

# 1 Bylaws of the Cornell University Student Assembly

## 2 ARTICLE I: Ex-Officio Members

### 3 Section 1: Ex-officio Membership

4 Ex-officio membership grants members of the Cornell community (student, alumni, faculty, staff, administrator, etc.)  
5 full-debating privileges but not voting privileges. These positions are granted to community members to either provide  
6 a perspective from another governing body or to enhance the overall operations of the Student Assembly.

### 7 Section 2: Ex-Officio Executive Committee Positions

- 8 A. The SA can grant an ex-officio position to any member of the Cornell community to serve as the Executive  
9 Archivist.
- 10 B. The SA can grant an ex-officio position to any member of the Cornell community to serve as the  
11 Parliamentarian
- 12 C. The SA can grant an ex-officio position to any **member of the Cornell Community** ~~undergraduate student~~ to  
13 serve as Director of Elections.

### 14 Section 3: Organizational Liaisons

- 15 A. The SA shall grant one member chosen by the Greek Tri-Councils an ex-officio position as an organizational  
16 liaison. The liaison chosen by the Tri-Councils shall be selected on a rotating basis from the three councils,  
17 beginning with a representative of InterFraternity Council, following with Panhellenic Association, and  
18 finishing with Multicultural Greek Letter Council.
- 19 B. The SA will grant one executive member from Residential Student Congress an ex-officio position as an  
20 organizational liaison.

### 21 Section 4: Shared Governance Liaisons

- 22 A. Student Trustees. The SA will grant the Student Trustees ex-officio positions as shared governance liaisons  
23 for the duration of their terms.
- 24 B. Undergraduate University Assembly Members. The SA will grant both student-elected University Assembly  
25 members ex-officio positions for the duration of their terms.

## 26 ARTICLE II: Officers

### 27 Section 1: Officers

28 The officers of the SA shall be a President, an Executive Vice President, a Vice President of Internal Operations, a  
29 Vice President for Finance, a Vice President for Public Relations, a Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion, a Vice  
30 President of Outreach, a Director of Elections, a Parliamentarian and an Executive Archivist. These officers shall  
31 perform the duties prescribed by this Charter and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the SA.



## 32 Section 2: Election and Appointment of Officers, Time of Election/Appointment

33 The SA will, as soon as possible after the spring election, hold an organizational and planning meeting **in executive**  
34 **session**. At this meeting, the voting members will elect from among themselves the offices of Vice President of  
35 Internal Operations, Vice President for Finance, Vice President for Public Relations, and Vice President of Diversity  
36 and Inclusion, and a Vice President of Outreach. The voting members will elect for either the undergraduate body at  
37 large or from among themselves the office of Director of Elections. **Self-nomination will be in order in each of the**  
38 **elected offices. Elected officers should be approved by a majority vote of SA members present at organizational**  
39 **meeting**. Additionally, at this meeting the members will affirm the appointments of Parliamentarian and Executive  
40 Archivist. ~~Self-nomination will be in order in each of the elected offices.~~ The offices of Parliamentarian and  
41 Executive Archivist will be appointed by the SA President. Each nominee for the respective offices shall be subject to  
42 majority approval of the SA voting members. After such internal election, the newly elected officers will undertake the  
43 immediate responsibilities of their positions. Elections for officers shall be by secret ballots. SA voting members may  
44 have one vote for each position to be filled, but may not vote for any one individual twice on any ballot.

## 45 Section 3: Terms of office

46 Officers shall serve for a term of one year or until their successor is elected and is administered the oath of office or  
47 until the first of June of the year following the incumbent officer's election, whichever occurs first.

## 48 Section 4: Recalling officers

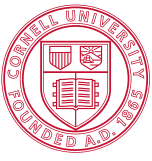
49 Two-thirds vote of the voting membership of the SA may vote to recall any officer of the SA from his or her office.

# 50 ARTICLE III: Officer Duties

## 51 Section 1: President

52 The responsibilities of the President are as follows:

- 53 1. Attend and chair all SA meetings.
- 54 2. Attend all Assemblies' leadership meetings and meetings with Executive staff.
- 55 3. Submit agenda items for leadership meetings after soliciting topics from Assembly member.
- 56 4. Serve as the primary Assembly correspondent with the administration, the media, and the student body.
- 57 5. Correspond with the University President following each Assembly meeting enumerating **all resolutions**  
58 **actions that are passed and are under the University President's purview** and to solicit his **or her** response.
- 59 6. **Correspond with the Deans of the College of Agriculture and Life Science; College of Architecture, Art, and**  
60 **Planning; College of Arts and Sciences; College of Engineering; School of Hotel Administration; College of**  
61 **Human Ecology; School of Industrial and Labor Relations; following each Assembly meeting enumerating all**  
62 **resolutions that are passed and under the purview of each individual college and school and to solicit their**  
63 **responses.**
- 64 7. Supervise all elected officers and ensure they are discharging their responsibilities.
- 65 8. Attend all open sessions of the Board of Trustees and the Board of Trustees Executive Committee held in  
66 Ithaca and report back to the Assembly on said meetings.
- 67 9. Appoint Assembly Parliamentarian and Executive Archivist.
- 68 10. Write and present annual SA report by the **end of the term** ~~last meeting of the Spring semester.~~



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- 69 11. Consult with the Director of Elections regarding elections' advertising as long as the President is not eligible  
70 for reelection.

