

Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(02/15/2018)
Type of Action:	Bylaws Amendment
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #29

Amending Community Sponsorship Access in the Student Assembly Bylaws

ABSTRACT: This resolution seeks to amend the bylaws in order to make it easier for members of the student body to submit resolutions to the student assembly.

Sponsored by: Omar Din '19, Dale Barbaria '19

Whereas, the Student Assembly was founded to effect more extensive involvement in campus governance and work on matters which involve the interests of or concern the welfare of the student community.

Whereas, the focus of the Student Assembly should be on the Cornell undergraduate body, and not on the elected members of the Student Assembly.

Whereas, the Student Assembly charter grants all members of the Cornell undergraduate student body ex-officio membership to the student assembly in order to ensure and encourage their participation, and rights thereof, in shared governance.

Whereas, the participation of its members, the equality of its community, and the transparency of its governing body are all hallmarks of and necessary conditions for any democratic society.

Whereas, Article VII, section 1, lines 443-446 of the Student Assembly Bylaws reads as follows:

The SA and its committees shall respect and protect the rights of individual members of the Cornell community. All members of the community have the right to add a resolution to the Student Assembly Agenda after procuring the written signature of at least a majority of seated SA members, and presenting the signatures to the SA President or their designee for verification, at least 48 hours before the meeting at which the resolution is to be introduced.

Whereas, resolutions function as the main avenue through which the student assembly functions.

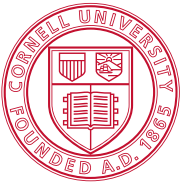
Whereas, the reason students would seek to bring resolutions straight to the assembly floor without assembly member co-sponsors is because they are unable to or otherwise unwilling to find any.

Whereas, if that is the case, it is an unrealistic and undemocratic expectation for them to have to procure a majority of Student Assembly members' approval.

Whereas, even if a resolution in such instance is unlikely to pass, it still deserves to be discussed if members of the Cornell undergraduate body deem it relevant, and as a democratic body the Student Assembly has a duty to do so.

Be it therefore resolved, that article VII, section 1, lines 443-446 of the Student Assembly bylaws be amended to instead say:

The SA and its committees shall respect and protect the rights of individual members of the Cornell community. All members of the community, **who do not otherwise have an appointed or elected position on**



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47 the student assembly, have the right to add a resolution to the Student Assembly Agenda as a sponsor
48 (without the requirement of having a member of the assembly being a sponsor) after gaining the approval of
49 a Student Assembly committee through a majority vote or ~~the approval~~ after procuring the written signature
50 of at least a majority of seated SA members and presenting it to the SA President or their designee for
51 verification at least 48 hours before the meeting at which the resolution is to be introduced. Resolutions that
52 appear on the agenda using either of these methods may not have more than 3 sponsors who are not Student
53 Assembly members or Student Assembly committee chairs.
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55 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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57 Omar Din '19

58 *Human Ecology Rep, Student Assembly*

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60 Dale Barbaria '19

61 *Vice President for Internal Operations, Student Assembly*

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63 *(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 4-0-0, 02/13/2018)*