



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented On	4/23/15
Type of Action	Legislation
Status/Result	New Business

1 **S.A. Resolution #69**
2 **Clarifying and Expanding the Use of the Students Helping**
3 **Students Fund**
4

5 **ABSTRACT:** This resolution formalizes the SA Financial Aid Review Committee’s
6 policies for Emergency grants within the Students Helping Students Fund, and expands
7 the use of funds to a Summer Experience grant.
8

9 **Sponsored by: Franklin Yang ’17, Matt Henderson ’16**
10

11 **Whereas,** the Students Helping Students Fund is an endowment under the joint
12 management of the Financial Aid Review Committee and the Financial Aid Office. It
13 is a fund set up to assist students;
14

15 **Whereas,** current legislation regarding the Students Helping Students Fund dates back to
16 1989 and is outdated and needs to be brought up to times;
17

18 **Whereas,** programs such as the summer internship funds were discontinued and in need
19 of revitalization;
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21 **Be it therefore resolved,** that the following guidelines be adopted for the Students
22 Helping Students Fund beginning with the 2015-2016 academic year.
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24 **I. Mission**
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26 Students Helping Students is a program first established by the Cornell University
27 Student Assembly in order to assist undergraduate students in financial need.
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29 **II. Source of Funding**
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31 The Students Helping Students Fund is a self-sustaining endowment that was
32 created via contributions from the Undergraduate Student Activity Fee. The Student
33 Assembly and the Financial Aid Review Committee, herein referred to as FARC, are
34 responsible for assessing the need for further contributions to the fund from the
35 Undergraduate Student Activity Fee.
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37 **III. Oversight of Funds**
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39 The Student Assembly and FARC are responsible for determining how the fund is
40 used and reserves the right, depending on the effectiveness and usage of the fund, to

41 make changes in the Students Helping Students Fund categories that are offered to
42 Cornell University undergraduate students.

43
44 The Student Assembly has delegated responsibility for the Students Helping
45 Students Fund to FARC. FARC is responsible for reviewing the guidelines of the fund
46 and for making decisions regarding the approval of grants.

47
48 On a day-to-day basis, the Financial Aid Office, under the direction of the director of
49 Financial Aid or his/her designee(s), will manage the fund.

50 **IV. Fund Categories**

51 **1. Emergency Grants**

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53 Purpose: The fund provides assistance to students with necessary emergency
54 expenses incurred that cannot be funded by other means. Allowable expenses include
55 (but are not limited to): travel expenses relating to emergency situations (like the
56 death of a relative); extra basic living expenses needed due to fire, destruction, or
57 natural disaster; replacement of stolen goods (not lost due to negligence); and
58 emergency medical or dental expenses not covered by insurance. SHS funds are not
59 designed to cover standard expenses included in the budgeted cost of attendance for
60 the academic year, non-emergency expenses, expenses that are extravagant or non-
61 utilitarian, and so forth.

62
63 Eligibility: In order to qualify for funding the applicant must be a registered,
64 matriculated Cornell undergraduate student.

65
66 Evaluative Criteria: Applicants who demonstrate financial need and whose expense
67 fits the purpose stated above will be approved, given sufficient fund availability.
68 Medical history and other information not pertinent to the application will not be
69 released to the Committee. The Committee may not consider the student's
70 employment status as a factor for approval.

71
72 Selection Process: FARC is responsible for approving grants anonymously on a
73 rolling basis. Grants that are less than \$1000 must be approved by a majority vote of
74 voting committee members present. Grants greater than or equal to \$1000 must be
75 approved by a two-thirds vote of voting committee members present. Due to their
76 time sensitive nature, votes may be conducted via email.

77
78 Grants: Funds will be distributed by the Financial Aid Office. There is no
79 predetermined number of grants or dollar amount per grant.

83 2. Summer Experience Grants
84

85 Purpose: To provide students with the opportunity to obtain career-related
86 experience in the summer that is unpaid or minimally paid. Allowable expenses
87 include (but are not limited to): housing, transportation for work, food, and cost of
88 uniforms. Prohibited usage of the Summer Experience Grants includes (but is not
89 limited to): substitution for income, personal expenses, and transfer of funds to
90 other students.

91 Eligibility: In order to qualify for funding the applicant must be a registered,
92 matriculated Cornell undergraduate student who has a verified opportunity that has
93 been approved by Career Services.
94

95 Evaluative Criteria: Criteria will be set by Career Services with final approval coming
96 from FARC. Career Services shall set up and administer the application process and
97 nominate finalists for the fund. FARC will then approve or deny these finalists.
98 Awards will be made on case-by-case basis with the primary determining factors
99 being quality of the internship in relation to career goals and financial need.
100

101 Selection Process: FARC is responsible for approving or denying grants that are
102 nominated by Career Services anonymously on a rolling basis. Grants that are less
103 than \$1500 must be approved by a majority vote of voting committee members
104 present. Grants greater than or equal to \$1500 must be approved by a two-thirds
105 vote of voting committee members present. Due to their time sensitive nature, votes
106 may be conducted via email.
107

108 Grants: Funds will be disbursed by the Financial Aid office. There is no
109 predetermined number of grants or dollar amount per grant. No student may receive
110 more than \$3000 total in Summer Experience Grant(s) from Students Helping
111 Students during their undergraduate career at Cornell.
112

113 Commitment: Students who receive funding must sign a contract to commit to the
114 full duration of their specified program. Funding will be withheld from any recipient
115 who is unable to participate in the specified summer opportunity after approval but
116 before receipt of funding. Likewise, if the summer opportunity ends prematurely,
117 funding will be pro-rated according to the duration of participation. Failure to
118 comply with other terms as stated in the contract may result in cancellation of the
119 grant or in the recipient being billed by the University for any or all amounts already
120 received.
121

122 Reflections: All students who receive Summer Experience Grants must provide a
123 reflection on their experience. This will be submitted as either a short presentation to
124

125 the general body of the Student Assembly or a 2 page typed reflection (1 in margin,
126 double-spaced, 12 pt font). This reflection will provide an overview of what the
127 student did over the summer and how it impacted the student's career aspirations
128 (e.g. was it positive and enlightening or was it negative?). Responses will be
129 published unless the student requests otherwise. All written materials are to be due
130 by the third Student Assembly meeting in the fall. All presentations of responses will
131 be during the fourth Student Assembly meeting in the fall semester.
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133 **V. Amendments to these Guidelines**

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135 These guidelines may be amended with the majority approval of FARC and majority
136 approval of the Student Assembly.
137

138 **Be it finally resolved**, that the Financial Aid Review Committee carry out evaluations of
139 the Students Helping Students Fund charter every year to ensure that the fund is up
140 to date and consistent with the needs of the students of the time.
141

142 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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144 **Franklin Yang '17**

145 *Chair, Financial Aid Review Committee*

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147 **Matt Henderson '16**

148 *Vice President for Internal Operations, Student Assembly*

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150 *(Reviewed by: Financial Aid Review Committee, 4/20/15, 7-0-0)*