### 71 **Section 2: Executive Vice President**

72 The responsibilities of the Executive Vice President are as follows:

- 73 1. Attend all SA meetings and act as Chair in the absence of the President.  
74 2. Assume the office of President should a vacancy arise.  
75 3. Serve as Assembly correspondent in the absence of or on behalf of the President.  
76 4. Attend all Assemblies' leadership meetings and meetings with Executive Staff.  
77 5. Submit agenda items for leadership meetings after soliciting topics from Assembly members, and be  
78 responsible for the creation of the weekly agenda for Assembly meetings.  
79 6. Coordinate and assist the undergraduate student UA delegation.  
80 7. Supervise and assist all ad-hoc committees.  
81 8. Track actions of the Assembly to ensure final disposition and confirm correspondence with appropriate units  
82 when Assembly actions impact them.  
83 9. Help initiate and organize lobby efforts at both the state and federal levels.  
84 10. Be responsible for responding to questions or comments made during Open Microphone. Issues can be  
85 delegated to other members of the Assembly.  
86 11. Be responsible for keeping contact with the Office of Government Affairs and reporting on a regular basis to  
87 the SA on issues that concern the student body.  
88 12. Oversee the Committees on Health and Wellness, Academic Affairs, the Environment, and Residential Life  
89 by assisting and advising the committee chairs, attending meetings as necessary, and holding monthly  
90 executive sessions with all committee chairs.  
91 13. Plan fall retreat for committee chairs with the Vice President of Internal Operations.  
92 14. Coordinate and supervise new member orientation with the Vice President of Internal Operations.

### 93 **Section 3: Vice President of Internal Operations**

94 The responsibilities of the Vice President of Internal Operations are as follows:

- 95 1. Attend all SA meetings and act as Chair in the absence of the President and Executive Vice President.  
96 2. Assume the office of Executive Vice President should a vacancy arise.  
97 3. Chair Staffing Committee and Executive Committee.  
98 4. Monitor committee membership.  
99 5. Coordinate and supervise all aspects of the SA office in Willard Straight Hall.  
100 6. Maintain and monitor SA attendance records and send warning notices to members who are in jeopardy of  
101 violating the Assembly attendance policy.  
102 7. Enforce committee attendance and Outreach requirements for all voting SA members.  
103 8. Coordinate and supervise new member orientation with the Executive Vice President.  
104 9. Supervise SA Liaisons.  
105 10. Maintain relations with intercollegiate student organizations of which the SA is a member — e.g. Ivy Council,  
106 SUNY Student Assembly.  
107 11. Plan fall retreat for committee chairs with the Executive Vice President.

### 108 **Section 4: Vice President for Finance**



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109 The responsibilities of the Vice President for Finance are as follows:

- 110 1. Serve as SA treasurer and report to the Assembly regarding Assembly balances.
- 111 2. Chair Appropriations Committee.
- 112 3. Coordinate and chair meetings of Student Activity Fee recipients and draft proposal to SA regarding
- 113 establishing new fee, biannually.
- 114 4. ~~Review SAFC guidelines.~~
- 115 ~~5-4.~~ Work collaboratively with GPSA members when making changes to the Student Activity Fee Guidelines,
- 116 which appear as Charter appendices.
- 117 ~~5-6.~~ Oversee the Financial Aid Review Committee, and the Student Assembly Infrastructure Fund Committee by
- 118 assisting and advising the committee chairs, and attending meetings as necessary.

### 119 Section 5: Vice President for Public Relations

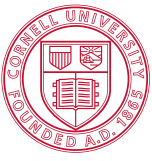
120 The responsibilities of the Vice President for Public Relations are as follows:

- 121 1. Serve as editor of SA newsletter to be sent over email to the entire undergraduate student body at least **two**
- 122 **times/semester**. The newsletter should include the current month's accomplishments and next month's plans,
- 123 accompanied by the name of a contact person to whom comments and questions may be addressed. ~~Maintain~~
- 124 ~~contact with Student Assembly alumni through distribution of the biannual Student Assembly newsletter to~~
- 125 ~~any interested alumni.~~
- 126 2. Consult with the Director of Elections regarding elections' advertising.
- 127 3. Co-Chair Communications and Outreach Committee. Propose communication yearly budget by last meeting
- 128 in September.
- 129 4. Arrange all advertising, postering, banners, etc.
- 130 5. Serve as a liaison to the Cornell Daily Sun including: ensure all SA meetings, forums, committee meetings,
- 131 etc. are listed in Sun Daybook; respond with letters to the editor, etc. to inaccurate editorials, articles, and
- 132 letters published in the Sun. Remain in contact with Sun beat reporters.
- 133 6. Advertise all resolutions to the general student community.
- 134 7. Promote student advocacy role that the SA can play on campus.
- 135 8. Establish and maintain relations with college newsletters, other University publications and CUINFO, and
- 136 provide copy for placement therein.
- 137 9. Oversee the Technology Committee by assisting and advising the committee chairs and attending meetings as
- 138 necessary.

