



Student Assembly

Resolution 10: Condemning the Administration's Undemocratic Review of the Student Code of Conduct and Affirming Cornell's System of Shared Governance

Abstract: This resolution addresses the central administration's betrayal of Cornell's commitment to shared governance and condemns the exclusion of the elected Assemblies in its revision of the Student Code of Conduct ("Code"). It invokes Article 3, Section 1 of the Charter to request all information regarding the selection of the voting members of the Standing Code and Procedures Review Committee and calls for the Code to be revised by representatives of the elected Assemblies.

Authored by: Aiden Vallecillo '26

Sponsored by: Max Ehrlich '26, Dylan Carson '28, Saanya Agarwal '27, Kennedy Young '28, Lydia Blum '27, Christian Flournoy '27, Grace Dorward '26, Daniel Addoquaye '28, Sophia Arnold '26, Jonathan Lam '26, Zilala Mamat '26, Hudson Athas '27, Delphi Lyra '28, Jaimie Chen '26, Ava Osorio '28, Shaunjae Suarez '26, Hasham Khan '26, Adriana Vink '27, Kate Irwin '26, Lani Lin-Kissick '27, Professor Shimon Edelman, Yoojung Joe '26, Rene Cabrera '27, Emely Gutierrez '27

Reviewed by:

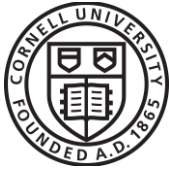
Type of Action: Legislation

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Current Status: Adopted by the Assembly, 21-2-1, 10/09/2025

Whereas, Andrew Dickson White assigned student conduct to the faculty rather than the President in his 1866 Plan of Organization which the Trustees adopted before making him Cornell's first President;

Whereas, a key demand of the 1969 Willard Straight Hall Takeover that led to the creation of the elected Assemblies was the creation of a campus judicial system that was independent of the central administration;



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28 **Whereas**, as asserted during the Barton Hall assemblies, “due process says that a party in a
29 dispute cannot be impartial. Therefore, the University is not competent to judge acts committed
30 against itself”;

31 **Whereas**, the faculty retained sole responsibility for student conduct regulation until 1970, when
32 it was transferred to the student-faculty-employee University Senate.

33 **Whereas**, the University Senate has since been split into the various elected Assemblies, with
34 the University Assembly having assumed responsibility over student conduct since;

35 **Whereas**, in December 2020, the Board of Trustees approved the Student Code and Procedures
36 without amending the University Assembly Charter;

37 **Whereas**, upon adoption of the new Student Code of Conduct in 2021, the Office of Student
38 Conduct and Community Standards (OSCCS) replaced the Office of the Judicial Administrator;

39 **Whereas**, the implementation of the Student Code of Conduct by OSCCS has caused excessive
40 and unreasonable delays in cases where a student or student organization has been temporarily
41 suspended;

42 **Whereas**, the Student Code of Conduct states that administration of the Code and associated
43 Procedures is vested with the Vice President for Student and Campus Life in ongoing
44 collaborative consultation with the elected Assemblies of the University;

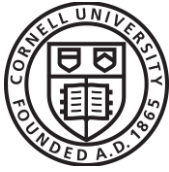
45 **Whereas**, since 2021, the Standing Code and Procedures Review Committee has not been
46 appointed until August 26, 2025, when Vice President Ryan Lombardi appointed six
47 administrators and five community members to the committee;

48 **Whereas**, the implementation of the Student Code of Conduct by the central administration has
49 repeatedly infringed upon freedom of expression and the individual rights of students, and thus
50 necessitates thorough reform;

51 **Whereas**, the Student Code of Conduct Procedures, Section II(A), require the Director of
52 OSCCS to provide an annual report to the Student Assembly on the operations of the office and
53 of the student conduct system;

54 **Whereas**, the Student Code of Conduct specifies that the Vice President of Student and Campus
55 Life or their designee will chair and convene a standing “Code and Procedures Review
56 Committee” that will include representatives from the Student Assembly and the Graduate and
57 Professional Student Assembly;

58 **Whereas**, the Student Code of Conduct does not reference representatives of the administration
59 as voting members of the Standing Code and Procedures Review Committee;



