

Resolution 20: Amendments to Article IV of the Charter

Abstract: This resolutions amends Article IV of the Charter to revise and modernize language on aspects of the membership of the Assembly.

Sponsored by: Clyde Lederman '26, Nicholas Maggard '26, Agnes Coleman '26

Reviewed by: Internal Operations, 09/08/2023

Type of Action: Internal Policy

Originally Presented: 09/08/2023

Current Status: Introduced

Whereas, Article IV of the Charter of the Student Assembly defines the compositon, qualifications of voting members, method of election, vacancy-filling procedure, and procedure for recalling voting members of the Assembly;

Whereas, the ambiguity following a vacancy in the Office of the President of the Student Assembly highlighted the need for revisions to imprecise language and poorly defined procedures in Article IV of the Charter;

Whereas, the Assembly seeks to update its governing documents to reflect current practices and ensure clarity of the documents' provisions;

Be it therefore resolved, that Article IV of the Charter of the Student Assembly be struck in its entirety, and the text contained in Appendix A to this resolution be inserted as Article IV of the Charter of the Student Assembly.

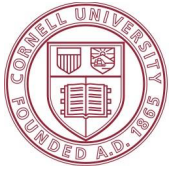
Respectfully Submitted,

Clyde Lederman '26

Interim Undesignated Representative, Student Assembly

Nicholas Maggard '26

Parliamentarian, Student Assembly



Cornell University
Student Assembly

29 Agnes Coleman '26

30 *Deputy Parliamentarian, Student Assembly*

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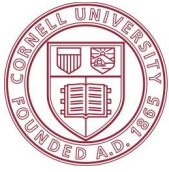
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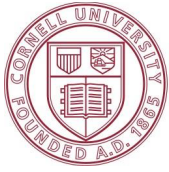


APPENDIX A TO RESOLUTION 21

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Composition

- A. The Assembly shall consist of 36 voting members.
- B. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected at-large by and from the University undergraduate student population as President of the Student Assembly.
- C. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected at-large by and from the University undergraduate student population as Executive Vice President of the Student Assembly.
- D. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected as a Representative At-Large by virtue of attaining the second greatest number of votes in the most recent election for President of the Student Assembly; this office shall be distinct from that of a directly elected Representative At-Large.
- E. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected as a Representative At-Large by virtue of attaining the second greatest number of votes in the most recent election for Executive Vice President of the Student Assembly; this office shall be distinct from that of a directly elected Representative At-Large.
- F. Seven voting members of the Assembly shall each be directly elected as a Representative At-Large by and from the University undergraduate student population as a whole.
- G. Two voting members of the Assembly shall each be elected as a Minority Students Representative by and from the University undergraduate student population as a whole to represent minority students.
- H. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected as the Women's Issues Representative by and from the University undergraduate student population as a whole to represent women's issues.
- I. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected as the First-Generation College Students Representative by and from the University undergraduate student population as a whole to represent first-generation college students.
- J. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected as the Students with Disabilities Representative by and from the University undergraduate student population as a whole to represent students with disabilities.

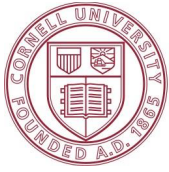


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- 96 K. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected as the International Students Representative
97 by and from the University undergraduate student population as a whole to represent international
98 students.
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- 100 L. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected as the LGBTQIA+ Representative by and from
101 the University undergraduate student population as a whole to represent Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,
102 Transgender, Intersex, Asexual students.
103
- 104 M. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected as Veterans Representative, who shall have
105 previously served in the Armed Forces of the United States, by and from undergraduate student
106 population to represent students who have served previously served in the Armed Forces of the
107 United States.
108
- 109 N. Four voting members of the Assembly shall each be elected at-large by and from the undergraduate
110 freshman student population to represent the same.
111
- 112 O. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected at-large by and from the undergraduate
113 transfer student population to represent the same.
114
- 115 P. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected by and from the undergraduate student
116 populations of each the following colleges and schools: the Brooks School of Public Policy; the
117 Dyson School of Business, the College of Architecture, Art and Planning; the School of Hotel
118 Administration; the College of Human Ecology, and the School of Industrial and Labor Relations.
119
- 120 Q. Two voting members of the Assembly shall be elected by and from the undergraduate student
121 populations of each the following colleges and schools: the College of Agriculture and Life
122 Sciences, and the College of Engineering.
123
- 124 R. Three voting members of the Assembly shall be elected by and from the undergraduate student
125 population of the College of Arts and Sciences.
126

