



Student Assembly

Resolution 51: Updating the Bylaws with a Contingency Plan for Vacancies in the Independent Offices

Abstract: This resolution updates the Bylaws to include a timeline of approval for, option for a vote of no confidence for, and timeline for filling vacancies of the Director positions of the Student Assembly’s independent offices of Ethics and Elections, respectively.

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Sponsored by:

Reviewed by:

Type of Action: Internal Policy

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Current Status: Third Reading Calendar

Whereas, the Student Assembly reclassified the Offices of Ethics and Elections as “Independent Offices” early in the fall of 2024;

Whereas, in the fall of 2024, the function of the Student Assembly was hindered when elections were delayed following an ineffective Director of Elections’ delayed resignation. This issue would have been avoided had the Student Assembly been able to call a vote of no confidence;

Whereas, in the spring of 2026, following a fall 2025 failed confirmation vote, the Student Assembly is facing a vacancy in the Director of the Office of Ethics seat;

Whereas, the Student Assembly ought update the Bylaws and internal procedures regarding the Independent Offices with these practical lessons in mind.

Be it therefore resolved, Article VI, Section 7, Subsection B, Subsection C “Recruitment of the Office of Ethics Members” be updated to reflect the following language:

- i. Before the conclusion of each academic year, the outgoing voting membership of the Office of Ethics must select the incoming Director of the Office of Ethics internally by a simple majority vote of the entire voting membership of the Office. This nominee shall be subject to confirmation by a 2/3 vote of the Assembly at the Organizational Meeting referenced in Article IV, Section 3.
 1. At any point in the academic year, a vote of no confidence may be called by any voting member of the Student Assembly, at which point the Director of the Office of Ethics shall be subject to a vote of reconfirmation.



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- 31 2. In the event of a nominee or Director failing a confirmation vote, the President of the
32 Student Assembly shall, in coordination with the Office of the Assemblies and Vice
33 President for Communications, distribute a call for candidates to the Cornell
34 undergraduate community. Any interested and eligible Cornell undergraduate student
35 shall be welcome to apply. The Student Assembly shall fill the vacant Director seat
36 within six (6) weeks of the call or by the third-to-last regularly scheduled meeting of the
37 academic year, whichever date is earliest.
- 38 ii. The incoming Director of the Office of Ethics shall decide upon the voting membership of the
39 incoming Office before the conclusion of each academic year, subject to confirmation by a 2/3
40 vote of the Assembly.

41 **Be it therefore resolved**, Article VI, Section 7, Subsection C, Subsection C “Recruitment of the
42 Office of Elections Members” be updated to reflect the following language:

- 43 i. Before the conclusion of each academic year, the outgoing voting membership of the Office of
44 Elections must select the incoming Director of the Office of Elections internally by a simple
45 majority vote of the entire voting membership of the Office. This nominee shall be subject to
46 confirmation by a 2/3 vote of the Assembly at the Organizational Meeting referenced in Article
47 IV, Section 3.
- 48 1. At any point in the academic year, a vote of no confidence may be called by any voting
49 member of the Student Assembly, at which point the Director of the Office of Elections
50 shall be subject to a vote of reconfirmation.
- 51 2. In the event of a nominee or Director failing a confirmation vote, the President of the
52 Student Assembly shall, in coordination with the Office of the Assemblies and Vice
53 President for Communications, distribute a call for candidates to the Cornell
54 undergraduate community. Any interested and eligible Cornell undergraduate student
55 shall be welcome to apply. The Student Assembly shall fill the vacant Director seat
56 within six (6) weeks of the call or by the third-to-last regularly scheduled meeting of
57 the academic year, whichever date is earliest.
- 58 ii. The incoming Director of the Office of Elections shall decide upon the voting membership of
59 the incoming Office before the conclusion of each academic year, subject to confirmation by a
60 2/3 vote of the Assembly.

61
62 Respectfully Submitted,

63 Zora de Rham

64 *President of the Student Assembly*