

Student Assembly

1 **Resolution 2: Executive Governance Reform**

2 ***Abstract:*** This resolution adopts bylaw amendments to clarify several areas of governance.

3 ***Sponsored by:*** President deRham '27, EVP Vinson '25, VP Suarez '27, VP Hite '26, VP Chan
4 '25, VP Flournoy '27, Parliamentarian Coleman '26, UA Rep. Maggard '26

5 ***Type of Action:*** Internal Policy

6 ***Originally Presented:*** 08/29/2024

7 ***Current Status:*** Adopted by the Assembly, 08/29/2024, Unanimous

8 **Whereas,** the term “ex-officio” as it is used in the Bylaws does not mean “non-voting,” as
9 intended, but rather the Latin “by virtue of office,” leading to confusion about whether such seats
10 are voting or non-voting.

11 **Whereas,** previous Assembly governing document changes have began the process of
12 converting the usage of “SA” as the shortened version of “Student Assembly” to “Assembly.”

13 **Whereas,** there currently exists three Executive bodies: the Executive Committee, the Executive
14 Board, and the Executive Cabinet. These three bodies each have primarily the same membership,
15 but with separate responsibilities and requirements

16 **Whereas,** Officers of the Assembly are assigned significant responsibility, with no such
17 authorized ability to designate.

18 **Whereas,** the Offices of Student Government Relations and the Student Advocate have unclear
19 guidelines as to how those offices are governed by the Student Assembly.

20 **Whereas,** the Offices of Ethics and Elections should exist independently of the authority of the
21 Student Assembly as a legislative body, in order to promote transparency and fairness in ethics
22 and elections proceedings.

23 **Be it therefore resolved,** all amending resolving clauses not explicitly referring to the Standing
24 Rules be understood as referring to the Bylaws.

25 **Be it further resolved,** the Student Assembly logo be updated to the versions provided by the
26 Office of the Assembly.

27 **Be it further resolved,** all instances of “ex-officio” not referring to a seat automatically assigned
28 by virtue of holding an office be changed to “non-voting,” with the exception of Article I,
29 Section 4, where such instances shall be changed to “ex-officio, non-voting.”



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30 **Be it further resolved**, all instances of “SA” be changed to “Assembly” or “Student Assembly,”
31 as appropriate. The distinctions are determined in the attached Bylaws.

32 **Be it further resolved**, Article I, Section 2 of the Student Assembly Bylaws be struck and
33 replaced with:

34 **Section 2: Executive Cabinet Members**

35 Each individual holding a voting or non-voting seat on the Executive Cabinet of the
36 Student Assembly not otherwise holding a voting seat shall be granted a non-voting seat
37 on the Student Assembly.

38 **Be it further resolved**, from Article I, Section 3, Subsection A, “ex-officio” be struck and
39 replaced with “non-voting liaison.”

40 **Be it further resolved**, Article I, Section 3, Subsection C and Subsection D be struck, with the
41 remaining subsections to be renumerated as necessary.

42 **Be it further resolved**, from Article I, Section 3, Subsection C, “Representative” be struck and
43 replaced with “Liaison.”

44 **Be it further resolved**, Article I, Section 3, Subsection D be struck and replaced with:

45 The Assembly shall grant one member chosen from each byline organization one non-
46 voting seat titled [“Name of Byline Organization”] Liaison.

47 **Be it further resolved**, from Article II, Section 1, “, a Director of Elections” be struck.

48 **Be it further resolved**, the following text be inserted into Article II, Section 1, preceding the last
49 sentence:

50 The Assembly may create additional offices as provided by these Bylaws, such offices
51 shall cease to exist at the end of the term.

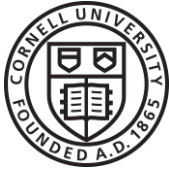
52 **Be it further resolved**, from Article II, Section 2, the following text be struck:

53 “At this meeting or a meeting soon after, the voting members will elect from the Cornell
54 community (student, employee, faculty, alumnus living in Ithaca) the office of Director
55 of Elections.”

56 **Be it further resolved**, Article III, Section 1, Subsection 2 and Subsection 3 be struck, with the
57 remaining subsections to be renumerated as necessary.

58 **Be it further resolved**, from Article III, Section 1, Subsection 5, “elected” be struck.