127 **Section 2: Qualifications of Voting Members** 128

- 129 A. Each voting member of the Assembly shall be registered, full-time undergraduate student at Cornell
130 for the duration of their term; no voting member of the Assembly shall represent a particular college
131 or school without being a registered, full-time student in the same; nor shall a voting member hold
132 office without meeting the qualifications set forth for election to that office.
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- 134 B. No member of the Assembly shall hold the office of more than one voting member, nor be absent
135 from the Ithaca Campus of Cornell University for more than three weeks during the academic year.



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137 C. Upon failing to satisfy the provisions of this section, no voting member may be deemed disqualified
138 absent an affirmative two-thirds vote of the seated members of the Assembly.
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141 Section 3: Non-Voting Membership

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- 143 A. Each undergraduate student shall be a non-voting member of the Assembly; such members may
144 participate in debate but may not to vote.
145
146 B. The Assembly may designate any faculty member, employee, or graduate or professional student
147 as a non-voting member.

148 Section 4: Method of Election

- 149 A. Each voting member of the Assembly and undergraduate representative to the University Assembly
150 shall be elected by a single transferable voting system using the Hare Method, except as otherwise
151 provided for in this Charter.

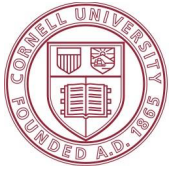
152 Section 5: Term of the Assembly

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- 154 A. The term of each Assembly shall commence on May 1st and expire on April 30th annually; the term
155 of each voting and non-voting member shall be coterminous with the term of the Assembly.
156
157 B. There shall be no limit as to the number of terms a member of the Assembly may serve.
158
159 C. Each member shall take the oath of office and shall be bound to that oath for the duration of their
160 term prior to being seated.

161 Section 6: Advisor and Advisory Board

- 162 A. The University President may appoint one administrator or faculty member to serve as an advisor
163 to the Assembly.
164
165 B. There shall be board to advise the Assembly known as the "Student Assembly Advisory Board,
166 which shall herein after be referred to as the "Advisory Board."
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168 C. It shall be the responsibility of the Advisory Board to provide the Assembly with counsel and
169 guidance.
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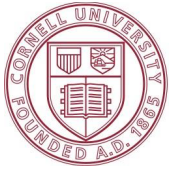
- 171 D. The Advisory Board shall consist of six alumni of Cornell University each of whom shall have
172 served either as a member of the Student Assembly or as a Student Elected Trustee; two members
173 of the Faculty Senate; the University President or their designee; and two members of the
174 Assembly.
175
- 176 E. Each member of the Advisory Board, except for the University President, shall be appointed and
177 may be removed by the Assembly.

178 **Section 7: Attendance Requirement**

- 179
- 180 A. Each voting member of the Assembly shall be required to attend all regularly scheduled and special
181 meetings of the Assembly.
182
- 183 B. The Assembly may adopt rules governing the attendance of voting members and non-voting
184 members and sanctions for violation of such rules including removal from the Assembly; however,
185 the Assembly shall adopt no rule that permits or requires the removal of a voting member for their
186 absence from no fewer than four regularly scheduled meetings.
187
- 188 C. The Assembly may not adopt attendance rules that interfere with the observance of a religious or
189 cultural holiday.

