

Student Assembly

Resolution 86: Ensuring Efficiency and Accountability in the Distribution of the Student Activity Fee

Abstract: This resolution amends the Student Assembly Charter to remove the requirement for individual recommendations to be presented after each Finance Committee meeting, modernize archaic restrictions from the 1999 Board of Trustees, and to require public documentation of organizational finances.

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Type of Action: Internal Policy

Originally Presented: 04/23/2026

Current Status: Adopted by the Assembly, 23-0-0, 04/30/2026

Whereas, the by-line process was delayed several times last semester, requiring a special meeting to be called to pass the Student Activity Fee on time,

Whereas, proposing individual recommendations makes it difficult to compare by-line organizations in the context of the overall Student Activity Fee,

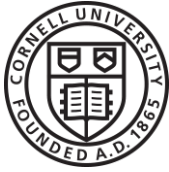
Whereas, the current process of weekly recommendations and rejections burdens by-line organizations by forcing them to attend multiple Student Assembly meetings for one agenda item,

Whereas, recommendation proposals after each Finance Committee meeting resulted in earlier organizations receiving noticeably large increases, with many seeing increases erased in the revised Student Activity Fee,

Whereas, the Student Assembly Charter currently restricts the Student Activity Fee by requiring 35% of the overall fee go to the Assembly's designated finance commission (the Student Activities Funding Commission),

Whereas, 2 primary funding boards have been formed since this restriction was enforced,

Whereas, the lack of transparency in the by-line process both made it difficult for the Finance Committee to communicate reasons for cuts with the public and for the public to track the finances of student organizations,



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29 **Be it therefore resolved**, lines 511-529 of the Student Assembly Charter be struck, with the
30 specified content reading:

31 “iv. At each meeting of the Assembly immediately following such a meeting of the
32 committee, the Vice President for Finance will introduce a written report, including:
33 a. name of applicant,
34 b. amount requested by applicant,
35 c. amount of allocation recommended by committee,
36 d. rationale explaining committee’s recommendation, and
37 e. a brief response from the applicant, including any request to appeal to the
38 Assembly. The Vice President for Finance may set a deadline for the applicant to
39 submit a response, provided the deadline is no less than one business day after the
40 applicant receives notice of the committee’s decision.

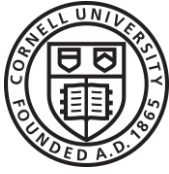
41 v. The Vice President for Finance must inform each applicant of the time and location of
42 any meeting where the report is to be presented or reviewed and must advise each
43 applicant to send two or more representatives who may answer questions of assembly
44 members.

45 a. Representatives from these organizations may include, but are not limited to,
46 club advisors, members of their executive board, or members of the Cornell
47 community with institutional knowledge of the organization and its
48 operations.

49 vi. If an applicant chooses to appeal the committee’s recommendation, the Assembly will
50 reconsider the recommendation of the committee. The Office of Assemblies will
51 provide several copies of complete application materials at any meeting where the
52 assembly considers appeals.”

53 **Be it further resolved**, lines 644-646 of the Student Assembly Charter be struck, with the
54 specified content reading:

55 “The SA and GPSA shall allocate no less than 35% of their respective
56 Student Activity Fees to the applicable Finance Commission for disbursement among



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57 non-by-line funded organizations.”

58 **Be it further resolved**, Appendix A, Section 13, Subsection H, now read:

59 “The SA and the GPSA will ensure that an appropriate balance is maintained between
60 funds allocated to by-line funded organizations and the Student Activities Funding
61 Commission or Graduate and Professional Student Activities Funding Commission,
62 respectively. The No less than 35% of their respective Student Activity Fees should be
63 allocated to the Primary Funding Board category by the SA and GPSA.”

64 **Be it finally resolved**, Appendix B, Section 3, Subsection Q: Public Finance Documentation be
65 added to the Student Assembly Charter, reading:

66 “**Public Finance Documentation:** The Vice President for Finance shall provide a
67 template to document the income and expenses of by-line organizations and their sub-
68 organizations by the week before the start of each semester. Organizations must make
69 this document public via CampusGroups and their website, if applicable. The Vice
70 President for Finance shall be strongly encouraged to prioritize consistency when making
71 templates. These public finances shall be one of the resources considered in off-year and
72 on-year by-line meetings.”

73 Respectfully Submitted,

74 Hayden Watkins

75 *Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly*