

Student Assembly

Resolution 15: Amend Charter to Streamline SAIFC Operation

Abstract: This resolution aims to create a more reasonable timeline for the Infrastructure Fund Commission’s workflow and set up rules to help the commission run without conflict of interest and with better connection with ongoing projects.

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Type of Action: Internal Policy

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Current Status: Placed on the Third Readings Calendar, 12/05/2024

Whereas, the Student Assembly Infrastructure Fund (SAIF) has about \$50,000 every year to allocate to infrastructure projects that can improve the well-being of all undergraduates.

Whereas, Appendix C of the Student Assembly Charter should be used to make sure SAIF is functioning in coordination with the general assembly and the Office of the Assembly in a timely manner.

Whereas, the current timeline required by the charter is not actionable for the parties involved and thus not enforceable.

Whereas, the allocation of the fund should align with the purpose of SAIF and the pursuit of fairness.

Whereas, Appendix C has no clarification for conflict of interest from voting members in the Student Assembly Infrastructure Fund Commission (SAIFC).

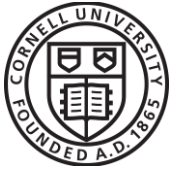
Whereas, current Appendix C has neither clear lines to add accountability to fund receivers nor requirements on them to report back to the commission.

Be it therefore resolved, new time points, evaluation procedures with conflict of interest, and requirements for fund receivers to report back to the commission should be adopted for SAIFC operation.

Be it further resolved, the following text should be inserted after Appendix C, Section 6. A:

B. be endorsed by at least one Cornell faculty or staff of associated college/units.

Be it further resolved, “within a one-year time frame” should be inserted at the end of Appendix C, Section 6.D.



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30 **Be it further resolved**, Appendix. C. Section 9. A. i. “the second regularly scheduled Student
31 Assembly meeting” be struck and replaced by “the second Student Assembly meeting after the
32 appointment of the chair.”

33 **Be it further resolved**, Appendix. C. Section 9. A. ii. “the third regularly scheduled Student
34 Assembly meeting, or one week following the meeting with the SAIF Chair” be struck and
35 replaced with “the transfer of the fund to SAIF account, or November 1st.”

36 **Be it further resolved**, Appendix. C. Section 9. A. iii. “the second regularly scheduled Student
37 Assembly meeting of the Fall semester” be struck and replaced with “the transfer of the fund to
38 SAIF account, or November 1st, whichever is sooner.”

39 **Be it further resolved**, Appendix. C. Section 9. A. iv. “the third regularly scheduled Student
40 Assembly meeting of the Student Assembly each semester” be struck and replaced with “for fall
41 semester before the fund is transferred to SAIF account, and for spring semester by the third
42 regularly scheduled meeting of the Student Assembly.”

43 **Be it further resolved**, “members with conflict of interest abstained from conflicted projects’
44 voting” should be inserted to the end of the Appendix. C. Section 9. B. i. d.

45 **Be it further resolved**, the following text should be inserted after Appendix. C. Section 9. B. i.
46 B.

- 47 a. clarify the conflict of interest of commission members¹,
48 (1) An individual is considered to have a conflict of interest when they:
49 (a) has an existing or potential significant financial interest or other material
50 interest or relationship that impairs or might appear to impair the
51 individual's independence and objectivity in the discharge of their
52 responsibilities to the commission; or
53 (b) may receive a financial or other material benefit from information
54 confidential to the commission.
55 (c) Typically, a conflict of interest may arise when an individual has the
56 opportunity or perceived opportunity to influence the commission’s
57 funding allocation in a manner implicating personal gain or competitive
58 advantage of any kind.
59

60 **Be it further resolved**, “i. The ongoing projects shall report back to the commission about the
61 progress of the project, the expected time to complete, and the latest person of contact within 6
62 month after the transfer is made” be inserted after Appendix C. Section 9. B. vii.

¹ This line is modified from [University Policy 4.14 Conflicts of Interest and Commitment \(Excluding Financial Conflict of Interest Related to Research\) Section 1.2 Conflict of Interest, on 2024 Nov 25th.](#)



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63 **Be it finally resolved,** future chair and members of the SAIFC and SAIF applicants should
64 comply with the amended charter.

65 **Respectfully Submitted,**

66 Flora Meng '27

67 *Chair, Infrastructure Fund Commission, Student Assembly*

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69 Cion Kim '27

70 *College of Engineering Representative, Student Assembly*

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72 Franklin Berry '26

73 *Member of Student Assembly Infrastructure Fund Commission*

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75 Christian Tarala '27

76 *School of Hotel Administration Representative, Student Assembly*