190 **Section 8: Vacancies**

- 191
- 192 A. A vacancy shall exist in the office of a voting member of the Assembly or undergraduate
193 representative to the University Assembly before the expiration of the term of office upon the death,
194 resignation, removal, recall, disqualification, declination of or failure to elect a duly qualified
195 officeholder.
196
- 197 B. A vacancy that exists in the office of any voting member of the Assembly between May 1st and the
198 conclusion of the Spring Semester, shall be filled by the candidate attaining the second greatest
199 number of votes in the most recent election for the same office.
200
- 201 C. A vacancy that exists in the office of any voting member of the Assembly following the conclusion
202 of the Spring Semester shall be filled by the Assembly. At the next regularly scheduled meeting
203 following the creation of the vacancy, the vacancy shall be filled by a roll-call vote; the vacancy
204 shall not be filled without a two-thirds affirmative vote of the seated membership of the Assembly.
205
- 206 D. In the period between the creation of a vacancy in the office of President or Executive Vice
207 President and the election of a new officeholder, pursuant to Subsections B and C of Section 8 of
208 this Charter, the office shall remain vacant. The Assembly, by majority vote, may choose to



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209 exercise the powers of the vacant office of President or Executive Vice President, as needed to
210 continue the proper functioning of the Assembly.

211
212 E. “In the period between the creation of a vacancy in the office of President and the election of a new
213 officeholder, pursuant to Subsection B and C of this Charter, the order of precedence of the
214 Officers, as established by the Bylaws, shall be used to determine who shall preside at meetings of
215 the Assembly, as Acting Chair. The Acting Chair shall exercise no authorities otherwise delegated
216 to the President except those as necessary for calling and presiding over the Assembly.”

217
218 F. Any undergraduate student shall be eligible to fill a vacancy, provided they meet the qualifications
219 to hold office set forth in this article; notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, a vacancy in
220 the office of a Representative At-Large elected by virtue of attaining the second greatest number
221 of in either the most recent election for President or Executive Vice President of the Assembly,
222 may, for the remainder of the term of the Assembly in which the vacancy was created, be filled by
223 as though the office were that of a directly elected Representative At-Large.

224 **Section 9: Recalling of Voting Members**

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226 A. Each voting member of the Assembly may be recalled by their constituency. To be recalled through
227 a member’s respective constituency, the following procedure shall be followed in the given order:

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229 1. A petition for the recall of the specific Assembly voting member will be registered with
230 the Office of the Assemblies before any signatures are obtained.

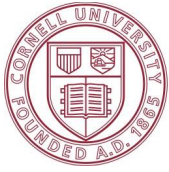
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232 2. Petitioning for recall shall last for a period of not more than fourteen days from the
233 registration of the petition. The required number of signatures shall be, for representatives
234 from a school or college, fifty percent plus one or one thousand from that constituency,
235 whichever is less, for at-large representatives, 15% of the student body. The petition will
236 be presented to the Office of the Assemblies.

237
238 3. An informational forum will be scheduled and held within not more than one week of the
239 presentation of the petition, where a discussion of the recall will occur. The Assembly
240 voting member must have a reasonable opportunity to attend the forum.

241
242 4. A special recall election will be scheduled for and held within not more than three days
243 after the informational hearing.

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245 5. Should the constituency vote to recall its representative, the seat shall be declared vacant.

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247 B. The Assembly may only recall a voting member by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the seated
248 members of the Assembly.



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250 **Section 9: Responsibilities of Voting Members**

251 A. SA members who represent specific college or school constituencies are required to make a
252 reasonable effort to arrange at least two meetings a semester with their respective academic dean
253 or associate dean(s) to discuss college/school specific issues and concerns. These representatives
254 will then report back to the Student Assembly at the next regularly scheduled SA meeting briefing
255 the Assembly on pertinent issues and occurrences that would take place as a result of these
256 meetings.

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258 B. SA members who represent specific college or school constituencies shall be charged with
259 gathering information about their particular college and representing their respective
260 constituencies, and voting according to their needs and desires.

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262 C. All voting representatives shall host at least one forum or outreach activity with individuals from
263 their respective constituencies and report all outcomes to the SA at the next regularly-scheduled
264 meeting following such an activity.

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266 D. All representatives may communicate regularly with their constituents through e-mail mailing lists
267 and listservs, which may be maintained by their respective college dean's office, the Department
268 of Campus Life, the Office of the Dean of Students, or the Office of the Assemblies.

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270 E. Any Student Assembly member, including the Vice President for Public Relations, must submit a
271 mass message (e-mail, advertisement, press release, etc.) to the Executive Board for approval. The
272 Executive Board may approve a message by a majority vote and the vote may be conducted by e-
273 mail. The e-mail records must be saved.

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