



# Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	3/3/2016
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

1 S.A. Resolution #44  
2 Creation of the First Generation Student Representative  
3

4 ABSTRACT: This resolution demands/recommends the creation of a First Generation Liaison at-  
5 Large who will serve as a full voting member of the Student Assembly  
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7 Sponsored by: Saim Chaudhary '17, Paola Muñoz '17, Ewa Przybylko '18  
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9 **Whereas**, there is no first-generation student representation on the Student Assembly;  
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11 **Whereas**, the Student Assembly has historically represented different demographics of the student body  
12 including but not exclusive to international, minority, female, and LGBTQ+ students;  
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14 **Whereas**, the first-generation undergraduate student population at Cornell University accounts for 14%  
15 of the undergraduate student population;  
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17 **Whereas**, this large student population feels it would benefit from direct student representation on the  
18 Student Assembly;  
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20 **Whereas**, the first generation representative would address the unique needs of first generation students  
21 including admissions, retention and graduation rates, limited access to cultural/social capital\*, sense of  
22 belonging\* and “the imposter syndrome”, mental health, and how the first-generation identity often  
23 intersects with being of a low-socioeconomic status which presents its own unique issues — not to be  
24 conflated with non-first generation low-SES students;  
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26 **Whereas**, the first generation identity is unique to the college experience, considering that it emerges as  
27 an identity solely upon matriculation, as a result of becoming the first generation within a given  
28 household to attend an institution of higher education;  
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30 **Whereas**, if the Student Assembly seeks to be truly representative, it must incorporate diverse social  
31 identity groups within its representative positions. Student governance that is not diverse, and/or allows  
32 for diverse marginalized social identity groups to be represented monolithically, is inherently not  
33 representative;  
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35 **Be it therefore resolved**, that a First Generation Liaison at-Large position be added to the Student  
36 Assembly;  
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38 **Be it further resolved**, that *Section 1 of Article IV* of the Student Assembly Charter be amended as  
39 follows:  
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41 **A. General Composition** - The SA will consist of 28 voting members who are registered  
42 undergraduate students at Cornell University. Up to two additional votes shall be allocated to the  
43 entire community of undergraduates as a whole present at a Student Assembly meeting on  
44 motions that express the opinion of the assembly. Such community votes shall be allowed only  
45 as provided by the Assembly in its bylaws. Eleven voting members of the SA will be elected by  
46 and from the student populations of the colleges and schools, one from each: the College of

47 Architecture, Art and Planning; the School of Hotel Administration; the College of Human  
48 Ecology; and the School of Industrial and Labor Relations. Two each shall be elected from the  
49 College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Engineering; and three shall be  
50 elected from the College of Arts and Sciences. In addition, twelve voting members will be  
51 elected at-large by and from the University undergraduate student population as a whole; two at-  
52 large seats are to be reserved for candidates seeking the offices of President and Executive Vice  
53 President of the Student Assembly and must be explicitly designated as such; two at-large seats  
54 are to be reserved for non-constituent, undesignated at-large group candidates who do not run  
55 for President or Executive Vice President; two at-large seats are to be reserved for candidates  
56 seeking to represent minority students; one at-large seat is to be reserved for candidates seeking  
57 to represent international students; one at-large seat is to be reserved for candidates seeking to  
58 represent women's issues; one-at-large seat is to be reserved for candidates seeking to represent  
59 First Generation College Students; and one at-large seat is to be reserved for candidates seeking  
60 to represent the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer community. The two remaining  
61 non-constituent, undesignated at-large seats are to be contested by candidates running for  
62 President and Executive Vice President and by non-constituent, undesignated at-large group  
63 candidates not running for President or Executive Vice President. Five seats shall be elected by  
64 and from new students entering in the fall. Should there be no candidate running for a given  
65 seat, the seat shall be considered vacant.

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67 **Be it further resolved**, that the initial election for the First Generation Liaison at-Large position will  
68 take place during the fall 2016 election cycle for all undergraduate students;

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70 **Be it further resolved**, that the elections after fall 2016 will consecutively occur during the Spring  
71 election cycles;

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73 **Be it finally resolved**, that the First Generation Liaison at-Large be a first-generation undergraduate  
74 student or a student ally that is voted for by the entire undergraduate student body.

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76 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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78 Saim Chaudhary '17  
79 *Minority Representative, Student Assembly*

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81 Paola Muñoz '17  
82 *Co-head, First in Class Advocacy Committee*

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84 Ewa Przybylko '18  
85 *Co-head, First in Class Advocacy Committee*

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87 *Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 3/2/16.*

88 *(\*Originally approved by the Diversity Committee, revised and passed through the Executive Committee with minor revisions.)*