### 139 Section 6: Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion

140 The responsibilities of the Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion are as follows:

- 141 1. Serve as a direct link between the SA and the Office of Academic Diversity Initiatives, as well as the Center
- 142 for Intercultural Dialogue;
- 143 2. Undergo a diversity training session provided by Human Resources and/or OADI;
- 144 3. Prepare training sessions for the SA on addressing issues of diversity along with the Vice President of
- 145 Outreach;



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- 146 4. Meet at least monthly with the Associate Vice Provost (OADI) and the Associate Dean of Students/Director  
147 of Intercultural Programs;
- 148 5. Meet on an as-needed basis with other administrators and staff concerning diversity initiatives;
- 149 6. Attend the Diversity Community meetings on a semesterly basis;
- 150 7. Maintain communication with the individual diversity councils of the colleges;
- 151 8. Ensure that legislative acts of the SA are culturally inclusive;
- 152 9. Provide updates on the state of diversity at Cornell and work to align the SA with University initiatives;
- 153 10. Work with University-sponsored programs such as the Pre-freshmen Summer Program and Diversity Hosting  
154 Month to introduce new students to the governance system of Cornell.
- 155 11. Chair the Diversity and Inclusion committee in conjunction with the leaders of the two task forces.
- 156 12. Coordinate with the Vice President of Outreach to effectively communicate with groups that advocate for  
157 underrepresented students on campus.

### 158 Section 7: Vice President of Outreach

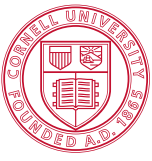
159 The responsibilities of the Vice President of Outreach are as follows:

- 160 1. Coordinate constituency representatives' community outreach efforts (including, but not limited to, [speak-up](#)  
161 [events](#), community forums, meetings with Deans, internal school governments, etc.)
- 162 2. Devise mechanisms for student organizations to become active members in the decision-making process of the  
163 SA; most importantly, committees.
- 164 3. Maintain student organization outreach directory.
- 165 4. Oversee the City and Local Affairs Committee by assisting and advising the committee chair and attending  
166 meetings as necessary.
- 167 5. Co-chair the Communications and Outreach Committee.

### 168 Section 8: Director of Elections

169 The responsibilities of the Director of Elections are as follows:

- 170 1. Chair the Elections Committee and report all the activities of said committee to the general SA.
- 171 2. Assume responsibility for all aspects of the Fall and Spring elections and coordinate all efforts with the  
172 Director of the Office of the Assemblies, the VP for Public Relations, and the President.
- 173 3. Serve as SA correspondent for election matters.
- 174 4. Ensure that the Elections Committee is successfully completing the following tasks:
  - 175 a. making every effort to insure the greatest number of candidates for each available position,
  - 176 b. ensuring all candidates are aware of and abiding by elections, campaigning, postering, and other  
177 Assembly and University policies,
  - 178 c. coordinating and advertising an informal "Meet the Candidates Forum",
  - 179 d. coordinating and advertising opportunities for candidates to make public appearances,
  - 180 e. coordinating and advertising public forums specifically for candidates to discuss any ballot referenda, if  
181 such forums are deemed necessary by the Executive Board,
  - 182 f. contacting student organizations and informing them of the elections process and encouraging them  
183 to send delegates to elections activities in order to report candidates' stances on relevant issues to their  
184 organizations,
  - 185 g. **ensuring that candidates have submitted pictures and statements for publication in the Sun,**



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- 186 h. making every effort to achieve the highest possible voter turnout by advertising and assisting the  
187 Office of the Assemblies in the coordination of elections days.
- 188 5. Make sure, in conjunction with the VP for Public Relations, that there are a substantial number of potential  
189 ballot referenda to be considered for approval by the SA, and that all approved referenda are advertised along  
190 with all elections activities described in #5 above (esp. c and e).

