

Resolution 13: Student Assembly Office of Ethics Bylaw Amendment

Abstract: This resolution amends and ratifies the Student Assembly Bylaws. These amendments to the Bylaws create an ex-officio position for the Chairperson of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics, permit members of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics to remain during executive session, and establish the format of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics.

Sponsored by: Michelle Song '25, Pedro Da Silveira' 25

Reviewed by: Student Assembly Office of Ethics, 11/08/2022

Type of Action: Internal Policy

Originally Presented: 11/10/2022

Current Status: New Business

Whereas, the Student Assembly Office of Ethics was established through Student Assembly Resolution 22 as an external executive office to hold the Student Assembly accountable, maintain a high moral standard, and provide necessary ethical guidance and procedure to the Student Assembly;

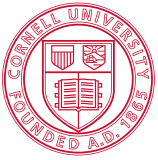
Whereas, the membership of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics has actively researched, analyzed, coordinated, argued, and discussed ethical philosophies and applications;

Whereas, the members of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics have unanimously agreed that the Student Assembly, is in need of a structured system imbued with the authority to ensure accountability, ethical conduct, justice, and growth;

Whereas, the current language utilized in “Section 2: Ex-officio Executive Committee Positions” of “Article I: Ex-Officio Members,” “Section 5: Executive Session” of “Article IV: Meetings,” and “Section 5: External Committees” of “Article VI: Committees” lines 10-19, 233-238, 562-617 prevent the Student Assembly Office of Ethics from becoming this type of system;

Whereas, the Code of Ethics and amendments to the Ethics Clause of the Student Assembly’s Standing Rules have been incorporated into the framework of the Assembly, and an amendment to the Bylaws is necessary for the Office to function

Be it therefore resolved, that “Section 2: Ex-officio Executive Committee Positions” of “Article I: Ex-Officio Members,” “Section 5: Executive Session” of “Article IV: Meetings,” and “Section 5: External Committees” of “Article VI: Committees” lines 10-19, 233-238, 562-617 of the Student Assembly Bylaws shall read as follows:



31 **ARTICLE I: EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

32 **Section 2: Ex-Officio Executive Committee Positions**

- 33 A. The SA can grant an ex-officio position to any member of the Cornell community to serve
- 34 as the Executive Archivist.
- 35 B. The SA can grant an ex-officio position to any member of the Cornell community to serve
- 36 as the Parliamentarian.
- 37 C. The SA can grant an ex-officio position to any member of the Cornell Community to serve
- 38 as Director of Elections.
- 39 D. The SA can grant an ex-officio position to any member of the Cornell Community to serve
- 40 as the Student Advocate.
- 41 E. The SA can grant an ex-officio position to any member of the Cornell Community to serve
- 42 as the Director of Student Government Relations.
- 43 F. *The SA must grant an ex-officio position to any member elected by the Student Assembly*
- 44 *Office of Ethics to serve as the Chairperson.*

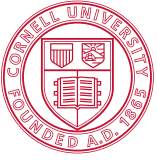
45 **ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS**

46 **Section 2: Executive Session**

47 With the concurrence of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members in attendance, the SA or any of its
48 committees may go into executive session during a regularly scheduled meeting only to discuss
49 confidential matters as defined by this Charter. No policy determinations will be made in executive
50 session. The Student Assembly may also hold executive sessions for internal elections and planning
51 purposes. Executive session shall be closed to non-voting, non-executive members of the assembly
52 *except the Chairperson of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics and all present members of the*
53 *Student Assembly Office of Ethics.* Community members may be invited by the assembly to
54 participate in an executive session. Secret ballot votes shall be reserved for executive sessions.

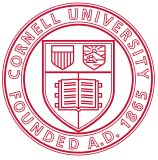
55 **ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES**

56 **Section 5: EXTERNAL COMMITTEES**



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- 57 C. **Student Assembly Office of Ethics**
- 58 a. Name
- 59 i. The name of the office shall be the **Student Assembly** Office of Ethics.
- 60 b. Mission:
- 61 i. The mission of the **Student Assembly** Office of Ethics shall be to pursue any
- 62 necessary ethics concerns of SA members and directly elected undergraduate
- 63 representatives to the UA.
- 64 ii. The **Student Assembly** Office of Ethics will investigate perceived ethical
- 65 violations and draft reports to the SA for guidance and potential repercussions.
- 66 iii. The **Student Assembly** Office of Ethics will be available for consulting and
- 67 support on SA ethical issues for both SA members and the student body.
- 68 c. **Affiliation**
- 69 i. The Office will **review** all **concerns** submitted by the student body that **involve**
- 70 any SA members, SA committees, **SA elections**, or directly elected undergraduate
- 71 representatives of the UA.
- 72 ii. The **Student Assembly** Office of Ethics shall be affiliated as an external executive
- 73 office of the Cornell Student Assembly.
- 74 iii. The **Student Assembly** Office of Ethics shall work jointly with the **Elections**
- 75 **Committee** to review any potential election violations or concerns.
- 76 d. **Roles and Responsibilities**
- 77 i. A quorum shall consist of five members of the **Student Assembly** Office of
- 78 **Ethics**.
- 79 ii. **Chairperson** of the **Student Assembly** Office of Ethics:
- 80 1. The **Chairperson** will chair all **Student Assembly** Office of Ethics
- 81 meetings.
- 82 2. The **Chairperson** shall only vote in the event of a tie.
- 83 3. The **Chairperson** shall have a term limit of one academic year.
- 84 4. The **Chairperson** shall correspond directly with the **Student Assembly**
- 85 on matters of ethics and ethical decorum in its meetings and all
- 86 proceedings.
- 87 a) In the event of absence, the **Chairperson** may select any member
- 88 of the **Student Assembly** Office of Ethics to temporarily fulfill
- 89 their obligations as an ex-officio member of the **Executive**
- 90 **Committee** of the SA.
- 91 iii. **Review** all alleged ethical violations submitted to the Office via:
- 92 1. **Qualtrics**,
- 93 2. **Email**,



