **Respectfully Submitted,**

43  
44 Varun Devatha '19



# Cornell University Student Assembly

- 45 *President, Student Assembly*
- 46
- 47 Julian Kroll '20
- 48 *Parliamentarian, Student Assembly*
- 49
- 50 *(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 5-0-0, 04/23/2019)*



# Cornell University Student Assembly

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

1 S.A. Resolution #41  
2 Amending Appendix A  
3

4 ABSTRACT: This resolution makes minor amendments to Appendix A of the Student Assembly  
5 Charter in preparation for the Fall 2019 Byling funding cycle.  
6

7 **Sponsored by: Dale Barbaria '19**  
8

9 **Whereas**, Appendix A of the Student Assembly Charter contains “Guidelines for the Allocation of  
10 the Student Activity Fee;”  
11

12 **Whereas**, the Student Assembly is tasked with reviewing Appendix A “at least every four years in a  
13 non-fee-setting year;”  
14

15 **Whereas**, the Student Assembly noticed problems with the majorities required for approval and  
16 overturning of Appropriations Committee recommendations during the Fall 2017 funding  
17 cycle;  
18

19 **Be it therefore resolved**, §2.A.ii of the Definitions section Appendix A of the Student Assembly  
20 Charter be amended to the following:  
21

22 ii. SAFC: Student Activities Funding Commission, ~~a committee of the Student Assembly~~ the  
23 designated Finance Commission of the Student Assembly  
24

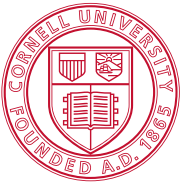
25 **Be it further resolved**, §2.A.viii of of the Definitions section of Appendix A of the Student  
26 Assembly Charter be amended to the following:  
27

28 viii. Appropriations Committee: a committee of the Student Assembly as outlined in ~~Bylaw~~  
29 ~~7.6.a.1~~ the Student Assembly Bylaws  
30

31 **Be it finally resolved**, §7, the Voting Section, of Appendix A of the Student Assembly Charter be  
32 amended to the following:  
33

34 Section 7: Voting

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



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

45  
46 **Respectfully Submitted,**

47  
48 Dale Barbara '19  
49 *Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly*

50  
51  
52 *Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 5-0-0, 04/23/2019*