

Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	10/26/2017
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #15

Allowing International Students Financial Aid for Extenuating Circumstances

ABSTRACT: This resolution requests the Cornell Office of Financial Aid to expand the scope of leftover domestic financial aid funds and/or create a separate fund to support international students facing unanticipated financial need.

Sponsored by: Varun Devatha '19 and Christopher Schott '18

Whereas, domestic students are admitted upon a “need-blind” policy;

Whereas, aid for domestic students is adjusted annually to meet required need, both on the individual and aggregate level;

Whereas, domestic students who face unanticipated financial need during the semester have access to additional aid, both from Governmental and Cornell Financial Aid sources;

Whereas, financial aid for international students is capped and grows at a lower rate than domestic aid;

Whereas, only international applicants are subjected to a “need-aware” undergraduate admissions policy;

Whereas, because of this policy, international students are effectively disincentivized from applying to Financial Aid when they first apply to Cornell;

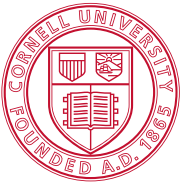
Whereas, it is impossible for international students to apply for Financial Aid, under any circumstances, during their Undergraduate career if they were not awarded Financial Aid upon their initial Cornell application;

Whereas, this puts the enrollment of international students facing unanticipated financial need in jeopardy, at best entailing an extreme economic burden and at worst amounting to a termination of their tertiary education;

Whereas, 89% of awarded scholarships & grants are provided directly by Cornell, with the remaining 11% made available through federal, state, and external sources;

Whereas, conversations with Financial Aid and Admissions officials have indicated that the annual number of international students who request Emergency Aid is in the single digits;

Whereas, Cornell’s founding mission of “any person, any study” and its commitment to equal opportunity includes International students;



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44 **Be it therefore resolved,** that the Student Assembly urges the Office of Undergraduate Admissions
45 to empirically justify or provide evidence for their recent decision to make admissions “need-
46 aware” for International students;

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48 **Be it further resolved,** that the Student Assembly urges the Office of Financial Aid to administer
49 additional Financial aid to students facing extenuating circumstances, regardless of
50 citizenship;

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52 **Be it further resolved,** that the Student Assembly urges the Office of Financial Aid, the Office of
53 Alumni Affairs and Development, President Martha Pollack, Vice President Ryan Lombardi
54 and Vice Provost for International Affairs Laura Spitz to create an Emergency Aid Pool for
55 international students beyond the current budget for International Financial Aid, for instance
56 by drawing on leftover resources from domestic Financial Aid or by encouraging
57 (international) alumni to contribute to an external fund for emergency aid;

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59 **Be it finally resolved,** that the Administration take care to include members of the International
60 Students Union and Student Assembly in its efforts to remedy this structural inequality;

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62 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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64 Varun Devatha '19
65 *Executive Vice President, Student Assembly*

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67 Christopher Schott '18
68 *International Students Liaison At-Large Representative, Student Assembly*

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70 Akanksha Jain '20
71 *Advocacy Team Member, International Students Union*

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73 Mayra Valadez '18
74 *Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion, Student Assembly*
75 *Chair, SA Financial Aid Review Committee*

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77 *Reviewed by: Financial Aid Review Committee, VOTE, 10/20/2017*