



Resolution 81: Funding of Paid Membership Organizations

Abstract: This resolution seeks to ensure equity in funding for organizations. Given that the SAF is funded by all students, and the exclusive nature of paid membership organizations, SAF money should not be offered to organizations that charge a fee to their membership. This resolution defines such a membership fee and institutes a new rule preventing funding from going to organizations that charge such a fee.

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Type of Action: Internal Policy

Originally Presented: 4/16/2026

Current Status: Rejected by the Assembly, 2-18-3, 04/30/2026

Whereas, the mission of the Student Activities Funding Commission (SAFC) “is to support undergraduate organizations in their ability to foster community and belonging at Cornell through funding opportunities.”

Whereas, organizations with membership fees create socioeconomic barriers for low-income students, which does not foster community and belonging at Cornell.

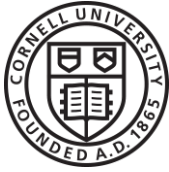
Whereas, organizations with membership fees generally are not open to the entire undergraduate population.

Whereas, these organizations still take Student Activity Fee money that is paid for by all students.

Whereas, organizations with membership fees use this funding for opportunities and events that exclude non-members.

Be it therefore resolved, that Appendix A, Section 3, Subsection B of the charter be amended to include a sixth clause, reading:

- vi. not provide a yearly allocation to subsidiary registered student organizations that charge a “membership fee,” which will be defined as:
 - a. Any required payment that is a condition of obtaining or maintaining general membership status in an organization, including dues charged upon joining, per semester, or annually
 - b. This definition does not include:



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- 31 i. Opt-in fees, that are not required (including suggested fees that are not
32 actively enforced, tracked, or required for participation)
- 33 ii. Event specific fees that are for funding particular events, trips, or activities
34 that are paid by the participants in those discrete events, trips, or activities
- 35 iii. fees that directly correspond to the cost of participation in travel-based,
36 recreational, or activity-based programming (including transportation,
37 lodging, equipment, or admission), provided that: such fees are limited to
38 cost recovery and not used to restrict general membership and the
39 organization maintains open and free general membership for
40 undergraduate students.

41 Respectfully Submitted,

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