



Student Assembly

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 *Type of Action:* Internal Policy

7 *Originally Presented:* 02/05/2026

8 *Current Status:* Adopted by the Assembly, 20-2-1, 03/12/2026

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

34 Respectfully Submitted,

35 Christian Tarala '27

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

37 Eeshaan Chaudhuri '27

38 *Vice Chair of Operations, University Assembly*

39 Lydia Blum '27

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