



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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Type of Action: Internal Policy

Originally Presented: 02/19/2026

Current Status: Adopted by the Assembly, 19-2-1, 03/12/2026

Whereas, the Student Governance 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 Governance Assembly was hindered when elections were delayed following an ineffective Director of Elections’ delayed resignation. This issue would have been avoided had the Student Governance 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 Governance Assembly ought to 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.
 2. In the event of a nominee or Director failing a confirmation vote, the President of the Student Assembly shall, in coordination with the Office of the Assemblies and Vice President for Communications, distribute a call for candidates to the Cornell



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

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

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

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61 Respectfully Submitted,

62 Zora de Rham

63 *President of the Student Governance Assembly*