

Resolution 20: Amendments to Article IV of the Charter

Abstract: This resolutions amends Article IV of the Charter to revise and modernize language on aspects of the membership of the Assembly.

Sponsored by: Clyde Lederman '26, Nicholas Maggard '26, Agnes Coleman '26

Reviewed by: Internal Operations, 09/08/2023, 3-0-0

Type of Action: Internal Policy

Originally Presented: 09/14/2023

Current Status: Adopted by the Assembly, 09/21/2023, 16-1-0

Whereas, Article IV of the Charter of the Student Assembly defines the compositon, qualifications of voting members, method of election, vacancy-filling procedure, and procedure for recalling voting members of the Assembly;

Whereas, the ambiguity following a vacancy in the Office of the President of the Student Assembly highlighted the need for revisions to imprecise language and poorly defined procedures in Article IV of the Charter;

Whereas, the Assembly seeks to update its governing documents to reflect current practices and ensure clarity of the documents' provisions;

Be it therefore resolved, that Article IV of the Charter of the Student Assembly be struck in its entirety, and the text contained in Appendix A to this resolution be inserted as Article IV of the Charter of the Student Assembly.

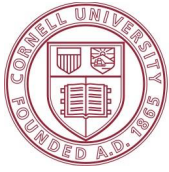
Respectfully Submitted,

Clyde Lederman '26

Interim Undesignated Representative, Student Assembly

Nicholas Maggard '26

Parliamentarian, Student Assembly



Cornell University
Student Assembly

29 Agnes Coleman '26

30 *Deputy Parliamentarian, Student Assembly*

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

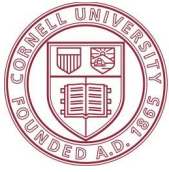
51

52

53

54

55

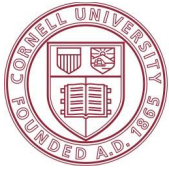


APPENDIX A TO RESOLUTION 20

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Composition

- A. The Assembly shall consist of 37 voting members.
- B. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected at-large by and from the University undergraduate student population as President of the Student Assembly.
- C. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected at-large by and from the University undergraduate student population as Executive Vice President of the Student Assembly.
- D. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected as a Representative At-Large by virtue of attaining the second greatest number of votes in the most recent election for President of the Student Assembly; this office shall be distinct from that of a directly elected Representative At-Large.
- E. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected as a Representative At-Large by virtue of attaining the second greatest number of votes in the most recent election for Executive Vice President of the Student Assembly; this office shall be distinct from that of a directly elected Representative At-Large.
- F. Six voting members of the Assembly shall each be directly elected as a Representative At-Large by and from the University undergraduate student population as a whole.
- G. Two voting members of the Assembly shall each be elected as a Minority Students Representative by and from the University undergraduate student population as a whole to represent minority students.
- H. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected as the Women's Issues Representative by and from the University undergraduate student population as a whole to represent women's issues.
- I. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected as the First-Generation College Students Representative by and from the University undergraduate student population as a whole to represent first-generation college students.
- J. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected as the Students with Disabilities Representative by and from the University undergraduate student population as a whole to represent students with disabilities.

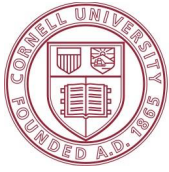


Cornell University Student Assembly

- 96 K. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected as the International Students Representative
97 by and from the University undergraduate student population as a whole to represent international
98 students.
99
- 100 L. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected as the LGBTQIA+ Representative by and
101 from the University undergraduate student population as a whole to represent Lesbian, Gay,
102 Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual students.
103
- 104 M. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected as Veterans Representative by and from the
105 population of undergraduate students who currently or have previously served in the Armed Forces
106 of the United States, except for undergraduate students who serve as members of the Reserve
107 Officer Training Corps, to represent students who currently or have previously served in the Armed
108 Forces of the United States.
109
- 110 N. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected as Student Workers Representative by and
111 from the University undergraduate student population as a whole to represent undergraduate
112 students who are engaged in paid employment contemporaneously with their academic studies.
113
- 114 O. Four voting members of the Assembly shall each be elected at-large by and from the undergraduate
115 freshman student population to represent the same.
116
- 117 P. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected at-large by and from the undergraduate
118 transfer student population to represent the same.
119
- 120 Q. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected by and from the undergraduate student
121 populations of each the following colleges and schools to represent the same: the Brooks School of
122 Public Policy; the Dyson School of Business, the College of Architecture, Art and Planning; the
123 School of Hotel Administration; the College of Human Ecology, and the School of Industrial and
124 Labor Relations.
125
- 126 R. Two voting members of the Assembly shall be elected by and from the undergraduate student
127 populations of each the following colleges and schools to represent the same: the College of
128 Agriculture and Life Sciences, and the College of Engineering.
129
- 130 S. Three voting members of the Assembly shall be elected by and from the undergraduate student
131 population of the College of Arts and Sciences to represent the same.
132