### 191 Section 9: Parliamentarian

192 The Parliamentarian need not be an SA member. The office of Parliamentarian holds no special voting privileges. The  
193 Parliamentarian also may not hold the President or Executive Vice President positions. The responsibilities of the  
194 Parliamentarian are as follows:

- 195 1. Advise the President on questions of parliamentary procedure.
- 196 2. Classify new actions brought before the SA into the categories specified in Article III, Section 2, Item A
- 197 3. Upon a specific request by an SA voting member, the Parliamentarian shall give the Assembly his/her  
198 recommendation on a parliamentary inquiry.
- 199 4. The Parliamentarian shall present a workshop on parliamentary procedure and this charter to the incoming  
200 assembly, preferably before the end of the spring semester but no later than the fourth week of the fall  
201 semester.
- 202 5. ~~The Parliamentarian shall administer The Community Clause of the Student Assembly charter.~~
- 203 6. The Parliamentarian shall count a hand vote to discern simple majority from the gallery, where all eligible  
204 voters sit in a designated area.
- 205 7. The Parliamentarian shall ~~send resolutions detailing changes to SA governing documents to the Office of the~~  
206 ~~Assemblies as soon as they are passed by the SA~~ coordinate with the Office of Assemblies to insure that the  
207 SA governing documents are public and reflect the changes made by the SA .

### 208 Section 10: Executive Archivist

209 The Executive Archivist need not be an SA member. The office of Executive Archivist holds no special voting  
210 privileges. The Executive Archivist also may not hold the President or Executive Vice President positions. The  
211 Executive Archivist shall be responsible for verifying the novelty or precedence of any proposed action or legislation  
212 with Assembly members, or others, bring before the Executive Board.

## 213 ARTICLE IV: Meetings

### 214 Section 1: Regular Meetings

215 Regular meeting times and places will be publicly announced at least one week prior to the scheduled meeting date.

### 216 Section 2: Special Meetings

- 217 A. The President may convene special meetings of the SA to consider issues of immediate and pressing concern.  
218 The President will also call a special meeting after being instructed to do so by six of the voting members of  
219 the SA.



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- 220 B. Religious Conflict - If there is a religious conflict with a regularly scheduled SA meeting, any member may  
221 direct the SA president to call a special meeting in lieu of the regularly scheduled meeting. The request must  
222 be made 2 weeks in advance of the regularly scheduled meeting at issue.

### 223 Section 3: Organizational Meeting

224 The first meeting of the academic year shall be known as the Organizational Meeting and shall be for the purpose of  
225 adopting the schedule for regular meetings and approving the standing rules.

### 226 Section 4: Informal meetings

227 The SA shall hold an informal meeting ~~once every six weeks or additionally as events warrant~~ at the discretion of the  
228 Executive Board. This meeting will be reserved for informal discussions between SA members and other interested  
229 parties, to set goals and priorities for the upcoming weeks. No legislation can be decided upon during these informal  
230 sessions. The attendance policy will remain in effect during the meeting.

### 231 Section 5: Executive Session

232 With the concurrence of two-thirds of the voting members in attendance, the SA or any of its committees may go into  
233 executive session only to discuss confidential matters as defined by this Charter. No policy determinations will be made  
234 in executive session. Executive session shall be closed to non-voting, non-executive members of the assembly.  
235 Community members may be invited by the assembly to participate in an executive session. ~~Secret ballot votes shall be~~  
236 ~~reserved for executive sessions.~~

### 237 Section 6: Quorum

238 A quorum shall consist of a majority of the voting members of the SA.

### 239 Section 7: Community Votes

- 240 A. Should there only be one undergraduate ex-officio non-elected member in attendance, he or she will only be  
241 allocated one vote.
- 242 B. The community clause may only be exercised on final votes of sense-of-body resolutions, which excludes (1)  
243 funding and budgetary decisions, (2) amendments to the SA Charter and Standing Rules, (3) the ability to  
244 make motions, (4) creation/dissolution of committees (5) selection of officers, committee members, and  
245 liaisons from the popularly elected SA (i.e. allocation of the Student Activity Fee, approval of Parliamentarian,  
246 Liaison to the Provost, etc.).
- 247 C. ~~At the beginning of each Student Assembly meeting, members of the community will present their Cornell~~  
248 ~~IDs to the Parliamentarian, who will subsequently validate their status as undergraduates via the Cornell~~  
249 ~~website. The Parliamentarian will record all undergraduate community members present within 15 minutes of~~  
250 ~~the meeting's call to order.~~ Prior to the final vote of a resolution, ~~qualifying undergraduate~~ members of the  
251 community will be permitted to cast their vote. The ~~Parliamentarian President~~ will announce to the Assembly  
252 the collective vote of the gallery and liaisons prior to the casting of popularly elected members' votes on any  
253 given sense-of-the-body resolution. Both community votes will be allocated to the side which has a simple  
254 majority.



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- 255 D. Any member of the undergraduate student body can request, at the beginning of a meeting, that the current  
256 status of all students wishing to participate in a community vote be validated. Each member of the community  
257 present their Cornell IDs to the Parliamentarian, who will subsequently validate their status as undergraduates  
258 via the Cornell website.

