

## Cornell University Student Assembly

### Cornell University Student Assembly

Agenda of the Thursday, March 11, 2021 Meeting  
4:45 – 6:30 on ZOOM

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Land Acknowledgement of the Gayogohó:nq (Cayuga Nation)**
- III. Announcements and Presentations**
- IV. Open Microphone**
- V. Approval of the Minutes**
  - a. [March 4, 2021 Minutes](#)
- VI. New Business**
  - a. Resolution #32 - [Amendments to Election Rules for Spring 2021](#)
    - i. [Appendix](#)
- VII. Adjournment**



## Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, March 4, 2021 Meeting  
4:45pm via Zoom

### I. Call to Order & Roll Call

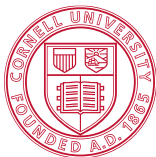
- a. C. Huang called the meeting to order at 4:48pm (EST).
- b. Roll Call
  - i. *Members Present:* L. Abd Elmagid, M. Baker, C. Castillo, U. Chukwukere, L. Contreras, A. Gleiberman, S. Kapoor, A. Lampert, A. Miramontes Serrano, T. Reuning, K. Santacruz, M. Shardow, L. Smith, C. Tempelman, V. Valencia, N. Watson, S. Woldai, V. Xu, Y. Yuan, R. Zohar, L. Zumpano, S. Zverev, C. Huang
  - ii. *Members Absent:* J. Bansah, K. Butler, E. Perez

### II. Land Acknowledgement of the Gayogohó:nq' (Cayuga Nation)

- a. Cornell University is located on the traditional homelands of the Gayogohó:nq' (the Cayuga Nation). The Gayogohó:nq' are members of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, an alliance of six sovereign Nations with a historic and contemporary presence on this land. The Confederacy precedes the establishment of Cornell University, New York State, and the United States of America. We acknowledge the painful history of Gayogohó:nq' dispossession and honor the ongoing connection of the Gayogohó:nq' people, past and present, to these lands and waters.

### III. Announcements and Presentations

- a. C. Huang shared updates on the EARS initiatives, as peer counseling was reviewed by Cornell Health Insurance and is now under Cornell Health. Peer counseling is not covered by insurance and liability and thus EARS was cut. C. Huang shared an opinion piece written in the Cornell Daily Sun by Jeannie Yamazaki and a link to a petition to bring back peer counseling. C. Huang stressed the importance of sharing the petition as it needs to reach a mass threshold to be effective. Additionally, Anabel's Grocery has reopened for curbside pickup. C. Huang also shared that EdMobilzer is looking for students to help mobilize their peers to write Op-Eds to the campus newspaper focused on legacy admissions, more information on this will be sent in the Slack channel. C. Huang thanked members for sending their positional updates and stated they have been fantastic so far. Any members who still need to send their reports should do so as soon as possible, and C. Huang stated they are always open to helping. From the reports already submitted, many focused on working within their respected constituencies on mental health and diversity/inclusion topics. C. Huang encouraged members to engage with your constituents about these issues and do your due diligence when talking about these specific advocacy points.
- b. T. Reuning stated that, up until this past year, Cornell required a legal name change in order for transgender, non-conforming students or anyone who goes a different name than their legal to have their preferred name on their diploma. This is no longer the case and you are no longer required to have a legal name change in order



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for your chosen name to appear on your degree, Additionally, students who have already graduated are allowed to request a replace diploma with their preferred name on it, regardless of whether they've gotten a legal name change This is not updated on the Registrar's website yet, but they are working on updating on. This will be in effect for May 2021 graduates.

- c. M. Shardow shared updates on their work on an initiative focused on creating a Serenity Space with help from the Interfaith Council. The Serenity Space will be an area where students of any religion or no religion can come and meditate or pray in a quiet place. This initiative came from the need of Muslim students to have a place to pray, as they pray five times a day and there is currently no great place on campus for this. M. Shardow stated they met with the Interfaith Council and hopes to assemble a task force focused on this and encouraged any members interested in helping to reach out.
- d. U. Chukwukere stated that if you are part of Class of 2021, you received an email invited you to join the Convocation Committee. If you are interested, please reply back to the email. Also, Outdoor Odyssey is looking for a SA member to be a liaison on their executive. U. Chukwukere encouraged anyone interested to reach out.

