"The Assemblies at Cornell, together with the Faculty Senate, are the expression of the university’s commitment to shared governance and constituent representation."
The assemblies are a part of shared governance at Cornell.

1. Participation in University decision-making by students, faculty and staff in areas of direct and joint concern to them;

2. A forum for discussion of campus issues;

3. Supervision of the campus judicial system.
1955

- The Board of Trustees transferred the responsibility for non-academic matters to the President of the University.

- Prior to this time, it had been the responsibility of the faculty to make decisions regarding academic as well as non-academic policies and procedures.
HISTORY OF THE ASSEMBLIES

• Roots in campus events of 1969
• Major overhauls in 1977 and 1981
• EA, SA created in 1981
• GPSA created in 1993
• More prominence for constituent assemblies
• More focused role for the UA
University Assembly meeting on September 19, 2017

• Resulted in Presidential Task Force on Campus Climate
THE CONSTITUENT-ELECTED TRUSTEES

Full voting members of the 64-member Board of Trustees

• Faculty and Staff are elected for four-year terms
• Students (alternating between undergraduate and a graduate or professional student) are elected to serve two-year terms
• Election results for the new Employee-Elected Trustee will be announced this week.
The Cornell Community

- **Constituents**
  - Employee Assembly: 8,392
  - Grad & Professional Student Assembly: 7,932
  - Student Assembly: 16,067
  - Faculty Senate: 1,679
  - University Assembly: 33,071

- **Members**
  - Employee Assembly: 30 Staff Members
  - Grad & Professional Student Assembly: 18 Graduate & Prof Student Members
  - Student Assembly: 28 Undergraduate Student Members
  - Faculty Senate: 108 Faculty Senators
  - University Assembly: 5 staff, 5 grad/professional students, 5 undergraduates, 5 faculty
The Office of the Assemblies

What we do for the assemblies:

- Provide staff for regular assembly meetings with a student clerks (you all!) who:
  - Prepare documents and meeting packets for the assembly meetings
  - Prepare minutes of meetings,
  - Prepare audio recordings of meetings, and,
  - Post meeting materials on the assembly’s website;
- Assist the assembly in reservation of spaces and other resources for regular meetings;
- Maintain websites for the assembly and its standing committees, including documents produced by the assembly and its committees, rosters of membership, information about the composition of the committees and how to get involved, and applications for membership
Legislative Authority

- Originates by **delegation from the President and Board of Trustees**.
- Authority is delegated, not transferred
- **Assemblies have advisory** authority, subject to approval by President.
- **Assemblies make recommendations** which are reviewed by the President in consultation with senior staff.
Legislative Authority of the Assemblies

Fundamental Authorities

- All Assemblies have a mandate to represent constituent interests and bring issues of concern to university leadership.
- Legislative authority to recommend changes to university policies that affect constituents, subject to approval by the President.
• Assembly **Charter**: permanent, basic rules

• Assembly **Bylaws**: permanent, detailed rules

• **Standing rules**: year-to-year procedures

• **Program rules** (GPSA Finance Commission)
Robert’s Rules of Order


“We do not want to waste time with excessive formality, but some of our issues may be contentious and we need to ensure everyone gets their fair opportunity to speak.”
THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?