## 259 ARTICLE V: Executive Board

### 260 Section 1: Composition

261 The Executive Board shall be composed of the officers of the SA. The Executive Archivist, the Director of Elections  
262 and the Parliamentarian serve as non voting members of the Executive Board.

### 263 Section 2: Duties

264 The Executive Board of the SA shall coordinate the actions of the SA to ensure its smooth operation, set the agenda  
265 for the Regular Meetings of the SA and inform all relevant parties of Staffing Committee decisions. Additionally, the  
266 board shall send its minutes to all representatives within 24 hours of its meeting.

### 267 Section 3: Meetings

268 The Executive Board shall hold meetings at least once a week during the academic year. Special meetings of the Board  
269 may be called by the Executive Vice President and shall be called upon the written request of four members of the  
270 board.

## 271 ARTICLE VI: Committees

### 272 Section 1: Creation of Committees

273 Committees will be established with the adoption of a committee charge to be included in ~~this~~ **these charter and**  
274 **appropriate bylaws these bylaws** . A committee's charge must be adopted and placed in the charter before its bylaws are  
275 to be considered. Committee bylaws shall be adopted with a majority vote.

### 276 Section 2: Review Committees

- 277 A. Review Committees shall review all policies, programs, and actions and shall aid in the budget/program  
278 planning process of sectors of the University that create policy directly affecting student life.
- 279 B. The Vice President for Student and Academic Services shall appoint a staff member to work with the  
280 chairperson of the review committee to assure proper functioning of the committee.
- 281 C. Undergraduate members of the review committees will be designated by the appropriate constituency bodies  
282 and will be subject to the approval of the SA.
- 283 D. Review committees will discuss program assessment/planning documents with the SA during the fall semester  
284 as part of the committee's responsibility for the areas under their jurisdiction.
- 285 E. Review committees will be convened in the beginning of the fall semester by the VP Internal Operations.
- 286 F. **Committee on Dining Services** - The committee will review the policies, budgets and sustainability initiatives  
287 for Dining Services. The committee will make recommendations to the Assembly and Dining regarding





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- 288 changes in existing policies or establishment of new policies. The committee will consist of one  
289 graduate/professional student, two faculty members, one non-management employee, one management  
290 employee, and at least two Dining student workers and or Dining student sustainability coordinators, two  
291 voting SA members one of whom has to be a freshmen representative and seven undergraduate students. The  
292 VP of Internal Operations will recommend additional students to both the committee chair and the Staffing  
293 Committee for their approval. The Chair's decision may be overturned by a majority of appointed voting  
294 members present. Members shall serve one-year, and may reapply to serve a second term. One-half of the  
295 seated voting membership shall constitute a quorum. The Director of Dining or a designee and the Budget  
296 Director of Dining shall serve ex-officio. This chair position can be held by any member of the undergraduate  
297 student population, and the committee is under the supervision of the Executive Vice President.
- 298 **G. Residential Life Committee-** The Committee will serve to build and foster a greater sense of community in  
299 residential life at Cornell by promoting communication between organizations representing the interests of  
300 undergraduate students living both on and off-campus. The Committee will deal with matters of concern in  
301 residence halls and the cooperative learning residences; will make and review policies that directly affect  
302 student life on campus; and maintain legislative authority over these areas (i.e. the Department of Campus  
303 Life and the Office of the Dean of Students). The chair position can be held by any member of the Cornell  
304 undergraduate student population and the committee will be under the supervision of the Executive Vice  
305 President.
- 306 **H. Health and Wellness Committee-** The Committee will develop initiatives and plan events on campus that  
307 promote student health and wellness. The committee will work with Cornell police. The committee will  
308 organize at least two mental health outreach events a year: the CUnique Neurodiversity Conference, which  
309 should focus on raising awareness of how mental health affects different communities on campus; and the Lift  
310 Your Spirits Festival to communicate about various mental health and wellness services available to students.  
311 The Health and Wellness Committee will also address student concerns with campus safety by coordinating  
312 with the University Assembly when necessary. The chair position can be held by any member of the Cornell  
313 undergraduate student population and the committee will be under the supervision of the Executive Vice  
314 President.
- 315 **I. Environmental Policy and Planning Commission-** The commission will research issues affecting the campus  
316 and its surrounding area, as well as provide recommendations for reducing Cornell's environmental impact.  
317 The Environmental Policy and Planning Commission will be charged with creating new legislation and  
318 enforcing past environmental legislation. This commission is also charged with providing environmental  
319 education and outreach in order to better inform students and the campus community about the environment  
320 and relevant issues. The Environmental Policy and Planning Commission will work closely with students,  
321 administrators, student environmental organizations, the Cornell Sustainability Office, the Campus Planning  
322 Committee, the Campus Infrastructure Committee, and the City and Town of Ithaca Sustainability to better  
323 recognize and address the environmental concerns of the campus and its community as well as to encourage  
324 collaboration in working toward the creation of a more sustainable environment. The chair position can be  
325 held by any member of the Cornell undergraduate student population and the committee will be under the  
326 supervision of the Executive Vice President.
- 327 **J. City and Local Affairs Committee-** This committee will advocate on behalf of students' interest at the city and  
328 county government levels. In addition to its advocacy work, the committee will organize events that foster a  
329 sense of engagement in the Ithaca community for Cornell students. The chair position can be held by any  
330 member of the Cornell undergraduate student population and the committee will be under the supervision of  
331 the VP of Outreach.
- 332 **K. Academic Policy-** The committee will advise the Student Assembly on all academic matters at Cornell.  
333 Committee members will research, review, recommend, and develop projects to improve academic life for the  
334 student body. This committee will work closely with the Dean of Students and the Faculty Senate to ensure  
335 that students' concerns related to academic policy are voiced effectively to university officials. The chair