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Whereas, thorough reform of the Student Code of Conduct and practices associated with its implementation must be considered in collaboration with the elected Assemblies;

Whereas, reform of the Student Code of Conduct should only be considered in a fully democratic process involving all members of the Cornell community in which the central administration plays only an advisory role;

Whereas, Vice President Lombardi selected six administrators, constituting 55% of the Code and Procedures Review Committee, with no input from the elected Assemblies;

Whereas, pursuant to Article 3, Section 1 of the Student Assembly Charter, the Assembly has legislative authority over the policies of the Department of Campus Life and the Office of the Dean of Students;

Whereas, pursuant to Article 3, Section 1 of the Charter, the Assembly has the authority to require at any time information directly from a department or a specific individual within that department concerning the budget, policies, or actions of said department;

Be it therefore resolved, the administration's failure to collaborate with the elected Assemblies is a betrayal of Cornell's system of shared governance;

Be it further resolved, that the Assembly formally requests all information regarding the process by which Vice President Lombardi identified, evaluated, and appointed the voting members of the Standing Code and Procedures Review Committee;

Be it further resolved, that the Assembly formally requests the annual reports of the Director of OSCCS from the following academic years: 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025;

Be it further resolved, that the Student Assembly believes that the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards, which oversees enforcement of the Student Code of Conduct, should be independent of the central administration;

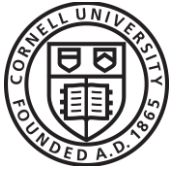
Be it further resolved, that the Student Code of Conduct be revised by freely elected members of the University Assembly, the Student Assembly, the Faculty Senate, and the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly;

Be it finally resolved, that a committee composed of three freely elected members from each of these bodies revise the Student Code of Conduct, and that the revision be approved by each of these bodies.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aiden Vallecillo '26

Student Workers' Representative, *Student Assembly*



Student Assembly

- 92 Max Ehrlich '26
93 College of Industrial and Labor Relations Representative, *Student Assembly*
- 94 Dylan Carson '28
95 College of Arts and Sciences Representative, *Student Assembly*
- 96 Saanya Agarwal '27
97 Women's Issues Representative, *Student Assembly*
- 98 Kennedy Young '28
99 Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, *Student Assembly*
- 100 Lydia Blum '27
101 College of Agriculture & Life Sciences Representative, *Student Assembly*
- 102 Christian Flournoy '27
103 Executive Vice President, *Student Assembly*
- 104 Grace Dorward '26
105 College of Agriculture & Life Sciences Representative, *Student Assembly*
- 106 Daniel Addoquaye '28
107 Vice President for Policy, *Student Assembly*
- 108 Sophia Arnold '26
109 Director of the Office of Ethics, *Student Assembly*
- 110 Jonathan Lam '26
111 Co-President, *The Cornell University Student Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union*
- 112 Zilala Mamat '26
113 Co-President, *The Cornell University Student Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union*
- 114 Hudson Athas '27
115 Co-Chair, *Young Democratic Socialists of America*
- 116 Delphi Lyra '28
117 Co-Chair, *Young Democratic Socialists of America*
- 118 Jaimie Chen '26
119 Co-President, *Cornell Asian Pacific Americans for Action*
- 120 Kappa Alpha Pi, *Professional Pre-Law Fraternity*
- 121 Ava Osorio '28
122 Coordinating Chair, *Cornell Committee on U.S.-Latin America Relations*



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- 123 Shaunjae Suarez '26
124 Political Education Chair, *Cornell Committee on U.S.-Latin America Relations*
- 125 Hasham Khan '26
126 President, *Kashmiri Cultural Alliance*
- 127 Adriana Vink '27
128 President, *Progressives at Cornell*
- 129 Kate Irwin '26
130 President, *Latinx Association of Pre-Laws at Cornell University*
- 131 Lani Lin-Kissick '27
132 *Cornell on Fire*
- 133 Professor Shimon Edelman
134 *Cornell on Fire*
- 135 Yoojung Joe '26
136 President, *International Students Association*
- 137 Rene Cabrera '27
138 Co-Chair, *Mecha de Cornell*
- 139 Emely Gutierrez '27
140 Co-Chair, *Mecha de Cornell*