

# University Assembly

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## 1     **Resolution 4: University Assembly Authority to** 2     **Appoint Members to Governance Committees**

3     **Abstract:** The University Assembly has the authority and responsibility through its governing  
4     charter to appoint members of Assembly bodies to committees convened for the creation,  
5     implementation, or review of University policies.

6     **Sponsored by:** Jonathan Butcher,

7     **Reviewed by:** Campus Codes Committee (CCC), 12/10/2025, discussed and revised in the  
8     University Assembly on January 27, 2026 and March 17, 2026, and by the CCC on March 11,  
9     2026.

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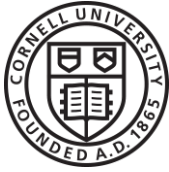
10    **Whereas,** since 1970, the Henderson Law (NY Education Law Section 6430) requires the Board  
11    of Trustees of each college in New York State to adopt Regulations for the Maintenance of  
12    Public Order and to “provide a program for the enforcement thereof,” wherein and “[s]uch rules  
13    shall govern the conduct of students, faculty and other staff as well as visitors and other licensees  
14    and invitees on such campuses and property. The penalties for violations of such rules shall be  
15    clearly set forth therein.” Ever since this law was enacted, the Cornell Board of Trustees has  
16    delegated this duty to the University Senate and later the University Assembly (UA) subject only  
17    to the Board performing the final enactment and retaining ultimate authority of the Code (as  
18    required by the statute),

19    **Whereas,** the University Assembly has since then continuously operated in this capacity in  
20    collaborative shared governance with central administration,

21    **Whereas,** Article II of the Charter of the University Assembly defines the object of the  
22    Assembly: “to improve and sustain the involvement of the campus community in the governance  
23    of campus affairs affecting the broad campus community”,

24    **Whereas,** Article III establishes the authority and responsibility of the University Assembly:

25           “The Assembly may examine, on its own initiative, matters which involve the interests or  
26           concern the welfare of a substantial segment of the campus community and may make  
27           recommendations or resolutions thereon to the President or to other appropriate officers  
28           or decision-making bodies of the University. Such matters include, but are not necessarily  
29           limited to: common standards of conduct, campus planning, diversity and inclusion,  
30           environmental impact and sustainability, family support, health services, information  
31           technology, public safety, and, transportation and commuter policies”,



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32 **Whereas**, Sub-section 3.1.3A establishes “Responsible University officials shall consider  
33 designating the Assembly, or one of its constituent assemblies, as a stakeholder in each impact  
34 statement, prepared under the terms of University Policy 4.1, Policy on the Formulation and  
35 Issuance of University Policies, which involves the interests or concerns the welfare of a  
36 substantial segment of the campus community”,

37 **Whereas**, Section 3.3: Internal operations establishes “the Assembly has authority in matters  
38 concerning its internal operation and maintenance, including provisions for the creation of  
39 bylaws and procedures”,

40 **Whereas**, University Policy 4.1: “Formulation and Issuance of University Policies” states the  
41 Reason for Policy is “University policies must be thoroughly reviewed, maintained, and made  
42 available to the university community to promote practicality, compliance, and accountability,”  
43 and, “University policies connect the university’s mission to individual conduct, clarify  
44 institutional expectations, support compliance with laws and regulation, mitigate institutional  
45 risk, and enhance productivity and efficiency in the university’s operations”,

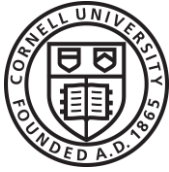
46 **Whereas**, the Procedures in Policy 4.1 state “Key stakeholders, who will be consulted during the  
47 policy drafting process, will be listed in this impact statement”,

48 **Whereas**, the Employee Assembly passed a resolution ([EA R2](#)) on October 15, 2025, petitioning  
49 University leadership to include staff in the current and future makeup of committees and  
50 reviews that have direct influence on the staff community of Cornell University including non-  
51 academic affairs and the life of the University,

52 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the University, when seeking to establish committees as per Policy  
53 4.1 concerning matters impacting the University Assembly (UA) or its areas of jurisdiction, shall  
54 engage the UA directly for this shared governance role and shall include membership appointed  
55 by the UA.

56 **Be it further resolved**, the University Assembly shall receive requests from the University for  
57 UA committee membership no less than 30 days before said committee is intended to convene,  
58 to give time for the consideration of appointment requests and approval.

59 **Be it further resolved**, the University shall consent to the proposed members selected by the  
60 UA, as well as those selected by the constituent assemblies, for participation in Policy 4.1  
61 committees; if an assembly is asked to appoint members, but does not do so within 30 days, the  
62 UA shall designate members from the relevant constituency within 15 days of the initial  
63 deadline.



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64 **Be it further resolved,** the UA shall vote on the appointment of constituent members to Policy  
65 4.1 committees according to its internal policies and procedures, including delegation of  
66 approval to constituent assemblies or committees.

67 **Be it further resolved,** if the UA does not designate its members within the 30 days of notice,  
68 University proposed UA constituent members will automatically be approved to sit in Policy 4.1  
69 committees.

70 **Be it further resolved,** that nothing in this resolution shall be construed to limit any existing  
71 requirement for University consultation with, or membership designation by, the constituent  
72 assemblies, nor as denying the ultimate authority of the Trustees where applicable, but shall be  
73 interpreted only to strengthen internal consultation and shared governance with all assemblies.

74 **Be it finally resolved,** constituent members of the UA on Policy 4.1 committees shall inform the  
75 UA on progress of the committee activities subject to applicable disclosure provisions.

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77 Respectfully Submitted,

78 Jonathan T. Butcher

79 Chair, Campus Codes Committee