

EA R6: Postponing Spring 2020 elections and Extending Expiring Seats

Abstract: This resolution delays the 2020 spring elections until fall, extends the end date of expiring seats, and establishes a Membership Task Force.

Sponsored by:

Jessica E. Withers, Chair of the Elections Committee and Library and Museum Representative

Jamie Duong, School of Hotel Administration Representative

Reviewed by: Elections Committee (April 7, 2020)

Whereas, on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, President Martha E. Pollack announced that the university would be moving to virtual instruction as of Monday, April 6, 2020, and asking all undergraduate students and many professional degree students to leave campus at the start of spring break and to remain at their permanent home residence, completing their semesters remotely;

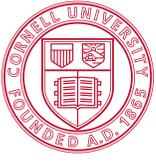
Whereas, on Wednesday, March 11, 2020, President Pollack affirmed that the best way to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 is through social distancing, hampering candidate recruitment and registration;

Whereas, on Thursday, March 12, 2020, the Student Assembly voted unanimously to postpone its elections until the fall semester, keeping all current members in their positions with no legislative power;

Whereas, on Thursday, March 26, 2020, President Martha E. Pollack announced that “consistent with Gov. Cuomo’s order, virtually all in-person research has now been suspended.... The overwhelming majority of our staff members are now working remotely, continuing to support the work of the university in every way possible”;

Whereas, the Employee Assembly, hereinafter referred to as the Assembly, recognizes that the COVID-19 outbreak is swiftly changing and the University is closely monitoring the situation.

Whereas, Article 3.1 of the Assembly bylaws provides the Assembly with the ability to establish Ad Hoc committees as needed;



Cornell University
Employee Assembly

36 **Whereas**, the Assembly recognizes the need for a careful and close look at its composition, including
37 seats, terms, and representation;

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40 **Be it therefore resolved**, the Assembly shall postpone 2020 elections until the fall semester;

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42 **Be it further resolved**, current members of the Assembly whose seats expire in May 2020 will be
43 extended until the next regular or special Assembly election;

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45 **Be it further resolved**, the Assembly will keep its Executive Committee as the interim body charged
46 with the authority to engage with the university administration during these unprecedented times, and
47 until the next Assembly elections take place and their successors are seated;

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49 **Be it further resolved**, the Assembly will establish a Membership Task Force to review terms, seats,
50 best use of At-Large seats, and appropriate total size and make recommendations on these items and
51 any others they discover regarding Assembly makeup for review by the Assembly no later than 12
52 weeks after passage of this resolution;

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54 **Be it further resolved**, that the Membership Task Force be chaired by a member of the Assembly
55 and comprised of at least 3 seated members of the Assembly, including one At-Large member, and at
56 least 2 employees from across campus;

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58 **Be it finally resolved**, the Chair of the Elections Committee will monitor the University's operating
59 status and propose adjustments to this new timeline as needed

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61 **Adopted by Vote of the Assembly (X-X-X), {Date},**

62 {If adopted, the vote counts and Adopted Date will be filled in by the EA Chair prior to submitting to the
63 President's Office}

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65 **Respectfully Submitted,**

66 **Jessica E. Withers**

67 Chair, Employee Assembly Elections Committee

68 Library and Museum Representative

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70 **Jamie Duong**

71 School of Hotel Administration Representative