### IV. Open Microphone

- a. No Speakers present at open microphone.

### V. Approval of the Minutes

- a. February 25, 2021
  - i. C. Templeman motioned to amend section 1 part A of the February 25<sup>th</sup> minutes to remove "C. Templeman" from Members Present.
    - 1. Motion to amend – **amended** Unanimous Consent
  - ii. Motion to approve the February 25<sup>th</sup> minutes – **approved** Unanimous Consent

### VI. New Business

- a. SA R31: Donating SA Communications Committee Funds to the Student Access Fund
  - i. Abstract: This resolution approves the transfer of funds from the SA Communications Committee to the Student Access Fund to support students with demonstrated needs given the many aspects of the Cornell college experience that might not be accessible to low-income students.
  - ii. M. Baker stated the purpose of this resolution is to donate excess Communications Committee funds to the Student Access fund, which supports low-income students with demonstrated needs. The Communications Committee was allocated \$1,000 this semester under the Appropriations Committee and feels the majority of their allotment would be better served in the hands of the Student Access fund, given the restrictive nature of the pandemic. They chose to donate to the Student Access fund in particular because it reimburses expense that is not covered by financial aid or other university programs. In the past year, the Student Access fund has received an influx of requestions from students and it is important in this critical time to ensure the Student Access fund can continue serving Cornell's



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most vulnerable populations equitably. Additionally, the Student Access Fund no longer covers Covid-19 related expenses, following the establishment of the Cornell Emergency Fund.

- iii. M. Baker motioned to amend line 19 of the resolution to remove “COVID-19 Relief”.

- 1. Motion to amend Resolution #31 – **amended** Unanimous Consent

- iv. M. Baker motioned to amend the resolution to include S. Kapoor as a co-sponsor.

- 1. Motion to amend Resolution #31 – **amended** Unanimous Consent

- v. L. Smith asked what the Communications Committee budget would have been spent on in non-Covid-19 times.

- 1. M. Baker stated that in past years it was used feeding members during Communication Committee meetings, but as they cannot meet in-person, they do not need to do so. It is also spent on advertisements, this year they spent \$150 on advertisements, which is why \$850 is being donated.

- vi. L. Contreras expressed her support for this resolution and confirmed that the applications for the Student Access Fund have been exceptionally high, but there are just not enough funds to actually distribute them to the students. L. Contreras asked if it was possible to be added as a co-sponsor.

- vii. M. Baker motioned to amend the resolution to include L. Contreras as co-sponsor.

- 1. Motion to amend Resolution #31 – **amended** Unanimous Consent

- viii. Motion to vote on Resolution #31 – **passed** 22-0-1

### **VII. Adjournment**

- a. C. Huang adjourned the meeting at 5:11pm (EST).

Respectfully Submitted,

*Ciara Shanahan*

Clerk of the Student Assembly



# Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(03/11/2001)
Type of Action:	Resolution
Status/Result:	New Business

## S.A. Resolution #32 Amendments to Election Rules for Spring 2021

ABSTRACT: This resolution updates the Student Assembly Election Rules for the Spring 2021 Election. This is necessitated by the ongoing public health restrictions related to COVID-19, and the need to be inclusive of all students, whether they are on campus or attending remotely.

**Sponsored by:** Patrick J. Mehler '23, Director of Elections

**Whereas**, the Student Assembly Bylaws (§IV, 3, F, line 409) task the Elections Committee with coordinating and implementing the regular and special elections of the Student Assembly, and

**Whereas**, to appropriately coordinate and implement the Student Assembly Elections, the Election Rules must be updated, and

**Whereas**, the campus is still under restrictions for in-person gathering, petitioning and campaigning related to COVID-19, and

**Whereas**, there are many students who are not physically on campus due to the COVID-19 pandemic and travel restrictions, and

**Whereas**, members of the Elections Committee do not typically represent a genuine reflection of Cornell's diversity in background, colleges and schools, class years, and other characteristics that are necessary to execute fair and equitable elections.

