



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented On	02/12/2015
Type of Action	Recommendation
Status/Result	New Business

S.A. Resolution # 46 Opposing the Health Fee

Sponsored by: Yamini Bhandari '17, Emma Johnston '16, Syed Ali Khan '15

Whereas, the Student Assembly's primary functions as an organization is to represent students;

Whereas, members of the Student Assembly, were invited to meetings regarding the Health Fee; however, there the administrators did not take opinions in opposition to the fee seriously;

Whereas, Article II of the Student Assembly charter outlines the organization's object[ive] is "to effect more extensive involvement in campus governance in the undergraduate student body" and "this is accomplished by charging the assembly with the authority and the responsibility to examine any matters which involve the interests or concern the welfare of the student community and to make proposals concerning those issues to the appropriate officers or decision-making bodies of the University."

Whereas, Section 6 of Article III of the Student Assembly Charter allows the SA to "request and obtain specific information from the President regarding any subject which it deems of general student concern" and the President must either provide the information or provide an explanation as to why "the information cannot be furnished;

Whereas, the Student Assembly's voice was previously silenced or disregarded by administration in determining the final exam schedule calendar, tuition increases, and transportation decisions;

Whereas, international students have been required since 2014 to compulsorily enroll in the Student Health Insurance plan (SHIP), thereby severely restricting the insurance options available to them;

Be it therefore resolved, that the Student Assembly recommends that the administration be fully transparent regarding the breakdown of the health fee through an audit of Gannett Health Services and its current financial health;

Be it further resolved, that the Student Assembly requests that this information be given to the Student Assembly to be distributed to the entire student body at the President's earliest convenience;

Be it further resolved, that the Student Assembly reaffirms its priority to represent the student interest;

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44 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Student Assembly be given more than a precursory
45 overview of the decisions made by Administration and that representatives of the Student
46 Assembly be included in all major conversations earlier, as well as be given a mechanism to
47 oppose the administrators ideas or plans for action;
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49 **Be it further resolved**, if the fee is to be implemented, the Administration should create a
50 Student Health Fee Advisory Committee composed of students and administration to help
51 make decisions regarding the fee, to discuss further changes to the fee, and to decide on
52 additional services that will be provided as a benefit of the additional fee;
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54 **Be it further resolved**, when the debt that has been absolved, the fee be reevaluated and
55 adjusted;
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57 **Be it further resolved**, that the Student Assembly recommends that the Cornell
58 University Administration reconsider its decision to make SHIP mandatory for
59 international students, especially in cases wherein international students have
60 comprehensive insurance plans, which meet the requirements of Cornell University Office
61 of Student Health Insurance;
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63 **Be it finally resolved**, that an appendix be attached to this resolution outlining students'
64 concerns and ideas discussed during the February 12th Student Assembly meeting.
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66 **Respectfully Submitted,**
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68 **Jordan Berger '17**
69 *Parliamentarian, Student Assembly*
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71 **Yamini Bhandari '17**
72 *Vice President of Outreach, Student Assembly*
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74 **Emma Johnston'16**
75 *Arts and Sciences Representative, Student Assembly*
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77 **Syed Ali Khan '15**
78 *Minority Representative, Student Assembly*
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81 *(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 02/10/2015)*