



Cornell University

Student Assembly

1 **Resolution 14: Approving Special Projects** 2 **Funding Request for Willard Straight Hall Union Board**

3
4 **Abstract:** This resolution approves \$1,000.00 of Special Projects Funding to the Willard Straight
5 Hall Union Board to continue the Cornell tradition of serving freshly popped popcorn in the
6 Willard Straight Hall lobby to those affiliated with Cornell University.

7 **Sponsored by:** George Rocco DeLorenzo '24

8 **Reviewed by:** Executive Committee, 11/14/22, 5-0-1

9 **Type of Action:** Recommendation

10 **Originally Presented:** 11/16/2022

11 **Current Status:** New Business
12

13 **Whereas,** the Student Assembly Standing Rules, Section 8: Spending Guidelines, Part B:
14 Special Projects Funding outlines the purpose of Special Projects Funding and the process of
15 approving funding requests.

16 **Whereas,** lines 281-283 of the Student Assembly Standing Rules explains the purpose of Special
17 Projects Funding as follows:

18 Rule 5: The Student Assembly may choose to fund any project, program or service
19 through SA Special Projects that it deems to improve the quality of undergraduate student
20 life or to further the goals of the SA. Special Projects funding is a type of category
21 spending.

22 **Whereas,** lines 304-307 of the Student Assembly Standing Rules describes the approval process
23 of Special Projects Funding as follows:

24 Rule 8: The Executive Committee shall decide upon special projects requests over \$400
25 and under \$1500 by a majority vote. The SA, at large, may reverse an Executive
26 Committee decision to fund amounts over \$400 by a two-thirds vote. The request should
27 be presented to the Student Assembly in the form of a resolution.

28 **Whereas**, in an effort to revive a much-beloved pre-COVID tradition in Willard Straight Hall,
29 the Student Union Board has begun serving real, kettle-cooked popcorn free of charge to all
30 students from 5-7 PM every Tuesday and Thursday in the main lobby of WSH.

31 **Whereas**, in addition to all-you-can eat free popcorn, the popcorn station also offers a variety of
32 flavorings (including but not limited to: pumpkin spice, cinnamon sugar, cheddar cheese, butter,
33 and nutritional yeast) for students to enjoy.

34 **Whereas**, the popcorn machine, acquired at the expense of the WSH Student Union Board, is
35 manned by trained student members of the organization, who work on a purely pro bono
36 volunteer basis.

37 **Whereas**, In addition to directly covering all expenses for the popcorn and the upkeep of the
38 machine, the Student Union Board is responsible for the maintenance, storage, and cleaning of
39 the machine.

40 **Whereas**, the popcorn station has become a vehicle for both social gatherings and a means to
41 support other student groups on campus.

42 **Whereas**, the WSH Student Union Board often lends out the popcorn machine to other student
43 organizations free of charge and serves popcorn in conjunction with other student- led events
44 happening in WSH.

45 **Whereas**, most bags of popcorn served also have promotional quarter-cards for Cornell student-
46 created events affixed onto them as a means of free advertising support for other groups.

47 **Whereas**, the success of the popcorn station has led to costs greatly exceeding initial projections,
48 largely due to a much higher volume of oil, kernels, and flavoring being consumed than
49 anticipated

50 **Whereas**, the Student Union Board has no intention of cutting back either the quantity or caliber
51 of popcorn served to the student body.

52 **Whereas**, much of the Willard Straight Hall Union Board byline allocation is spent for the
53 numerous large-scale activities the Student Union Board runs throughout the year, like very cost-
54 intensive responsibilities of running Clubfest and Welcome Weekend events each semester.

55 **Whereas**, the total effective funding the Student Union Board can spend for the popcorn
56 machine and maintenance costs total is around \$1,750 for FY 22-23.

57 **Whereas**, the current costs are in excess of \$1100.00 already as of 11/9/22, this leaves
58 approximately \$650.00 of remaining funds which the Student Union can economically spend on
59 the popcorn station.

60 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Student Assembly approves the \$1,000.00 Special Projects
61 Funding disbursement to Willard Straight Hall Union Board.

62 **Be it further resolved**, that the Student Assembly necessitates that this funding be used to cover
63 the cost of the continuation of offering popcorn in the Willard Straight Hall lobby.

64 **Be it finally resolved**, that the Student Assembly encourages undergraduate students who can to
65 stop by the Willard Straight Hall lobby when the popcorn is being offered that will be partially
66 funded by Special Projects Funding.

67 Respectfully Submitted,

68 George Rocco DeLorenzo '24

69 *Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly*



STUDENT UNION BOARD PRESENTS
FUNDED IN PART BY THE STUDENT ASSEMBLY

SUB POPCORN STATION

Every Tue & Thu • 5-7PM

**WILLARD STRAIGHT
HALL LOBBY**



FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE STUDENTS!