**Be it therefore resolved**, the Student Assembly approves the Spring 2021 Student Assembly Election Rules attached as Appendix A to this resolution.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Patrick J. Mehler '23  
*Director of Elections, Student Assembly*

Dana Karami '23  
*Member, Elections Committee*

*(Reviewed by: Elections Committee, 6-0-3, 03/09/2021)*



# Student Assembly Election Rules

*Adopted on Thursday, December 3, 2009. Amended on Friday, December 3, 2010, Friday, December 2, 2011, Thursday, November 29, 2012, Friday, December 6, 2013, Thursday, May 1, 2014, Thursday, November 20, 2014, Thursday, March 26, 2015, Thursday, December 3, 2015, Thursday, May 5, 2016, Thursday, December 1, 2016, Tuesday, August 29, 2017, Friday, December 1, 2017, Monday, May 7, 2018, Thursday, November 29, 2018, Wednesday, September 2, 2020, Thursday, March 11, 2021*

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## 46 Article I: Election Guidelines

47 Elections are the foundation upon which representative governance rests. These rules are designed to  
48 protect the rights of all candidates, as well as all members of the University community, and to ensure that  
49 the election process takes place in an open and fair arena. Candidates must respect the rights and privileges  
50 of all members of the Cornell community, and follow all election guidelines outlined in this document.  
51 Election rules are subject to the approval of voting members of the Student Assembly each semester.

### 52 A. Voter Eligibility

53 To vote in an election for a seat in the Student Assembly (SA) or for the directly elected seats on the  
54 University Assembly (UA), a person must:

- 55 1. Be a full-time, matriculated undergraduate student enrolled in a degree-granting unit of the Ithaca  
56 campus of the University; and,
- 57 2. Be a member of the constituency for which the seat is designated, if it is designated for one of the  
58 following:
  - 59 a. Specific to college of enrollment
  - 60 b. Freshman
  - 61 c. Transfer

### 62 B. Candidate Information

#### 63 1. Eligibility and Requirements

64 To be a candidate, a person must, prior to the petitioning deadline specified in the election calendar:

- 65 1. Be eligible to vote in the election for the seat and plan to remain seated so for the full term for  
66 which they are seeking election<sup>1</sup>.
- 67 2. Submit a completed candidate registration form and any associated materials required in that form.  
68 You may not register for more than one position on the candidate registration form.

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<sup>1</sup> Candidates should not plan to pursue study abroad programs or internships that would require them to not be fully “present” as a student for the term. This would not affect those matriculated students who are enrolled as full-time students and attending “remotely” during the time of campus restrictions due to COVID-19.  
~~leave the Ithaca campus for any semester during their tenure.~~



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3. Submit petitions endorsed by the required number of people who are eligible to vote in the election for that specific position, which is the lesser of 10% of those eligible to vote for that specific position or:
  - a. 300 for President and Executive Vice President
  - b. 150 for all other at-large seats
  - c. 100 for Arts and Sciences seats
  - d. 25 for Transfer seat
  - e. 75 for all other seats
4. Not already hold a directly elected voting position on the SA and/or UA for the term for which they are seeking election.
5. Have not resigned for a reason other than a Health Leave of Absence or been removed from the SA or from a directly elected UA seat during the Student Assembly term prior to the academic year of the term for the seat being elected.

