

Cornell University Student Assembly

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Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #40

Establishing Equitable Governance of Cooperative Houses

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4 ABSTRACT: This resolution seeks to create a system for registering and hosting events in cooperative
5 living houses that provides the same protections and university support as events in Greek houses.

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7 **Sponsored by: TJ Ball '19**

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9 **Whereas**, in recent years, the Cornell administration has not allowed social events to be hosted at
10 cooperative housing, citing fire code,

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12 **Whereas**, within, for example, the cooperative house Watermargin, public rooms are clearly marked with
13 Cornell University Environmental Health and Safety Department signs that authorize an occupancy of up
14 to 49 people *per room*. These appear to contradict earlier claims by the administration that the *entire house*
15 has a 49 person capacity,

16
17 **Whereas**, previously, Watermargin and other cooperative houses, had been able to host large educational,
18 cultural, and other events. Fraternities still have this means through an mechanism offered by the
19 administration allowing them to register events with high numbers of occupants, at which alcohol may be
20 served to people over 21 years old,

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22 **Whereas**, cooperative events are almost always open to the general Cornell community and allow valuable
23 opportunities for cross community discussions and interactions,

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25 **Whereas**, cooperative living houses face greater restrictions and risk of prosecution when it comes to
26 hosting parties,

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28 **Whereas**, undergraduate students are in search of safer spaces to socialize outside of fraternity houses --
29 which already monopolize social interactions even within Greek Life, evident in sororities being unable to
30 host events of their own,

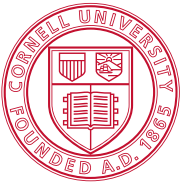
31
32 **Whereas**, fraternity parties in particular have seen numerous recent incidents of assault and harassment,

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34 **Whereas**, the cooperative living community at Cornell, and the parties and events that they host, are
35 frequently described as among the most inclusive spaces on Cornell's campus,

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37 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the current policies which restrict the ability of cooperative living houses to
38 host events in the same manner as Greek houses be revisited,

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40 **Be it further resolved**, that a system be set up to allow cooperative living houses to register both
41 educational, academic, and social events, including those where alcohol may be present for individuals 21
42 and older. Establishing an official system like the system which is already in place for Greek houses would
43 further enable Cornell University to ensure students are being responsible when hosting events,

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46 **Respectfully Submitted,**



Cornell University Student Assembly

- 47
- 48 TJ Ball '19
- 49 *Undesignated Representative, Student Assembly*
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- 51 Lorenzo Benitez '19
- 52 *Former Social Chair of Watermargin*
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- 54 Gabrielle Hammel '18
- 55 *President of Watermargin*
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- 57 Lukas Keel '20
- 58 *Social Chair of Watermargin*
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- 60 *(Reviewed by: Health & Wellness Committee, 8--0, 03/14/2018)*