59 **Be it further resolved**, from Article III, Section 2, Subsection 1, “and act as Chair in the
60 absence of the President” be struck.



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61 **Be it further resolved**, from Article III, Section 2, Subsection 2, “Committee” be struck and
62 replaced with “Board.”

63 **Be it further resolved**, Article III, Section 2, Subsections 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 be struck, with the
64 remaining subsections to be renumerated as necessary.

65 **Be it further resolved**, Article III, Section 2, Subsection 4, be struck and replaced with:

66 “Supervise and oversee all committees, by assisting and advising the committee chairs,
67 attending meetings as necessary, and holding monthly executive sessions with all
68 committee chairs.”

69 **Be it further resolved**, from Article III, Section 3, Subsection 1, “and act as Chair in the
70 absence of the President and the Executive Vice President” be struck.

71 **Be it further resolved**, Article III, Section 3, Subsections 2, 3, and 4 be struck, with the
72 remaining subsections to be renumerated as necessary.

73 **Be it further resolved**, from Article III, Section 5, Subsection 4, “and the Technology
74 Committee” be struck.

75 **Be it further resolved**, Article III, Section 7 be struck, with the remaining sections to be
76 renumerated as necessary.

77 **Be it further resolved**, Article III, Section 9 of the Student Assembly Bylaws be struck and
78 replaced with:

79 **Section 9: Offices of Officers**

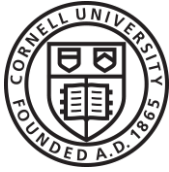
80 A. Each Officer is permitted to appoint individuals to assist in the execution of their
81 responsibilities.

82 B. Members of the office not designated to hold a non-voting seat on the Assembly or the
83 Executive Board may be appointed with the approval of the President.

84 C. Members of the office designated to hold a non-voting seat on the Assembly and/or
85 Executive Board shall be confirmed by a majority vote.

86 D. Members of the office designated to hold a newly created office, at a rank to be
87 determined by the Assembly, shall be confirmed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

88 E. Members of the office shall be empowered to act as directed by the Officer or by the
89 Rules of the Student Assembly.



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90 **Be it further resolved**, all instances of “Executive Committee,” “Executive Cabinet,”
91 “Committee on Committee Structure,” and “Staffing Committee” be struck and replaced with
92 their successor body, “Executive Board.”

93 **Be it further resolved**, from Article V, Section 1, “, the Director of Elections” be struck.

94 **Be it further resolved**, the following text be inserted into Article V, Section 1 at the last
95 sentence:

96 The Chairs of the Operational and Review Committees of the Assembly serve as non-
97 voting members of the Executive Board.

98 **Be it further resolved**, Article V, Section 2 be struck and replaced with:

99 **Section 2: Duties**

100 The Executive Board of the Assembly shall coordinate the actions of the Assembly to
101 ensure its smooth operation, set the agenda for the Regular Meetings of the Assembly,
102 and fill vacant committee and liaison seats. Additionally, the Board shall send its minutes
103 to all representatives within 24 hours of its meeting.

104 **Be it further resolved**, Article VI, Section 1, Subsection B be struck, with the remaining
105 subsections to be renumerated as necessary.

106 **Be it further resolved**, from Article VI, Section 1, Subsection B, “President and all Vice
107 Presidents” be struck and replaced with “Officers.”

108 **Be it further resolved**, from Article VI, Section 1, Subsection B, the last sentence be struck.

109 **Be it further resolved**, from Article VI, Section 3, Subsection D, “who will be the Vice
110 President of Infrastructure of the SA,” be struck.

111 **Be it further resolved**, from Article VI, Section 3, Subsection D, “The Vice President for
112 Finance and the Vice President of External Affairs shall serve ex-officio as non-voting members
113 of the Commission” be struck.

114 **Be it further resolved**, Article VI, Section 3, Subsections E and F be struck, with the remaining
115 subsections to be renumerated as necessary.

116 **Be it further resolved**, Article VI, Section 5 be struck in its entirety and replaced with:

117 **Section 5: Offices of the President**

118 A. The Offices of the President shall report to the President directly. Members of the offices shall be
119 nominated by the President, and shall serve at the pleasure of the President.