To be a candidate, a person must, prior to the commencement of voting as specified in the elections calendar:

1. Apply online to serve on at least one committee of the SA.

The Office of the Assemblies, assisted by the Elections Committee, will review submitted materials for compliance with petitioning requirements as follows:

1. A sampling method may be used as long as at least 10% of required signatures are validated for all petitions and all required signatures are attempted to be validated for any petition found to be ineligible.
2. All petitions will be available for viewing only to members of the Cornell community and may be examined in the Office of the Assemblies, 109 Day Hall after the announcement of candidates. Petitions may not be photocopied once submitted.
3. The Office of the Assemblies will notify the Director of Elections, who will notify any candidates who fail to meet petitioning requirements prior to the announcement of candidates.
4. Candidates who are listed on the ballot but found to have not fulfilled eligibility requirements prior to tabulation of results will be disqualified with vote counts untallied and discarded.

### 2. Petitioning

In order to demonstrate that they will be a respectable representative of the student body at large, candidates are required to collect a certain number of petition signatures. The required number of petition signers is designated above. For the ~~Fall 2020~~ Spring 2021 Election all petitioning will be completed using an online platform. Candidates are expected to maintain the highest standards of integrity when collecting petition signatures. In addition to the Early Campaigning rules detailed in Article 1, Section C(1) of these elections rules, the following restrictions are in place to ensure fairness during the petitioning period. Candidates may not:

1. Announce their candidacy on social media platforms in order to collect signatures
2. Announce their candidacy in front of a classroom during class hours in order to collect signatures





107 Supporters of potential candidates may collect petition signatures in accordance with the above rules. The  
108 names and netID of both the potential candidate and the individual who collected the signatures must be  
109 noted on the petition form.

### 110 3. Written Statements

- 111 1. Each candidate is asked to submit a short statement, which may be no more than 1,250 characters,  
112 including spaces (NOT word count) via the online Candidate Profile portal. Submissions must be  
113 plain text.
- 114 2. Statements will be displayed in informational materials published by the Elections Committee.
- 115 3. Statements may not include names of any political coalitions.
- 116 4. If a candidate's statement does not conform to these guidelines, the statement will not be posted.

### 117 4. Pictures

118 Photos will be displayed in informational materials published by the Elections Committee. Candidates may  
119 submit a photograph of themselves that conforms to the specifications noted in the online candidate  
120 registration form.

### 121 5. Candidate Forum

122 All candidates are encouraged to participate in the Candidates' Forums held by the Elections Committee  
123 during the campaign period. The Elections Committee will be responsible for planning, coordinating, and  
124 marketing these forums. At the forum, candidates are encouraged to discuss their experience, platforms, and  
125 more. Candidates are also encouraged to use the forum as an opportunity specifically to discuss why they are  
126 more qualified for the contested position than their opponent(s). The Director of Elections shall reach out  
127 to student organizations that receive funding from the Student Assembly, encouraging them to use the  
128 candidate forum as an opportunity to consider candidates for endorsements.

## 129 C. Election Guidelines

### 130 1. Early Campaigning Prohibition

131 Candidates and supporters acting on their behalf must not participate in the following campaign activities  
132 until campaigning **officially begins**:

- 133 1. Distribution of online campaign materials to the public.
- 134 2. Making speeches or statements to student organizations .
- 135 3. Promoting their candidacy through email, social networking tools, or other digital media

136 The Elections Committee may challenge or disqualify a candidate if a violation is found to compromise the  
137 fairness of the election.

### 138 2. Restrictions for Current SA Members

139 Current SA members seeking reelection:



1. Must refrain from any form of individual or self-promoting publicity during the petitioning period.
2. Must not host constituency outreach events that are meant to fulfill an outreach requirement from the deadline for election materials through the last day of voting.

### **3. Compliance with University Policies and Campus Code of Conduct**

Candidates and supporters acting on their behalf must be aware of and comply with all applicable policies and provisions of the Campus Code of Conduct, including but not limited to:

1. Use of Cornell Name, Logo & Artwork policy
2. Event Registration policies
3. Facilities reservation policies, including Willard Straight Hall area reservation policies
4. University Postering & Chalking policies
5. Residential & New Students Programs' policy for postering in residence halls
6. Dining hall policies, including a prohibition of distributing printed campaign materials in dining halls without permission from authorized staff, and as designated in the Campus Code of Conduct<sup>2</sup>
7. Intimidation tactics and cyber bullying online is strictly prohibited.

