

Resolution 36: Ensuring Equity and Fairness in 2023-2024 Voting Seat Appointments

Abstract: This resolution creates an ad-hoc committee and additional guidelines pursuant to the governing documents to promote equity and structure in the appointment process for the new Student Workers Representative, Veterans Representative, and four new Representative At-Large seats.

Sponsored by: Rahul Verma '24, Alhassan Bangura '25, Aissatou Barry '24, Claire Ting '25

Reviewed by: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, 11/01/2023, 7-0-5

Type of Action: Internal Policy

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Current Status: New Business

Whereas, Student Assembly Resolution 20 of the 2023-24 term creates two new seats for the representation of student workers and veterans respectively and four new “At-Large” representative seats open to all undergraduates;

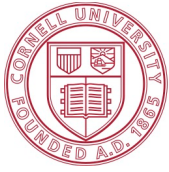
Whereas, Section 8 of the Student Assembly Charter allows for vacancies, following the declaration of a special election, to be “filled by the Assembly... by a roll-call... two-thirds affirmative vote of the seated membership of the Assembly”;

Whereas, beyond these parameters, no defined metrics for bringing forth a candidate to fill a vacancy is established in either the Charter, Bylaws, Standing Rules, or other governing documents or rules of the Student Assembly;

Whereas, a combination of factors, including the volume and nature of these seats, the current underrepresentation of specific colleges and communities on the Student Assembly, and expressed interest from the student body, are confounding to the current process and leaves room for confusion, inequity, and bias in selecting the inaugural holders of these new seats;

Whereas, the creation of an unbiased task force tasked with publicizing the existence of new seats, soliciting applications, and making recommendations to the Student Assembly President would assist in mitigating these confounding factors and align with the existing rules on appointment established in the governing documents.

Be it therefore resolved, that an ad hoc committee known as the “Advisory Committee on Presidential Appointments” be established pursuant to the approval of Resolution 20 by Cornell



Cornell University Student Assembly

31 University President Pollack, tasked with (a) publicizing the creation and availability of new
32 seats to the undergraduate population, (b) soliciting and sorting applications from eligible
33 candidates, (c) presenting potential appointees to the Student Assembly for consideration, (d) set
34 decorum for appointment procedures on the floor of the Assembly.

35 **Be it further resolved**, that the Advisory Committee on Presidential Appointments shall be
36 composed of twelve voting members appointed by the President of the Student Assembly, where
37 seven members shall be community members and five shall be from the voting membership of
38 the Student Assembly

39 **Be it finally resolved**, that the Director of Elections shall serve as chairperson of this ad-hoc
40 committee, and the President of the Student Assembly and Chair of the Office of Ethics shall be
41 ex-officio members.

42 **Respectfully Submitted,**

43 Rahul Verma '24

44 *Director of Elections, Student Assembly*

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46 Alhassan Bangura '25

47 *Chair of the Office of Ethics, Student Assembly*

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49 Aissatou Barry '24

50 *Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Student Assembly*

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52 Claire Ting '25

53 *Executive Vice President, Student Assembly*