

Resolution 16: *Allyship to the Cornell LGBTQ+ Community*

Abstract: Per the current Charter regulations on Byline applications, all organizations applying for SAF funding must disclose a full list of member names in order to submit a valid Byline application. This rule, though facially neutral, has harmful unintended consequences that impact the LGBTQ+ community at Cornell. This resolution explains the implications of the rule on HAVEN: The LGBTQ+ Student Union, and lists the accommodation that HAVEN requires, including standards that HAVEN will be held in lieu of submitting member names.

Sponsored by: Karys Everett '25 Claire Ting '25 Aissatou Barry '24

Reviewed by: DEI Committee, 09/06/2023, 8-0-1

Type of Action: Internal Policy

Originally Presented: 09/06/2003

Current Status: Business of the Day

Whereas, HAVEN: The LGBTQ+ Student Union is a **byline-funded** organization that serves as an advocate for LGBTQ+ students, a vehicle of outreach for the queer community on campus, and an administrative umbrella and source of funding for most undergraduate LGBTQ+ organizations on campus. **It is the largest and only Byline organization that directly empowers the entire LGBTQ+ community.**

Whereas, HAVEN is not only important but an essential part of protecting students on our campus that through the years has made continuous efforts to advocate for students, bring people together, and enrich our campus community.

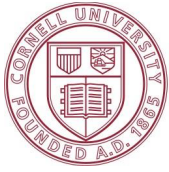
Whereas, According to the "SAF Application Requirement" HAVEN is classified as a Supplementary Funding Board and is required to complete Sections 6-14. This classification requires Haven to provide the names of all current members.¹

Whereas, HAVEN is sympathetic to the challenges the Student Assembly is facing regarding the recent change in Admin Access for students on Campus Groups, and recognizes that without an active roster that could be accessed at any point, it is difficult to verify the validity of membership rosters and understands that the VP of Finance is working tirelessly to re-obtaining admin access.

¹Line 47 Section E of *Resolution 9 Amending the Student Assembly Charter*

²Outing, definition: Exposing someone's lesbian, gay, bisexual transgender or gender non-binary identity to others without their permission. <https://www.hrc.org/resources/glossary-of-terms>

³Human Rights Campaign, Glossary of Terms. <https://www.hrc.org/resources/glossary-of-terms>



Cornell University Student Assembly

30 **Whereas**, HAVEN's mission centers around empowering the LGBTQ+ community on campus,
31 allowing students to freely and safely express their Queer identity without fear of discrimination
32 for their gender identity and/or sexuality.

33 **Whereas**, Providing a full membership list detailing HAVEN members' full legal names would
34 mean compromising sensitive information regarding students' identities. This not only violates
35 LGBTQ+ students' privacy, but also makes them vulnerable to bad actors, identity-based
36 discrimination, and unintended outing.²

37 **Whereas**, HAVEN is unable to effectively protect and empower its community members if this
38 information is compromised. Per current regulations, HAVEN lacks the autonomy to dictate
39 where the information goes, as well as **who** is receiving this sensitive information.

40 **Whereas**, Even if it could be guaranteed to be seen by *only* one person, that does not remedy the
41 fact that all the members will be outed without consent, effectively damaging the foundation of
42 safety HAVEN has spent years cultivating.

43 **Whereas**, Outing someone can have serious repercussions on employment, economic stability,
44 **personal safety** or religious or family situations.³

45 **Whereas**, The immediate impacts of this are far-reaching; Queer students would no longer view
46 HAVEN as a safe community to be a part of. If HAVEN is not able to unequivocally stand its
47 ground to protect its community, and allow its members to freely and safely express their queer
48 identity, the Cornell LGBTQ+ Community at large would be left without the support,
49 connection, and advocacy that HAVEN traditionally provides.

50 **Whereas**, It is up to the students to decide when, how, and with whom they decide to share their
51 identities; HAVEN cannot take away their autonomy and freedom of choice by disclosing that
52 information on their behalf. Doing so would contradict the very mission of what HAVEN stands
53 for.

54 **Be it therefore resolved**, That the Student Assembly stand in allyship, and vote to allow an
55 exemption for HAVEN from this requirement of naming all current members in the organization
56 due to its conflict with the organization's mission.

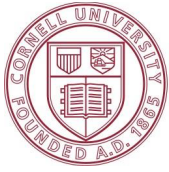
57 **Be it further resolved**, That in lieu of detailing member names, HAVEN: The LGBTQ+ Student
58 Union provides data on the quantity of current members in the organization, as well as the
59 number of student attendees at HAVEN-hosted events to demonstrate its impact, utility, and
60 student engagement at Cornell.

61 **Be it further resolved**, That the Director of HAVEN verify the aforementioned information
62 regarding the quantity of student engagement for Byline application purposes

¹Line 47 Section E of *Resolution 9 Amending the Student Assembly Charter*

²Outing, definition: Exposing someone's lesbian, gay, bisexual transgender or gender non-binary identity to others without their permission. <https://www.hrc.org/resources/glossary-of-terms>

³Human Rights Campaign, Glossary of Terms. <https://www.hrc.org/resources/glossary-of-terms>



Cornell University Student Assembly

63 **Be it finally resolved,** That HAVEN understands and agrees with the SAF mission to ensure
64 equal treatment for any byline applicant regardless of mission. However, HAVEN is a unique
65 circumstance in which the basis for students membership is rooted in an identity that is not, and
66 could not be known, without the student sharing as such, should exempt HAVEN from having to
67 share that information on their behalf.

68 **Respectfully Submitted,**

69

70 Karys Everett '25

71 *LGBTQIA+ Liaison at Large, Student Assembly*

72

73 Claire Ting '25

74 *Executive Vice President, Student Assembly*

75

76 Aissatou Barry '24

77 *Vice President of DEI, Student Assembly*

78

79 Nic Oke '26

80 *Co-President, Haven: LGBTQ+ Student Union*

81

82 Piper Kohlenberger '25

83 *Co-President, Haven: LGBTQ+ Student Union*

84

¹Line 47 Section E of *Resolution 9 Amending the Student Assembly Charter*

²Outing, definition: Exposing someone's lesbian, gay, bisexual transgender or gender non-binary identity to others without their permission. <https://www.hrc.org/resources/glossary-of-terms>

³Human Rights Campaign, Glossary of Terms. <https://www.hrc.org/resources/glossary-of-terms>