A violation of any University policy is a violation of these rules and therefore grounds for a challenge if it compromises the fairness of the election. It is the candidate's responsibility to read the referenced documents and be familiar with the rules and regulations established within them. The Director of Elections may also refer any reported violations to the Office of the Judicial Administrator or any other appropriate office, which may impose disciplinary remedies and penalties according to its own rules and procedures.

Note: Because all campaigning will be done virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic and policies related to social distancing and restrictions to campus, there will be no printing of posters or quarter cards for the ~~2020~~ 2021 Spring elections. There will also be no chalking or in-person campaigning activities allowed. This is to maintain a fair and equitable campaigning environment for students who are not physically in Ithaca.

### **4. Campus Mail**

Candidates and their supporters acting on their behalf may not use Campus Mail for campaigning purposes.

### **5. Electronic Communications and Social Media**

Candidates and supporters acting on their behalf:

1. Cannot receive campaign support through a Cornell Administered list-serv. E.g. The Cornell Athletics Department
2. Must comply with Cornell University IT policies
3. Special Rules due to COVID-19
  - i. In order to ensure fair and equal access to all candidates, no in-person

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<sup>2</sup> Please note that it is against the University Postering and Chalking Policy to chalk on any vertical surface, regardless of the location.



speeches or statements may be made during the ~~2020~~ Spring 2021 election.

- ii. Any speeches or statements must be made via Zoom or other virtual platforms.

## 6. Campaign Finance

Candidates or supporters acting on their behalf must submit all receipts and/or proof of fair market value with the signed expense report to the Office of the Assemblies by the deadline specified in the election calendar. Candidates who do not submit receipts and/or proof of fair market value will be presumed to have spent \$0 on their campaign.

1. Candidates and supporters acting on their behalf may not exceed the \$25 limit for out-of-pocket expenses and fair market value of donations of materials, professional services, and/or money
  - a. Fair market value is the value at which something is to be obtained normally if documentation of its dollar value is not provided.
  - b. If there is a supporting receipt for a good used in a candidate's campaign, then the value of that good is the dollar value on the supporting receipt as long as the transaction was conducted at arm's length.
  - c. For donated materials, professional services, or other goods for which no official receipt is provided, candidates must seek the most plausible assessment of the fair market value of the good. Professional services will be defined as any work for which the given individual/donor is typically compensated. Volunteer time donated by full-time students will not be considered professional services.
  - d. Paid advertisements and related costs on social networking sites or other websites must also be accounted for at fair market value.
2. Candidates will be eligible for up to \$25 in reimbursements to cover out-of-pocket expenses from the campaigning period that can be used towards the following expenses: website expenses (web hosting, domain names, and online advertising) or any other promotional materials approved by the Director of Elections that are not a violation of these elections rules.
3. Candidates may use any platforms at their disposable, granted they are free. If these platforms require purchasing, candidates are required to report this in their expense report form.

## 7. Endorsements

All registered student organizations receiving funds from the Student Assembly are encouraged to endorse candidates. If an organization chooses to endorse a candidate, it is expected to abide by the guidelines below.

1. Student Activities Funding Commission (SAFC) funded and Student Activity Fee (SAF) byline funded organizations may endorse candidates. All groups must act in a way that is fair and balanced when deciding on the endorsement of candidates.
2. The Elections Committee may recommend that the SA impose fines on or revoke allocated funds from organizations failing to comply.



214 All registered students, except candidates, are encouraged to individually endorse candidates once the  
215 campaign period officially begins.

## 216 **8. Campaign Ethics**

217 Candidates and supporters acting on their behalf:

- 218 1. May not, at any time before, during or after the elections, harass, threaten, or coerce others.
- 219 2. May not provide anything of material value to a member of the Cornell community to further  
220 themselves in the election or to promote their candidacy.
- 221 3. May not compel any person to endorse their candidacy, assist their campaign, or act as supporter as  
222 an explicit or implicit condition for initiation to, admission into, affiliation with, or continued  
223 membership in a group or organization.

