



Student Assembly

Resolution 43: Creating Restrictions & Evaluation Criteria around the Special Projects Fund

Abstract: Creation of a formal requirement that restricts utility of the Special Projects Fund beyond just “extracurricular activities”. Restructures the usage of the fund to be more equitable and incentivizes organizations to apply for the fund for the betterment of all Cornellians, not just a select few.

Authored by: Eeshaan Chaudhuri '27

Type of Action: Internal Policy

Originally Presented: 02/12/2026

Current Status: Adopted by Assembly, 14-12-1, 02/19/2026

Whereas, the requirements for the Cornell Special Projects Fund read as: “The Student Assembly may choose to fund any project, program or service through the Assembly Special Projects that it deems to improve the quality of undergraduate student life.” (Cornell Student Assembly Standing Rules, Section 111.B),

Whereas, Any Cornell registered student organization may apply for this funding, even the ones that have competitive recruitment processes and limit the number of undergraduate students from joining them,

Whereas, any organization is willing to request up to \$5,000 from the Student Assembly for any project, program, or service, with little to no guidelines on verification, or rationale as to why they deserve the money, and no repercussions for mismanagement,

Be it therefore resolved, that the language of subsection 112.B (2) be amended to reflect “Special Projects funding may be requested by Assembly committee chairs that seek funding for expenditures that exceed their committee’s budgeted allocation or any registered Cornell undergraduate student organization that meets any of the following criteria:

(a) membership recruitment processes that are not application or interview based, or

(b) seeking to host an open, public event on Cornell's Ithaca campus and have been approved for the maximum amount of SAFC special events funding”,



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29 **Be it further resolved,** the Cornell Student Assembly Standing Rules Section 111.B have a
30 section 7 that reads, “If any organization has been found to have violated the terms of their
31 proposal by artificially inflating costs, overestimating the amount of students utilizing this
32 funding, or genuinely misrepresenting the purpose of the activity for the sake of gaining extra
33 money, they shall receive a fine, determined by the Vice President of Finance”,

34 **Be it finally resolved,** that on the Special Projects Fund Application page, the Vice President of
35 Finance shall be required to provide general guidelines for calculating the cost of “fixed travel
36 expenses” which include but are not limited to: plane tickets, rental cars, meals per day, gas,
37 hotel rooms, etc. These guidelines can also be relative to geographic location. These guidelines
38 are not binding, but are rather recommendations to communicate to applicants to not
39 unnecessarily splurge, as Special Projects Funding is not limitless.

40 Respectfully Submitted,

41 Eeshaan Chaudhuri '27

42 *Vice Chair of Operations, University Assembly*