120 **B. Office of Student Advocacy**



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- 121 a. The Office of Student Advocacy shall be within the Office of the President.
- 122 b. Roles and Responsibilities
- 123 i. Director of Student Advocacy – the responsibilities of the Director are as
- 124 follows:
- 125 1. Attend and chair all office meetings
- 126 2. Correspond with Student Assembly to affect office priorities
- 127 3. Create training programs for caseworkers and staff
- 128 4. Monitor the collection of data in the office
- 129 5. Develop relationships with University offices and coordinate
- 130 informational material
- 131 ii. Chief of Staff – the responsibilities of the Chief of Staff are as follows:
- 132 1. Supervise office staff and ensure cohesion
- 133 2. Ensure that all cases are met with an appropriate and timely response
- 134 3. Create training programs for caseworkers and staff
- 135 4. Develop relationships with University offices and coordinate
- 136 informational materials
- 137 5. Write and present an office report at the end of each semester
- 138 iii. Deputy Director for Student and Campus Life – the responsibilities of the Deputy
- 139 Director for Student and Campus Life are as follows:
- 140 1. Oversee caseworkers handling student issues pertaining to residency,
- 141 discrimination, harassment and student-related conduct violations.
- 142 2. Create informational material relating to these issues.
- 143 iv. Deputy Director for Academic Affairs – the responsibilities of the Deputy
- 144 Director for Academic Affairs are as follows:
- 145 1. Oversee caseworkers handling student issues pertaining to professor-
- 146 related conduct violations, grade and enrollment disputes.
- 147 2. Create informational materials relating to these issues.
- 148 v. Deputy Director for Student Finance – the responsibilities of the Deputy Director
- 149 for Student Finance are as follows:
- 150 1. Oversee caseworkers handling student issues pertaining to financial aid
- 151 disputes and student-employment.
- 152 2. Create informational materials relating to these issues.
- 153 vi. Deputy Director of International Student Affairs – the responsibilities for the
- 154 Deputy Director of International Student Affairs are as follows:
- 155 1. Oversee caseworkers handling student issues pertaining to international
- 156 student affairs.
- 157 2. Create informational materials relating to these issues.
- 158 vii. Caseworkers – the responsibilities of Caseworkers shall be as follows:
- 159 1. Follow the supervision of their Director or Deputy Director.
- 160 2. Participate in the office’s training process.

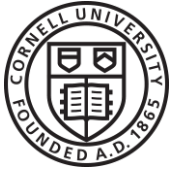


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- 161 3. Respond to questions and inquiries sent via email by students or in
162 person in a timely manner.
163 4. Refer students to the appropriate office within the University to handle
164 their complaint.

165 C. Office of Student Government Relations

- 166 a. Name, Mission, and Affiliation
- 167 i. Name – the name of the office shall be the Office of Student Government
168 Relations (abbreviated to OSGR).
- 169 ii. Mission – the mission of OSGR shall be to advocate on behalf of current and
170 future students for the accessibility, affordability, and quality of Cornell
171 University.
- 172 b. Roles and Responsibilities
- 173 i. Director of Student Government Relations – the responsibilities of the Director
174 of Student Government Relations are as follows:
- 175 1. Chair all meetings
176 2. Correspond with the Student Assembly to affect office priorities
177 3. Create training programs for directors and other office members
178 4. Appoint additional members of the office as appropriate
179 5. Oversee the budget of the office
- 180 ii. Deputy Executive Director of Student Government Relations — the
181 responsibilities of the Deputy Director of Student Government Relations are as
182 follows:
- 183 1. Oversee the recruitment of additional members of the office.
184 2. Perform other activities as determined by the Director.
- 185 iii. Deputy Director of Local Relations – the responsibilities of the Deputy Director
186 of Local Relations are as follows:
- 187 1. Understand and act upon student needs and requests
188 2. Maintain and foster communications with appropriate institutions,
189 entities, and individuals
- 190 iv. Deputy Director of State Relations – the responsibilities of the Deputy Director
191 of State Relations are as follows:
- 192 1. Understand and act upon student needs and requests
193 2. Maintain and foster communications with appropriate institutions,
194 entities, and individuals
- 195 v. Deputy Director of Federal Relations – the responsibilities of the Deputy
196 Director of Federal Relations are as follows:
- 197 1. Understand and act upon student needs and requests
198 2. Maintain and foster communications with appropriate institutions,
199 entities, and individuals
- 200 vi. Voting Members of OSGR – the responsibilities of Voting Members of OSGR
201 are as follows:



