



# Student Assembly

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## 1           **Resolution 48: Public Comment Duration**

2    ***Abstract:*** Establishes a one-hour limit for public comment per meeting to ensure efficient  
3    meeting operations while maintaining meaningful opportunity for public participation.

4    ***Authored by:*** Christian Tarala '27, Eeshaan Chaudhuri '27

5    ***Sponsored by:*** Lydia Blum '27

6    ***Reviewed by:***

7    ***Type of Action:*** Internal Policy

8    ***Originally Presented:*** 02/05/2026

9    ***Current Status:*** Second Reading Calendar

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10    **Whereas,** the Student Assembly is committed to transparency and public participation in student  
11    governance, as reflected in the Assembly Charter,

12    **Whereas,** public comment is an essential component of open governance that allows the Cornell  
13    student body to inform the Assembly's decision-making and voice concerns directly to their  
14    elected representatives,

15    **Whereas,** the Student Assembly has experienced instances where extended public comment  
16    periods have resulted in meetings exceeding available time allocations, caused quorum loss, and  
17    prevented engagement in subsequent agenda items,

18    **Whereas,** establishing clear, published time limits for public comment ensures that critical  
19    business can be completed within reasonable meeting times, helps prevent quorum loss, allows  
20    the Assembly to schedule adequate debate and voting on legislative matters, and provides more  
21    predictability for both speakers and the public regarding meeting structure,

22    **Whereas,** a full-hour allocation for public comment is a reasonable standard that accommodates  
23    substantial community input while protecting the Assembly's ability to function effectively (at 3  
24    minutes per speaker, this allows up to 20 speakers to be heard at each meeting),

25    **Be it therefore resolved,** a maximum of one hour shall be allocated for public comment during  
26    each regularly scheduled Student Assembly meeting. Public comment shall include all  
27    statements from non-voting attendees addressing the Assembly on any topic, whether or not the  
28    topic appears on the meeting agenda,



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29 **Be it further resolved,** if the Chair feels that there is an opinion whose side has not had yet the  
30 opportunity to be voiced, the Chair reserves the right to solicit the audience for an opposing  
31 opinion and grant the audience member an accelerated speaking order,

32 **Be it finally resolved,** this policy will not prevent individuals from submitting written comments  
33 for the record, requesting future speaking opportunities, or raising matters at subsequent  
34 meetings.

35 Respectfully Submitted,

36 Christian Tarala '27

37 Nolan School of Hotel Administration Representative, *Student Governance Assembly*

38 Eeshaan Chaudhuri '27

39 *Vice Chair of Operations, University Assembly*

40 Lydia Blum '27

41 College of Agriculture & Life Sciences Representative, *Student Governance Assembly*