



Cornell University Student Assembly

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

1 S.A. Resolution #29
2 Amending Community Sponsorship Access in the Student Assembly Bylaws
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4 ABSTRACT: This resolution seeks to amend the bylaws in order to make it easier for members of the
5 student body to submit resolutions to the student assembly.
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7 **Sponsored by: Omar Din '19, Dale Barbaria '19**
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9 **Whereas**, the Student Assembly was founded to effect more extensive involvement in campus governance
10 and work on matters which involve the interests of or concern the welfare of the student community.
11

12 **Whereas**, the focus of the Student Assembly should be on the Cornell undergraduate body, and not on the
13 elected members of the Student Assembly.
14

15 **Whereas**, the Student Assembly charter grants all members of the Cornell undergraduate student body ex-
16 officio membership to the student assembly in order to ensure and encourage their participation, and rights
17 thereof, in shared governance.
18

19 **Whereas**, the participation of its members, the equality of its community, and the transparency of its
20 governing body are all hallmarks of and necessary conditions for any democratic society.
21

22 **Whereas**, Article VII, section 1, lines 443-446 of the Student Assembly Bylaws reads as follows:
23

24 The SA and its committees shall respect and protect the rights of individual members of the Cornell
25 community. All members of the community have the right to add a resolution to the Student
26 Assembly Agenda after procuring the written signature of at least a majority of seated SA members,
27 and presenting the signatures to the SA President or their designee for verification, at least 48 hours
28 before the meeting at which the resolution is to be introduced.
29

30 **Whereas**, resolutions function as the main avenue through which the student assembly functions.
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32 **Whereas**, the reason students would seek to bring resolutions straight to the assembly floor without assembly
33 member co-sponsors is because they are unable to or otherwise unwilling to find any.
34

35 **Whereas**, if that is the case, it is an unrealistic and undemocratic expectation for them to have to procure a
36 majority of Student Assembly members' approval.
37

38 **Whereas**, even if a resolution in such instance is unlikely to pass, it still deserves to be discussed if members
39 of the Cornell undergraduate body deem it relevant, and as a democratic body the Student Assembly has a
40 duty to do so.
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42 **Be it therefore resolved**, that article VII, section 1, lines 443-446 of the Student Assembly bylaws be
43 amended to instead say:
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45 The SA and its committees shall respect and protect the rights of individual members of the Cornell
46 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 after
48 gaining the approval of a Student Assembly committee through a majority vote or ~~the approval~~ after
49 procuring the written signature of at least a majority of seated SA members and presenting it to the SA
50 President or their designee for verification at least 48 hours before the meeting at which the resolution is to
51 be introduced. Resolutions that appear on the agenda using either of these methods may not have more than
52 3 sponsors who are not Student Assembly members or Student Assembly committee chairs.

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54 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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56 Omar Din '19
57 *Human Ecology Rep, Student Assembly*

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59 Dale Barbaria '19
60 *Vice President for Internal Operations, Student Assembly*

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