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- 336 position can be held by any member of the Cornell undergraduate student population and the committee will  
337 be under the supervision of Executive Vice President.
- 338 L. **Financial Aid Review Committee** - The committee will examine the financial aid policies of Cornell  
339 University. It shall also be responsible for the administration of the Student Helping Students grant. The  
340 committee shall consist of **one SA member serving as chair, one up to two** additional SA members, **between**  
341 **five and ten** undergraduate students, at least four-fifths of whom receive some form of institutionalized  
342 financial aid, **up to two** faculty members, and one counselor from the Office of Financial Aid, ~~totaling to ten~~  
343 ~~voting members~~. The Associate Vice Provost for Enrollment, the Directors of Financial Aid, the Associate  
344 Director of Financial Aid for Customer Service and Community Relations, and the Vice President for Student  
345 and Academic Services shall serve as ex officio non-voting members. ~~This chair position can be held by any~~  
346 ~~member of the undergraduate student population and the committee will be under the supervision of the Vice~~  
347 ~~President of Finance.~~
- 348 M. ~~Student Assembly Finance Commission (SAFC) — The SA determines the policies for the allocation and use~~  
349 ~~of funds for undergraduate student organizations. The SA SAFC liaison shall serve as a full voting member of~~  
350 ~~the Commission and a member of the Executive Board of the SAFC. The co-chairs of this commission will be~~  
351 ~~internally elected and approved by a majority vote of the Student Assembly.~~

### 352 Section 3: Operational Committees

- 353 A. Operational Committees shall maintain the proper functioning of the internal organization of the SA, and  
354 shall therefore facilitate the full expression of the SA's responsibilities to the Cornell student body.
- 355 B. Operational committees shall be convened in the beginning of the fall semester, or when the committee's  
356 function prescribes, by the Committee on Committee Structure (or its successor body) in coordination with  
357 interested SA voting members.
- 358 C. **Appropriations Committee** - The Appropriations Committee of the SA is the financial branch of the SA. It  
359 reviews all requests for SA funding as well as the policies and guidelines regarding the Student Activity Fee  
360 and those organizations, which receive funding from it. The Committee shall consist of 8 voting members of  
361 the SA, to be selected by the Assembly at large during their organizational meetings; the VP Finance, who  
362 shall serve as Chair; and 7 undergraduates at-large to be selected by the Staffing Committee. The Director of  
363 the Office of the Assemblies or their designee shall serve as an ex-officio non-voting member. No SAFC  
364 Commissioners shall serve as voting members of the Committee. Quorum shall be defines as a simple majority  
365 of all voting members. A designee of the chair shall take minutes at all meetings.
- 366 D. **Student Assembly Infrastructure Fund Commission** - The SAIF Commission (SAIFC) of the SA is  
367 responsible for evaluating applications for funding through the SAIF. The Commission shall consist of ~~8~~ **4** ~~6~~  
368 voting members of the SA, to be selected by the Assembly at-large during their organizational meetings which  
369 must include the Vice President of Finance and the Vice President of Public Relations of the Student  
370 Assembly, **and one new student**; one additional member of the Assembly serving as chair which cannot be  
371 either the Vice President of Finance or the President of the Assembly; and 7 undergraduates at-large voting  
372 members to be selected by the Staffing Committee. No SAFC Commissioners shall serve as voting members  
373 of the SAIFC (with the exception of the Vice President of Finance). No more than **4** ~~2~~ of the voting Student  
374 Assembly members on the SAIFC may also be voting members of the Appropriations Committee and no  
375 more than ~~8~~ **4** of the total voting members on the committee may be voting members of the Appropriations  
376 Committee. Quorum shall be defined as a simple majority of all staffed voting members. A designee of the  
377 chair shall take minutes at all meetings. The Director of the Office of the Assemblies or their designee shall  
378 serve as an ex-officio non-voting member.
- 379 E. **Communications and Outreach Committee** - The Communications and Outreach Committee helps to  
380 bridge the disconnect between campus and the Student Assembly. The Assembly strives to foster collaborative  
381 student activities, as well as inform the student body about the Student Assembly initiatives, meetings, and