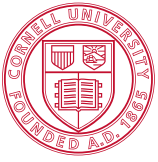
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- 94 3. Personal contact with a committee member of the Student Assembly
95 Office of Ethics.
- 96 iv. Open investigations on perceived ethical violations
- 97 1. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics can open its own investigation
98 on an ethical matter by a simple majority vote.
- 99 v. Voting Members of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics:
- 100 1. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics shall consist of seven voting
101 members.
- 102 2. All voting members shall serve for the duration of one academic year
103 unless their term is renewed by the Chairperson of the Student
104 Assembly Office of Ethics
- 105 3. Student Assembly Office of Ethics members, if found in violation of
106 the Code of Ethics or any other reasonable basis as determined by the
107 Office, can be removed before their term expires by a unanimous vote
108 of the voting membership of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics.
- 109 a) The subject of the removal vote must abstain from voting.
- 110 4. All voting members shall be non-Student Assembly and non-
111 University Assembly members of the Cornell undergraduate student
112 population.
- 113 5. Voting members may not seek SA office through their term of service
114 in the Student Assembly Office of Ethics.
- 115 vi. Update the Student Assembly of its proceedings and its mission on a semesterly
116 basis at a hearing conducted during one of the first three general assembly
117 meetings of the academic year. This will be formally referred to as the “Student
118 Assembly Office of Ethics’ semesterly report.”
- 119 vii. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics will be commissioned with interpreting
120 and applying the guidelines set forth in the SA Code of Ethics.
- 121 1. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics, alone, will be tasked with the
122 ability to revise the Code of Ethics.
- 123 2. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics will report revisions of the
124 Code of Ethics to the Student Assembly at the subsequent meeting.
- 125 e. Recruitment of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics Members
- 126 i. Any vacancies in the 7 seats of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics shall be
127 appointed individually by any SA member and confirmed by a two-thirds (2/3)
128 vote of the entire voting membership of the Student Assembly.
- 129 1. Except for nominations following a failed community vote, all
130 nominations for the Student Assembly Office of Ethics must be



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- 131 unanimously approved by the membership of the Student Assembly
132 Office of Ethics prior to the SA nomination hearing.
- 133 2. A week-long period in between nominations and appointments shall be
134 dedicated to giving SA voting members the opportunity to speak one-
135 on-one with each nominee.
- 136 ii. At the beginning of each academic year, the voting membership of the Student
137 Assembly Office of Ethics must select the Chairperson of the Student Assembly
138 Office of Ethics internally by a simple majority vote of the entire voting
139 membership of the Office. The Chairperson-elect shall be confirmed by a 2/3rds
140 majority vote of the Student Assembly voting membership.
- 141 iii. The Chairperson of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics shall decide upon the
142 retention of the voting membership of the incoming Office before the
143 conclusion of each academic year.
- 144 f. Vote of No Confidence
- 145 i. The Student Assembly will assess the work of the Student Assembly Office of
146 Ethics during the previous academic year and must conduct a vote of no
147 confidence on an annual basis during or following any of the first three general
148 assembly meetings of each semester.
- 149 1. Following the Student Assembly Office of Ethics' semesterly report, as
150 defined in Article VI, Section 5, Subsection C, Clause D, Paragraph VI, the
151 SA may commence a Vote of No Confidence by 2/3 majority vote on the
152 grounds that the Office has failed to uphold and execute its mission, as
153 defined in Article VI, Section 5, Subsection C, Clause B.
- 154 a) The Chairperson of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics and all
155 present members of the Office may directly address the concerns
156 brought against the Office prior to the vote of the SA to commence a
157 Vote of No Confidence.
- 158 2. If the motion to commence a Vote of No Confidence fails, the Student
159 Assembly Office of Ethics will continue to operate.
- 160 3. In the event of a sustained Vote of No Confidence, a community vote
161 shall be taken in order to remove all Student Assembly Office of Ethics
162 members. 15% of the undergraduate population must vote in favor of
163 removal of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics membership for the
164 vote to be sustained.
- 165 ii. In the event of a failed community vote, all Student Assembly Office of Ethics
166 members shall continue to serve.
- 167 g. Student Assembly Office of Ethics Bylaws



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- 168 i. All bylaw proposals to Article VI, Section 5, Subsection C, must be approved by
169 the Student Assembly Office of Ethics by a two-thirds (2/3) majority before
170 coming to the SA.
171 ii. Changes to the Student Assembly Office of Ethics bylaws may only occur during
172 the first three SA meetings of each semester.

173

174 **Respectfully Submitted,**

175 Michelle Song '25

176 *Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion & Representative at-Large, Student Assembly*

177 Pedro Da Silveira '25

178 *Vice President of Internal Operations & College of Engineering Representative, Student Assembly*