133 **Section 2: Qualifications of Voting Members** 134

- 135 A. Each voting member of the Assembly shall be registered, full-time undergraduate student at Cornell



Cornell University Student Assembly

136 for the duration of their term; no voting member of the Assembly shall represent a particular college
137 or school without being a registered, full-time student in the same; nor shall a voting member hold
138 office without meeting the qualifications step forth for election to that office.

139

140 B. No member of the Assembly shall hold the office of more than one voting member, nor be absent
141 from the Ithaca Campus of Cornell University for more than three weeks during the academic year.

142

143 C. Upon failing to satisfy the provisions of this section, no voting member may be deemed disqualified
144 absent an affirmative two-thirds vote of the seated members of the Assembly.

145

146 **Section 3: Non-Voting Membership**

147

148 A. Each undergraduate student shall be a non-voting member of the Assembly; such members may
149 participate in debate but may not to vote.

150

151 B. The Assembly may designate any faculty member, employee, or graduate or professional student
152 as a non-voting member.

153 **Section 4: Method of Election**

154 A. Each voting member of the Assembly and undergraduate representative to the University Assembly
155 shall be elected by a single transferable voting system using the Hare Method, except as otherwise
156 provided for in this Charter.

157 **Section 5: Term of the Assembly**

158

159 A. The term of each Assembly shall commence on May 1st and expire on April 30th annually; the term
160 of each voting and non-voting member shall be coterminous with the term of the Assembly.

161

162 B. There shall be no limit as to the number of terms a member of the Assembly may serve.

163

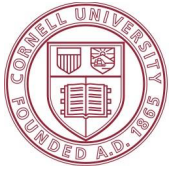
164 C. Each member shall take the oath of office and shall be bound to that oath for the duration of their
165 term prior to being seated.

166 **Section 6: Advisor and Advisory Board**

167 A. The University President may appoint one administrator or faculty member to serve as an advisor
168 to the Assembly.

169

170 B. There shall be board to advise the Assembly known as the "Student Assembly Advisory Board,



Cornell University Student Assembly

171 which shall herein after be referred to as the “Advisory Board.”

172

173 C. It shall be the responsibility of the Advisory Board to provide the Assembly with counsel and
174 guidance.

175

176 D. The Advisory Board shall consist of six alumni of Cornell University each of whom shall have
177 served either as a member of the Student Assembly or as a Student Elected Trustee; two members
178 of the Faculty Senate; the University President or their designee; two members of the Assembly;
179 and four other individuals whose qualifications shall be determined in the Bylaws of the Student
180 Assembly.

181

182 E. Each member of the Advisory Board, except for the University President, shall be appointed and
183 may be removed by the Assembly.

184 **Section 7: Attendance Requirement**

185

186 A. Each voting member of the Assembly shall be required to attend all regularly scheduled and special
187 meetings of the Assembly.

188

189 B. The Assembly may adopt rules governing the attendance of voting members and non-voting
190 members and sanctions for violation of such rules including removal from the Assembly; however,
191 the Assembly shall adopt no rule that permits or requires the removal of a voting member for their
192 absence from no fewer than four regularly scheduled meetings.

193

194 C. The Assembly may not adopt attendance rules that interfere with the observance of a religious or
195 cultural holiday.

196 **Section 8: Vacancies**

197

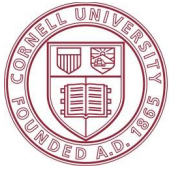
198 A. A vacancy shall exist in the office of a voting member of the Assembly or undergraduate
199 representative to the University Assembly before the expiration of the term of office upon the death,
200 resignation, removal, recall, disqualification, declination of or failure to elect a duly qualified
201 officeholder.

202

203 B. A vacancy that exists in the office of any voting member of the Assembly between May 1st and the
204 conclusion of the Spring Semester, shall be filled by the candidate attaining the second greatest
205 number of votes in the most recent election for the same office.