## 224 **D. Restrictions on Ticketing and Slates**

### 225 **1. General Rules**

226 Candidates and supporters acting on their behalf may not:

- 227 1. Include any other candidate's name, a common "ticket" name, or a shared slogan and/or symbol on  
228 any promotional materials or within any form of electronic communication and/or media.
- 229 2. Share or pool campaign finances with any other candidates or supporters acting on their behalf.
- 230 3. Distribute any promotional materials, send any electronic communication, or utilize any other form  
231 of electronic media on behalf of any other candidate except if the candidate does so for another  
232 candidate in the President and/or Executive Vice President races.
- 233 4. Campaign with or on behalf of each other or engage in any coordination of campaigning activities  
234 except if the candidate does so for another candidate in the President or Executive Vice President  
235 races.

### 236 **2. Special circumstance for the President and Executive Vice President elections**

237 Candidates in any race, besides those running for the position of President or Executive Vice President, will  
238 be given the freedom to distribute promotional material, send electronic communications, campaign on  
239 behalf of, and speak for candidates in the President or Executive Vice President races. Candidates who  
240 choose to do so are considered supporters and are held accountable to all clauses in these rules that pertain  
241 to candidates and their supporters. The President and Executive Vice President candidates are strictly  
242 prohibited from coordinating activities. Candidates are strictly prohibited from performing the actions  
243 above for candidates not in the President or Executive Vice President races.

### 244 **3. Plagiarism**

245 Candidates may not disseminate written statements, promotional materials, or electronic communications  
246 that are plagiarized or substantially copied from any such items created or distributed by any current or  
247 former candidate.



## Article II: Direct Election of President and Executive Vice President

### A. President and Executive Vice President (EVP) Designation and eligibility

1. Two of the six Undesignated At-Large Representative seats are for the directly elected seats of President and Executive Vice-President.
2. All candidates running for any Undesignated At-Large seat, including those running for President and Executive Vice President, will be listed as Undesignated At-Large candidates on the ballot in the Undesignated At-Large race. Candidates who win President and Executive Vice President will be removed from the Undesignated At-Large seat race and their votes will be transferred to the next highest ranked candidates.

## Article III: Election Procedures

### A. The Election Calendar

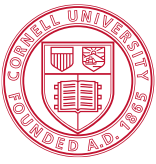
1. The Director of Elections, in consultation with the Office of the Assemblies, will draft the election calendar prior to the semester of the election, and will be approved by the Elections Committee at a meeting in the prior semester if possible<sup>3</sup>.
2. Consideration shall be given to any religious holidays that may fall during the election period, guaranteeing that the right to free religious observance is afforded to all potential candidates.

### B. The Elections Committee

1. The Director of Elections shall serve as chair and a designated representative of the Office of the Assemblies shall serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of this committee.
2. Members of the Elections Committee may not seek SA or UA office for the academic ~~year~~ semester following their term of service on the committee.
3. The Director of Elections shall publish as soon as possible at the beginning of each semester a list of Assembly seats to be filled, in accordance with Student Assembly Charter.
4. During a Challenge Review Meeting, the interpretation of the Elections Rules will lie with the sitting Elections Committee. The JCC's decision making process may only override the Committee's decision if and only if the Elections Committee did not follow the procedure outlined in the Election Rules.
5. Elections Committee members are expected to abide by the highest standards of personal conduct and integrity. Students are mandated to excuse themselves from serving on the Elections Committee if they plan to take part in a campaign. Therefore, members should not be involved in the campaigning process. All conflicts should be considered and resolved before the election cycle begins. Elections Committee members may not sit on the Executive Board of an organization that endorses candidates in an SA election. If an Elections Committee member sits on the Executive Board of an organization or sat on that Executive Board at any time during the same semester of a

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<sup>3</sup> The Director of Elections should coordinate the schedule of the Student Assembly elections with other campus elections, such as those of the Student-Elected Trustee and Class Councils. It may also result in disciplinary referral to the Judicial 330 Administrator.



particular SA election, that organization may not endorse candidates in that SA election, or that Elections Committee member must resign from the Elections Committee.