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- 382 resolutions. The committee will ensure a direct and ever present link between students active in campus  
383 government, the administration, and students at-large and will relay student interest to the SA. The  
384 committee will assist in furthering the outreach efforts of the assembly by aiding in the coordination of SA-  
385 sponsored events including, but not limited to conducting polls, referenda, community outreach forums,  
386 designated constituency events, and hearings. The committee will also assist in coordinating efforts and  
387 devising strategies to involve more non-voting members in the decisions and events of the SA. The Assembly  
388 plans recreational events for students. The SA VP Public Relations and VP Outreach will serve as the Co-  
389 Chairs of the Committee.
- 390 F. **Technology Committee**- The committee will consist of two working groups: one on Technology Policy and  
391 one on Website Design. The Technology Policy working group will advocate for student technology needs on  
392 campus and will maintain communication with the University's Chief Information Officer regarding the  
393 University's technology strategic plan and other salient and current issues. The committee will collaborate with  
394 CIT and academic departments to improve technology infrastructure on campus and will be charged with  
395 developing innovative technological methods to strengthen communication between the aforementioned  
396 groups. The Website Design working group will coordinate with Student Assembly representatives to create  
397 websites as needed for initiatives that improve campus life and require online platforms, and will work with  
398 CIT when possible to update existing websites for the benefit of the Cornell community. The committee will  
399 be led by two co-chairs, one for the Technology Policy working group and one for the Website Design  
400 working group. Both positions can be held by any member of the Cornell undergraduate student population  
401 and the committee will be under the supervision of VP of Public Relations.
- 402 G. **Elections Committee** - The committee will coordinate and implement regularly scheduled and special  
403 elections of the SA and directly elected undergraduate representatives to the UA. The SA Director of  
404 Elections shall serve as chair with vote. The committee consists of ten voting members, of whom less than half  
405 may also be members of the SA. At the first SA meeting of each academic year, the Staffing Committee will  
406 present a slate of proposed members to the SA for confirmation, which the SA must approve or disapprove in  
407 its entirety. The Staffing Committee may fill any subsequent vacancies with confirmation by the SA. No  
408 person may be a candidate in an election supervised by the committee in the same academic year when the  
409 person served as a voting member of the committee. This committee will be chaired by the Director of  
410 Elections of the Student Assembly.
- 411 H. **Staffing Committee** - The committee shall staff any vacant committee positions the Student Assembly (SA) is  
412 empowered to staff during meetings in early fall. The committee shall re-evaluate the committee application  
413 outreach plan at the end of every spring term. The committee shall also evaluate SA committees' end of the  
414 year report, and determine if the SA committee and/or their composition need to be changed. The  
415 membership of this committee shall include the SA's President, Executive Vice President, Vice President of  
416 Finance, Vice President of Public Relations, and Vice President of Internal Operations, Vice President of  
417 Outreach, Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion, and all SA committee chairs. Ex-officio membership  
418 shall be granted to the Director of the Office of Assemblies. The VP Internal of Operations shall serve as  
419 chair. The VP of Internal Operations shall be responsible for consulting with chairpersons of committees and  
420 recommending candidates for vacant committee positions to the Staffing Committee. This committee will be  
421 chaired by the VP of Internal Operations.

### 422 Section 4: **Student Interests Diversity**

- 423 ~~A. Student Interest Committees shall address any concern or interest of the student body not already addressed~~  
424 ~~by the Assembly system.~~
- 425 **B. A. Diversity and Inclusion Committee**-The committee shall serve as the body through which the SA, the  
426 diversity councils of the undergraduate schools and colleges, the Office of Academic Diversity Initiatives  
427 (OADI), and the Center for Intercultural Dialogue coordinate their efforts to promote awareness and



