



Graduate & Professional Student-Elected Trustee Election

Fall 2020 (reactivation) Challenge Form

Candidate Name: Afua Asantewaa	NetID: ana79
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Challenger Name: Ansumana Bangura	NetID: asb355
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Instructions

Please attach a typewritten document that includes the reason(s) for your challenge. Identify any facts related to the election rules you identified above and explain how you believe the violation has altered the fairness of the election. You may submit digital evidence (such as photographs) to assembly@cornell.edu after submitting this form. We do not accept hand-written attachments. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, this form must be turned in to the Office of the Assemblies via email at assembly@cornell.edu by the challenger by Wednesday, November 4th, 2020 @ 4:00pm.

Certification

I, the filer of this challenge, attest by my signature below that the information I have provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge under penalty of disciplinary referral to the Judicial Administrator. I certify that I have read and understand the election rules, available on the elections webpage, and I acknowledge in particular my confidentiality obligations as a party to this challenge, reprinted here:

"Members of the committee and parties to a challenge may not share the contents of challenges, evidence, or decisions submitted to or received from the committee, except when explicitly permitted by these rules or by the committee. Unauthorized disclosure of confidential information may result in a disciplinary referral."

Signature of Challenger: Ansumana Bangura Date 11/4/2020

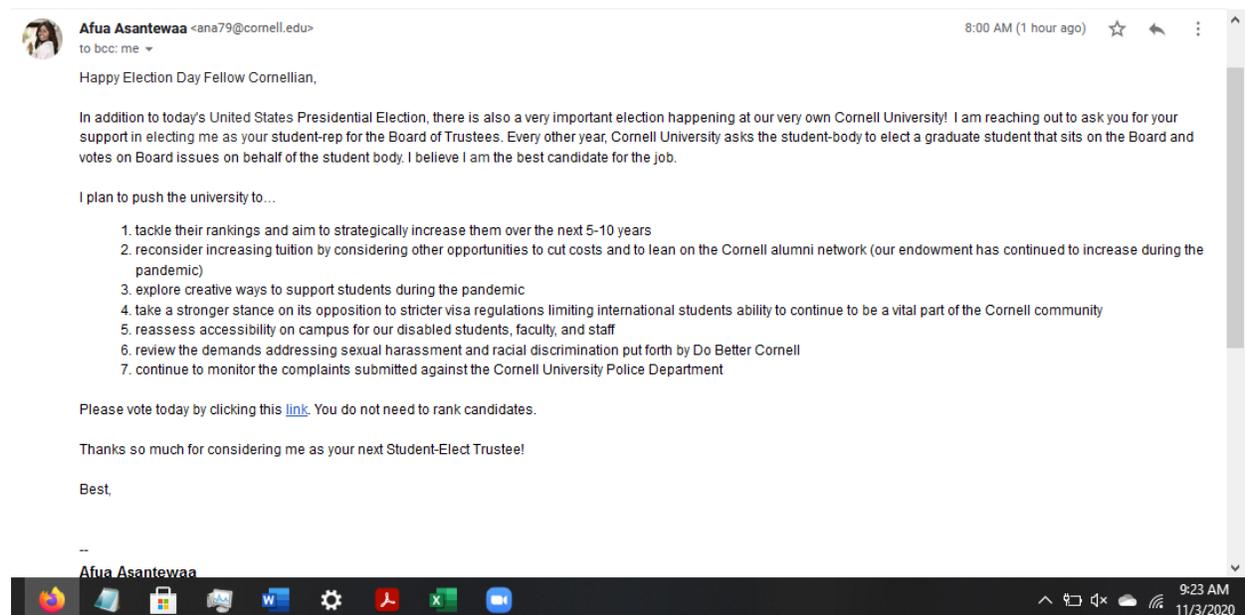
## Explanation of Challenge to Afua Asantewaa

I recently received an unsolicited campaign email from Afua asking me to vote for her. It appears that this email was sent to me and a number of other students, due to the fact that I was bcc'd on the email – a common mass email practice used to protect recipient privacy.

This appears to be in violation of CCET Election Procedure Section V number 10 (explicitly) and number 9 (implicitly).

While I respect the hustle, I fear that practices like this allow candidates to win simply by getting people who are not invested in the trustee position to vote for them. But, also, Afua says “You do not need to rank candidates,” which I think misleads voters and pushes them to remain uninformed about the full field of candidates.

Here is the email she sent:



The screenshot shows an email interface. At the top, the sender is identified as 'Afua Asantewaa <ana79@cornell.edu>' with a profile picture. The recipient is 'to bcc: me'. The time is '8:00 AM (1 hour ago)'. The email body starts with 'Happy Election Day Fellow Cornellian,'. The main text reads: 'In addition to today's United States Presidential Election, there is also a very important election happening at our very own Cornell University! I am reaching out to ask you for your support in electing me as your student-rep for the Board of Trustees. Every other year, Cornell University asks the student-body to elect a graduate student that sits on the Board and votes on Board issues on behalf of the student body. I believe I am the best candidate for the job.' This is followed by a list of seven points under the heading 'I plan to push the university to...'. The points are: 1. tackle their rankings and aim to strategically increase them over the next 5-10 years; 2. reconsider increasing tuition by considering other opportunities to cut costs and to lean on the Cornell alumni network (our endowment has continued to increase during the pandemic); 3. explore creative ways to support students during the pandemic; 4. take a stronger stance on its opposition to stricter visa regulations limiting international students ability to continue to be a vital part of the Cornell community; 5. reassess accessibility on campus for our disabled students, faculty, and staff; 6. review the demands addressing sexual harassment and racial discrimination put forth by Do Better Cornell; 7. continue to monitor the complaints submitted against the Cornell University Police Department. The email concludes with 'Please vote today by clicking this [link](#). You do not need to rank candidates.', 'Thanks so much for considering me as your next Student-Elect Trustee!', and 'Best, -- Afua Asantewaa'. The bottom of the screenshot shows a Windows taskbar with various application icons and a system tray showing the time as 9:23 AM on 11/3/2020.

**Afua Asantewaa** <ana79@cornell.edu>  
to bcc: me

8:00 AM (1 hour ago)

Happy Election Day Fellow Cornellian,

In addition to today's United States Presidential Election, there is also a very important election happening at our very own Cornell University! I am reaching out to ask you for your support in electing me as your student-rep for the Board of Trustees. Every other year, Cornell University asks the student-body to elect a graduate student that sits on the Board and votes on Board issues on behalf of the student body. I believe I am the best candidate for the job.

I plan to push the university to...

1. tackle their rankings and aim to strategically increase them over the next 5-10 years
2. reconsider increasing tuition by considering other opportunities to cut costs and to lean on the Cornell alumni network (our endowment has continued to increase during the pandemic)
3. explore creative ways to support students during the pandemic
4. take a stronger stance on its opposition to stricter visa regulations limiting international students ability to continue to be a vital part of the Cornell community
5. reassess accessibility on campus for our disabled students, faculty, and staff
6. review the demands addressing sexual harassment and racial discrimination put forth by Do Better Cornell
7. continue to monitor the complaints submitted against the Cornell University Police Department

Please vote today by clicking this [link](#). You do not need to rank candidates.

Thanks so much for considering me as your next Student-Elect Trustee!

Best,

--  
Afua Asantewaa

9:23 AM  
11/3/2020