6. The Elections Committee should be prepared to meet immediately following the challenge deadline to rule on all pertinent challenges. The Elections Committee shall use Robert's Rules of Order to consider challenges, in addition to the election rules. In the event of conflict, these election rules supersede Robert's Rules of Order. The Elections Committee has no power to overrule the election rules under any circumstances.
7. The Director of Elections shall give a final report on the results of the election when there are no remaining unresolved matters.
- ~~8. For the benefit of the students, the Elections Committee shall establish voting booths across campus on the days of the election. Committee members will ensure that no campaigning occurs within 25 feet of a voting booth.~~

## C. Independence of the Elections Committee

1. While members of the Elections Committee are expected to abide by the highest standards of integrity, they also enjoy independence from undue interference. Hence, students may not falsely accuse, harass, threaten or coerce any member of the Elections Committee for actions taken in their official capacity.
2. Subject to the determination of the Elections Committee, any violation of this section can result in temporary or permanent disqualification from contesting elections to the SA or UA.

## D. Voting and Tabulation

1. The order in which names appear on the ballot shall be randomly selected.
2. Uncontested candidates will not be listed for a vote on the ballot and will be deemed victorious pending the resolution of challenges.
3. Results for challenged races will be posted after the Elections Committee has ruled on those challenges.
4. The Elections Committee will not have access to the results prior to and during challenge deliberations. The Office of Assemblies will release election results after the Elections Committee has validated the election results.
5. A printout of election results for qualifying candidates shall be available in the Office of the Assemblies, 109 Day Hall, for one year following the election. Disqualified candidates will not have their vote tallies made available.
6. The Student Assembly election results will be sent out to the entire student body via email using the Assembly's monthly email.

## E. Challenges

### 1. Eligibility to Challenge

1. Any member of the Cornell community may submit a challenge.
2. The Director of Elections may submit a challenge.
3. The Elections Committee as a body may submit a challenge by majority vote.
4. Individual committee members, except the Director of Elections, may not submit a challenge.





321 **2. Challenge Deadlines**

- 322 1. Election challenges must be submitted by the election challenge deadline specified in the elections  
323 calendar.  
324 2. The Director of Elections or the Elections Committee by a majority vote can submit a challenge at  
325 any time before the declaration of results.  
326 3. No challenges will be accepted after these deadlines.  
327 4. Once submitted, a challenge becomes part of the formal record, and may not be withdrawn except  
328 by the explicit permission of the Director of Elections.

329 **3. Format of Challenges**

330 Challenges must be in writing, submitted on the signed Challenge Form, and accompanied by the following  
331 supporting documentation:

- 332 1. Challenger's name  
333 2. Candidate's name  
334 3. Date of challenge  
335 4. Reason for challenge and supporting evidence

336 **4. Notification of Election Challenges**

337 The Office of the Assemblies will notify the Director of Elections who will send an email notifying anyone  
338 who is named in an election challenge. The email will contain a scanned copy of the challenge.

339 **5. Response to Election Challenges**

340 A challenged candidate may request to review challenges to which they are a party from the Office of the  
341 Assemblies, [assembly@cornell.edu](mailto:assembly@cornell.edu), who will share the challenges in a confidential setting via Zoom. The  
342 challenged candidate may then address written statements in response to the committee. The challenged  
343 candidate may request a hearing ~~in person~~ with the committee.