## Cornell University Student Assembly

- 428 understanding of the increasing importance of diversity and create an environment that brings together diverse  
429 perspectives and fosters diversity of thought. The charge of the Diversity and Inclusion committee will be to:
- 430 1. To be a meeting grounds for interested students to meet members of the administration to brainstorm,  
431 formulate and lead implementable policies in the field of diversity and inclusion.
  - 432 2. To review the efforts of the Diversity Committee and diversity councils of the colleges.
  - 433 3. To provide a brief report of its progress to be presented by the Vice President of Diversity & Inclusion to the  
434 SA General Body by the final meeting in the fall semester, as well as a full report to include (but not limited  
435 to) the goals of the academic year, the strategies devised for achievement of these goals, the progress of UDC  
436 initiatives, college- specific initiatives, obstacles, and potential goals for the next academic year to be presented  
437 in the same manner at the final meeting of the spring semester.
  - 438 4. Composition
    - 439 a. The Diversity and Inclusion Committee will aim to be a collective voice of the diversity of  
440 backgrounds, cultures, ethnicities, gender identities, races, religions, and sexual orientations  
441 represented at Cornell.
    - 442 b. Non-SA student representation: student members of the committee may be recruited from institutions  
443 and organizations such as the diversity councils of the colleges, Women's Resource Center, Center for  
444 Intercultural Dialogue, ALANA, Haven Executive board, Cornell Outdoor Education, International  
445 Student Union and any member of the Cornell student body who is interested in diversity initiatives.
    - 446 c. Student Assembly representation: SA LGBT Liaison at-large, Women's representative, International  
447 representative, both Minority Liaisons, and the Vice President of Outreach are required to be  
448 members of the committee.
    - 449 d. Administrative representation: this committee shall consist of at least one staff representative from  
450 each of the diversity councils of the colleges; an OADI staff member; a staff representative from the  
451 Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies and a staff representative of the Center for  
452 Intercultural Dialogue. The committee is required to meet its staff representatives at least once every  
453 month in the academic year.
  - 454 2. Structure
    - 455 a. The Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion of the Student Assembly will chair the Diversity and  
456 Inclusion committee in coordination with the Directors, who will head two task forces: Initiatives  
457 Task Force and United Student Body Task Force. Ad-hoc task forces and leadership positions can be  
458 created as the leadership of the committee sees fit. Task forces will be encouraged to work together  
459 towards common goals.
    - 460 b. Initiatives Task Force: this will be in-charge of collecting ideas, issues and concerns in the area of  
461 diversity and inclusion; and working on implementable related policies.
    - 462 c. United Student Body Task Force: this will be in-charge of implementing United Student Body and  
463 subsequently reviewing it during the process of implementation.

## 464 ARTICLE VII: Delegations

### 465 Section 1: SUNY Student Assembly

466 The SUNY Student Assembly is comprised of representatives from the statutory units of New York State higher  
467 educational system which discuss matters of importance to the SUNY system and provide a unified voice for SUNY  
468 student governments. The membership of the Cornell delegation shall be two voting members who are enrolled in a  
469 statutory program to be selected in the organizational meetings. Additional provisions for the delegation are as  
470 specified in the SUNY Student Assembly Charter.



## 471 Section 2: Ivy Council

472 The Ivy Council is comprised of representatives from all eight Ivy League school's undergraduate student governments  
473 whose delegates meet biannually to discuss matters of importance to the member schools, to facilitate effective  
474 communication between the student governments of the member institutions, to provide a unified voice for the Ivy  
475 League student governments, and to further students' initiative in making a positive impact on the global community.  
476 The membership of the Cornell delegation shall include a policy liaison who shall be selected at the organizational  
477 meetings and introduce themselves to the Executive Board members of the Cornell delegation of Ivy Council before  
478 the fall semi-annual conference. Additional provisions for the delegation are as specified in the Constitution of the Ivy  
479 Council.

## 480 ARTICLE VIII: Community Rights and Confidentiality

### 481 Section 1: Community Rights

482 The SA and its committees shall respect and protect the rights of individual members of the Cornell community

### 483 Section 2: Confidentiality

484 When a subject under discussion or examination requires the use of personal confidential information, all reasonable  
485 efforts shall be made to safeguard the confidentiality of this information. Confidential information is meant to include  
486 any and all information that, if publicly exposed, would endanger the privacy, safety, or security of any member of the  
487 Cornell community (students, faculty, and staff), or constitute a breach of any individual right guaranteed by the  
488 University, the State of New York, or the federal government.

### 489 Section 3: Infringement of Confidentiality

490 If any member or group of the University feels that any action of the SA or its committees is infringing upon that  
491 person's or that group's rights under this Article, then that person or group may appeal to the [Ombudsman JCC](#) to  
492 determine whether probable grounds exist for a complaint. By majority vote, the SA may suspend any actions related  
493 to an appeal to the [Ombudsman JCC](#) until the [Ombudsman JCC](#) makes a final ruling on the appeal.

## 494 ARTICLE IX: Programs and Activities

### 495 Section 1: Public Events and Campus Forums

496 The SA shall conduct at least one public event or forum per semester at alternating locations on campus. These public  
497 events or forums shall include administrators related to a particular topic of current student interest.

### 498 Section 1: Speak Up Events

499 ~~The SA will have the responsibility to conduct at least one public 'Speak Up' event per semester at alternating locations~~  
500 ~~on campus. The 'Speak Up' events are to be conducted as a round table discussion and shall include administrators~~  
501 ~~related to a particular topic of current student interest.~~



502 **ARTICLE X: Parliamentary Authority**

503 The rules contained in the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the SA in all cases to  
504 which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this charter and any special rules of order the SA  
505 may adopt.

506 **ARTICLE XI: Amendments**

507 These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the assembly by a two-thirds vote of the members present,  
508 provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting. Amendments may be  
509 presented to the assembly by voting members and by community petition with at least 100 Cornell undergraduate  
510 student signatures.