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- 202 1. Understand and act upon student needs and requests
203 2. Collaborate and support the Deputy Directors of Local, State, and
204 Federal Relations as needed

205 **Be it further resolved**, the following text be inserted as Article VI, Section 6:

206 **Section 6: Independent Offices**

207 A. The independent offices of the Student Assembly shall exist independent of the authority of the
208 Assembly. Independent offices shall not be accountable to the Assembly. Members of the offices
209 shall only be removed by the office.

210 **B. Office of Ethics**

211 a. Name, Mission, and Affiliation

212 i. Name – the name of the office shall be the Office of Ethics.

213 ii. Mission – the mission of the Office of Ethics shall be to pursue any necessary
214 ethics concerns of Assembly members and directly elected undergraduate
215 representatives to the UA. The Office will evaluate all requests submitted by
216 community members that are against any Assembly members, Assembly
217 committees, or directly elected undergraduate representatives of the UA.

218 iii. Affiliation –The Office of Ethics shall be affiliated as an independent office of
219 the Cornell Student Assembly.

220 b. Roles and Responsibilities

221 i. Director of the Office of Ethics:

222 1. Director of the Office of Ethics will chair all Office of Ethics meetings.

223 2. Director of the Office of Ethics shall only vote in the event of a tie.

224 ii. Voting Members of the Office of Ethics:

225 1. The Office of Ethics shall consist of seven voting members.

226 2. All voting members shall serve for the duration of one academic year
227 unless their term is renewed by the incoming Director of the Office of
228 Ethics.

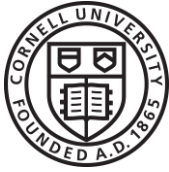
229 3. Voting members can be removed before their term expires by a two-
230 thirds (2/3) vote of the entire voting membership of the Office.

231 4. All voting members shall be non-Student Assembly and non-University
232 Assembly members of the Cornell undergraduate student population.

233 5. Voting members may not seek Student Assembly or UA office for the
234 academic year following their term of service in the Office of Ethics.

235 c. Recruitment of the Office of Ethics Members

236 i. Before the conclusion of each academic year, the outgoing voting membership of
237 the Office of Ethics must select the incoming Director of the Office of Ethics
238 internally by a simple majority vote of the entire voting membership of the
239 Office.

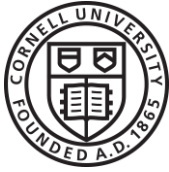


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- 240 ii. The incoming Director of the Office of Ethics shall decide upon the voting
241 membership of the incoming Office before the conclusion of each academic year.
- 242 d. The Student Assembly Code of Ethics
- 243 i. The Student Assembly Code of Ethics should include, but is not limited to,
244 including:
- 245 1. An expansion of the language outlined in the Student Assembly Standing
246 Rules, Section 2: Ethical Standards and Attendance Policy, Section A;
 - 247 2. An overview of possible ethical conduct offenses;
 - 248 3. The process of determining a violation of ethics;
 - 249 4. The process of recommending the appropriate disciplinary action to a
250 third party.
- 251 ii. The Office of Ethics will be charged with interpreting and applying the
252 guidelines set forth in the Student Assembly Code of Ethics.

253 C. Office of Elections

- 254 a. Name, Mission, and Affiliation
- 255 i. Name – the name of the office shall be the Office of Elections.
 - 256 ii. Mission – The Office will coordinate and implement regularly scheduled and
257 special elections of the Assembly and directly elected undergraduate
258 representatives to the UA.
 - 259 iii. Affiliation –The Office of Elections shall be affiliated as an independent office of
260 the Cornell Student Assembly.
- 261 b. Roles and Responsibilities
- 262 i. Director of the Office of Elections:
 - 263 1. Chair the meetings of the Office;
 - 264 2. Assume responsibility for all aspects of the Fall and Spring elections and
265 coordinate all efforts with the Director of the Office of the Assemblies, the
266 VP of External Affairs, and the President;
 - 267 3. Serve as Assembly correspondent for election matters;
 - 268 4. Ensure that the Elections Committee is successfully completing the following
269 tasks:
 - 270 a. Making every effort to ensure the greatest number of candidates for each
271 available position,
 - 272 b. Ensuring all candidates are aware of and abiding by elections,
273 campaigning, postering, and other Assembly and University policies,
 - 274 c. Coordinating and advertising an informal “Meet the Candidates Forum”,
 - 275 d. Coordinating and advertising opportunities for candidates to make public
276 appearances,
 - 277 e. Coordinating and advertising public forums specifically for candidates to
278 discuss any ballot referenda, if such forums are deemed necessary by the
279 Executive Board,