206

207 C. A vacancy that exists in the office of any voting member of the Assembly following the conclusion
208 of the Spring Semester shall be filled by the Assembly. At the next regularly scheduled meeting



Cornell University Student Assembly

209 following the creation of the vacancy, the vacancy shall be filled by a roll-call vote; the vacancy
210 shall not be filled without a two-thirds affirmative vote of the seated membership of the Assembly.
211

212 D. In the period between the creation of a vacancy in the office of President or Executive Vice
213 President and the election of a new officeholder, pursuant to Subsections B and C of Section 8 of
214 this Charter, the office shall remain vacant. The Assembly, by majority vote, may choose to
215 exercise the powers of the vacant office of President or Executive Vice President, as needed to
216 continue the proper functioning of the Assembly.
217

218 E. In the period between the creation of a vacancy in the office of President and the election of a new
219 officeholder, pursuant to Subsection B and C of this Charter, the order of precedence of the
220 Officers, as established by the Bylaws, shall be used to determine who shall preside at meetings of
221 the Assembly, as Acting Chair. The Acting Chair shall exercise no authorities otherwise delegated
222 to the President except those as necessary for calling and presiding over the Assembly.
223

224 F. Any undergraduate student shall be eligible to fill a vacancy, provided they meet the qualifications
225 to hold office set forth in this article; notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, a vacancy in
226 the office of a Representative At-Large elected by virtue of attaining the second greatest number
227 of in either the most recent election for President or Executive Vice President of the Assembly,
228 may, for the remainder of the term of the Assembly in which the vacancy was created, be filled by
229 as though the office were that of a directly elected Representative At-Large.

230 **Section 9: Recalling of Voting Members**

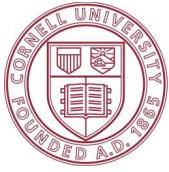
231
232 A. Each voting member of the Assembly may be recalled by their constituency. To be recalled through
233 a member's respective constituency, the following procedure shall be followed in the given order:
234

235 1. A petition for the recall of the specific Assembly voting member will be registered with
236 the Office of the Assemblies before any signatures are obtained.
237

238 2. Petitioning for recall shall last for a period of not more than fourteen days from the
239 registration of the petition. The required number of signatures shall be, for representatives
240 from a school or college, fifty percent plus one or one thousand from that constituency,
241 whichever is less, for at-large representatives, 15% of the student body. The petition will
242 be presented to the Office of the Assemblies.
243

244 3. An informational forum will be scheduled and held within not more than one week of the
245 presentation of the petition, where a discussion of the recall will occur. The Assembly
246 voting member must have a reasonable opportunity to attend the forum.
247

248 4. A special recall election will be scheduled for and held within not more than three days



Cornell University Student Assembly

249 after the informational hearing.

250

251 5. Should the constituency vote to recall its representative, the seat shall be declared vacant.

252

253 B. The Assembly may only recall a voting member by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the seated
254 members of the Assembly.

255

256 **Section 9: Responsibilities of Voting Members**

257 A. SA members who represent specific college or school constituencies are required to make a
258 reasonable effort to arrange at least two meetings a semester with their respective academic dean
259 or associate dean(s) to discuss college/school specific issues and concerns. These representatives
260 will then report back to the Student Assembly at the next regularly scheduled SA meeting briefing
261 the Assembly on pertinent issues and occurrences that would take place as a result of these
262 meetings.

263

264 B. SA members who represent specific college or school constituencies shall be charged with
265 gathering information about their particular college and representing their respective
266 constituencies, and voting according to their needs and desires.

267

268 C. All voting representatives shall host at least one forum or outreach activity with individuals from
269 their respective constituencies and report all outcomes to the SA at the next regularly-scheduled
270 meeting following such an activity.

271

272 D. All representatives may communicate regularly with their constituents through e-mail mailing lists
273 and listservs, which may be maintained by their respective college dean's office, the Department
274 of Campus Life, the Office of the Dean of Students, or the Office of the Assemblies.

275

276 E. Any Student Assembly member, including the Vice President for Public Relations, must submit a
277 mass message (e-mail, advertisement, press release, etc.) to the Executive Board for approval. The
278 Executive Board may approve a message by a majority vote and the vote may be conducted by e-
279 mail. The e-mail records must be saved.

280

281

###