344 **6. Challenge Review Meeting**

345 The committee will schedule a meeting to review challenges in Executive Session. The committee, less  
346 temporarily recused members, will provide an opportunity for the challenged candidate to respond in  
347 person if requested by the challenged candidate or a member of the committee. For each challenge, the  
348 committee will determine:

- 349 1. Whether a preponderance of evidence substantiates each alleged violation. This vote will be taken  
350 for each violation individually, and a majority of the seated membership of the Elections Committee  
351 is required to declare that a preponderance of evidence substantiates each violation;  
352 2. Which, if any, substantiated violations or combination thereof compromised the fairness of the  
353 election and constituted a material advantage to the extent the challenged candidate should be  
354 disqualified. If the committee finds either that a single substantiated violation or that a combination  
355 of substantiated violations should require the disqualification of a candidate, with at least two-thirds  
356 of the members present of the Elections Committee in the affirmative, may disqualify the candidate.



357 **7. Written Report**

- 358 1. For each rule violation, the Director of Elections or a member of the Elections Committee as  
359 delegated by the Director will create a written report thoroughly detailing the challenge(s), listing the  
360 tallies of all votes taken by the committee including the bifurcated voting process, the decision  
361 made, and how the decision was reached.  
362 2. The report is kept confidential and only released to the challenged candidate and the challenger(s).  
363 3. A copy, with all names other than the challenged candidate redacted, is kept in the Office of the  
364 Assemblies, 109 Day Hall.  
365 4. For each challenge, the committee will report to the challenger(s) and the challenged candidate all  
366 evidence received/found, any violations substantiated, and any decisions to disqualify the challenged  
367 candidate.

368 **8. Reconsideration**

- 369 1. If the committee determines a candidate should be disqualified, the candidate may request  
370 reconsideration within twenty-four hours of receiving the written report. To be reconsidered, the  
371 candidate seeking such reconsideration must submit a request in writing to the Office of the  
372 Assemblies, via email to [assembly@cornell.edu](mailto:assembly@cornell.edu), and the Director of Elections. The statement should  
373 address the specific findings in the written report to be reconsidered and should detail the specific  
374 points where the Elections Committee failed to correctly enforce these Elections Rules.  
375 2. The committee will convene in response to such a request. The committee, after evaluating each  
376 request for reconsideration, will take a vote requiring a simple majority to determine if the previous  
377 decision to disqualify should be overturned.  
378 3. If a disqualified candidate believes that the Elections Committee failed to correctly follow or enforce  
379 these Elections Rules after the Elections Committee's reconsideration, they may request a review by  
380 the Judicial Codes Counselor (JCC) within 24 hours after the Election's Committee's  
381 Reconsideration vote.  
382 4. The challenged candidate will submit to the JCC, the Office of the Assemblies, and the Director of  
383 Elections all original appeal materials that were previously submitted to the Elections Committee as  
384 well as any additional materials that detail failures of the Elections Committee to follow and enforce  
385 these Elections Rules.  
386 5. The Elections Committee will submit all challenge reports pertaining to the candidate's appeal as  
387 well as any additional materials refuting or agreeing with claims made by the challenged candidate to  
388 the JCC within 24 hours after the candidate appeals to the JCC. If the Elections Committee agrees  
389 with the candidate's appeal, a vote with a simple majority of the seated membership of the Elections  
390 Committee in the affirmative may overturn their decision before the JCC completes a full review.  
391 6. After a review of all materials sent by the candidate and the Elections Committee, the JCC will  
392 determine whether or not to take the case. If the JCC deems that the appealed case does not merit  
393 consideration, then the decision of the Elections Committee will be final. If the JCC takes on the  
394 case and finds that the Elections Committee did not correctly follow and enforce the Elections  
395 Rules, the JCC has the power to overturn the decision of the Elections Committee.

396 **9. Confidentiality**

- 397 1. Members of the committee and parties to a challenge may not share the contents of challenges,  
398 evidence, or decisions submitted to or received from the committee, except when explicitly





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- 399 permitted by these rules or by the Director of Elections. When publicly releasing confidential  
400 information, the Director of Elections must redact the names of all individuals who are not the  
401 challenged candidate.
- 402 2. A review of the Challenges may take place in coordination with the Office of the Assemblies, ~~409~~  
403 ~~Day Hall~~, by any member of the Cornell community. Challenges may not be photocopied, screen-  
404 shared, photographed, digitally recorded or removed from the Office of Assemblies.