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- 280 f. Contacting student organizations and informing them of the elections
281 process and encouraging them to send delegates to elections activities in
282 order to report candidates' stances on relevant issues to their
283 organizations,
284 g. Ensuring that candidates have submitted pictures and statements
285 h. Making every effort to achieve the highest possible voter turnout by
286 advertising and assisting the Office of the Assemblies in the coordination
287 of elections days;
- 288 5. Make sure, in conjunction with the VP of External Operations, that there are
289 a substantial number of potential ballot referenda to be considered for
290 approval by the Assembly, and that all approved referenda are advertised
291 along with all elections activities described in above
- 292 ii. Voting Members of the Office of Elections:
- 293 1. The Office of Elections shall consist of nine voting members.
294 2. All voting members shall serve for the duration of one academic year
295 unless their term is renewed by the incoming Director of the Office of
296 Elections.
297 3. Voting members can be removed before their term expires by a two-
298 thirds (2/3) vote of the entire voting membership of the Office.
299 4. All voting members shall be non-Student Assembly and non-University
300 Assembly members of the Cornell undergraduate student population.
301 5. Voting members may not seek Student Assembly or UA office for the
302 academic year following their term of service in the Office of Elections.
- 303 c. Recruitment of the Office of Elections Members
- 304 i. Before the conclusion of each academic year, the outgoing voting membership of
305 the Office of Elections must select the incoming Director of the Office of
306 Elections internally by a simple majority vote of the entire voting membership of
307 the Office.
308 ii. The incoming Director of the Office of Elections shall decide upon the voting
309 membership of the incoming Office before the conclusion of each academic year.

310 **Be it further resolved,** the resolution sponsors shall be authorized to make grammatical and
311 stylistic changes necessary to incorporate these changes into the Bylaws.

312 **Be it further resolved,** in the event of discrepancies between this resolution and the attached
313 edited Bylaws, the attached shall take precedence.

314 **Be it further resolved,** the Assembly accepts the President's nomination of Nicholas Maggard
315 to serve as Deputy President, within the Office of the President. The role of Deputy President be
316 designated as an Officer, to rank immediately after the Executive Vice President.



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317 **Be it further resolved**, the Assembly accepts the President’s nomination of Nicolas Jaimes to
318 serve as Assistant President for Policy, within the Office of the President. The role of Assistant
319 President for Policy be allocated non-voting seats on the Assembly and the Executive Cabinet.

320 **Be it further resolved**, the Assembly accepts the Vice President of Internal Operations’s
321 nomination of Kathy Liu to serve as Deputy Vice President of Internal Operations, within the
322 Office of the Vice President of Internal Operations.

323 **Be it finally resolved**, the Assembly accepts the Vice President of External Affairs’s nomination
324 of Flora Meng to serve as Deputy Vice President of External Affairs, within the Office of the
325 Vice President of External Affairs.

326 **Respectfully Submitted,**

327 Zora deRham ’27

328 *President of the Student Assembly*

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330 Adam Vinson ’25

331 *Executive Vice President of the Student Assembly*

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333 David Suarez ’27

334 *Vice President of Internal Operations of the Student Assembly*

335

336 Niles Hite ’26

337 *Vice President for Finance of the Student Assembly*

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339 Simone Chan ’25

340 *Vice President of External Affairs of the Student Assembly*

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342 Christian Flournoy ’27

343 *Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion of the Student Assembly*

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Student Assembly

- 347 Agnes Coleman '26
348 *Parliamentarian of the Student Assembly*
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350 Nicholas Maggard '26
351 *Undergraduate Representative, University Assembly*