



# Cornell University

## Student Assembly

### Resolution 41: Approving Special Projects Funding Request for Nigerian Student Association

**Abstract:** This resolution approves \$2,000.00 of Special Projects Funding to Nigerian Students Association to partially fund their annual Africa Ball event.

**Sponsored by:** George Rocco DeLorenzo '24

**Reviewed by:** Executive Committee, 04/24/23, 6-0-0

**Type of Action:** Recommendation

**Originally Presented:** 4/27/2023

**Current Status:** New Business

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**Whereas,** the Student Assembly Standing Rules, Section 8: Spending Guidelines, Part B: Special Projects Funding outlines the purpose of Special Projects Funding and the process of approving funding requests.

**Whereas,** lines 298-300 of the Student Assembly Standing Rules explains the purpose of Special Projects Funding as follows:

Rule 5: The Student Assembly may choose to fund any project, program or service through SA Special Projects that it deems to improve the quality of undergraduate student life or to further the goals of the SA. Special Projects funding is a type of category spending.

**Whereas,** lines 315-318 of the Student Assembly Standing Rules describes the approval process of Special Projects Funding as follows:

Rule 9: Requests \$1500 and over shall be decided upon by a majority vote of the Executive Committee and confirmed by a majority vote of the Student Assembly, at large. The SA, at large, is only required to confirm requests of \$1500 or greater. The request should be presented to the Student Assembly in the form of a resolution.

**Whereas,** Africa Ball is NSA's most anticipated event of the year and is going to be a pageant showcasing the diverse cultures in Africa. Contestants will share with the judges and the audience their talents, ambitions, passions, skills and a taste of their African culture. African countries including Mali, Kenya and Ethiopia are being represented in this showcase.

**Whereas,** NSA intends to cater to everyone in the Cornell community, beyond Africa and the African Diaspora, who are interested in learning more about African culture. NSA expects at least 300 people to be in attendance. Additionally, this project seeks to provide a forum that celebrates the vast African cultures as well as the diversity embodied in Africa, all while sharing different aspects of the culture not only with Nigerian students, but with the Cornell community at large.

**Whereas,** the Pageant also creates a platform for all Cornell students that identify with the African Diaspora to acknowledge the intersectionality between the different aspects of their identity, whether that be cultural, ethnic, gender, sexuality, nationality, etc. Lastly, NSA is collaborating with Crossroads Nigeria to purchase and sell merchandise in celebration of Africa Week, through which Crossroads contributes a significant percentage of proceeds to helping the less privileged in Nigeria. See link for more information on Crossroads:  
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/crossroads1/>.

**Whereas,** NSA has already begun advertising through their social media platforms (GroupMe, Instagram, LinkedIn) and will also post flyers around campus.

**Whereas,** NSA is expecting 300 students to be in attendance, all of whom will leave knowing more about African culture, and even potentially leaving with merchandise that will be a constant pleasant reminder to them of AFRICA WEEK 2023 and aid in helping fulfill Crossroads' mission of serving underprivileged communities in Nigeria.

**Whereas,** NSA is requesting \$2000 towards this project. \$500 of that amount will pay for the photographer/videographer to capture this project's best moments, \$160 for the DJ, and the remainder of the funding to cover a portion of our Crossroads collaboration.

**Whereas,** this project enables Cornell students to immerse themselves in a variety of cultures that may be unfamiliar to them, fostering a healthy and welcoming learning experience. As for NSA's greater mission, to give back to the Nigerian community in anyway they can, the Crossroads collaboration ensures both greater opportunities for accessibility and inclusion in Nigeria.

**Whereas,**

**Be it further resolved,** that the Student Assembly approves the \$2,000.00 Special Projects Funding disbursement to the Nigerian Students Association.

**Be it finally resolved,** that the Student Assembly necessitates that this funding be used to cover the cost of the NSA Africa Ball event.

Respectfully Submitted,

George Rocco DeLorenzo '24

*Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly*

**What is the nature of our project:**

This year for Nigerian Students Association (NSA) annual Africa Week, we've decided to collaborate with Crossroads Nigeria (see their LinkedIn page below), to sell merchandise that celebrates and sheds light on the rich heritage within Nigeria, and Africa as a whole. Proceeds from these sales will be donated to the less privileged communities in Nigeria through the creation of healthcare, education and economic opportunities (as is aligned with Crossroads mission) by the Crossroads team. In order to sell the merchandise, we have to first purchase it, after which we intend to sell out the merchandise.

We have already created designs for said merchandise, ranging from tote bags to t-shirts to keychains, after numerous meetings with the Crossroads team. With regard to advertising, we plan to use social media as our main outlet for promoting the merchandise, in addition to posting flyers around campus (which we already have templates for).

As mentioned briefly in the project description, this project seeks to aid in providing capital to create vast opportunities for those living in Nigeria who are disproportionately affected by the wealth gap, political corruption, amongst many other crises the country is facing. As NSA, our mission goes beyond the Cornell community in engaging with the greater Nigerian community through community-outreach efforts such as this, to ensure equitable access to opportunity for all living in Nigeria.

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**Who will participate?**

The Nigerian Students Association E-Board will coordinate sales of the merchandise through either cash or Venmo options. Everyone, from students to faculty, are allowed to participate in this effort by purchasing the merchandise from our Crossroads collaboration!

**When, where will it occur:**

Sales of the merchandise will occur all throughout Africa Week at our various Africa Week events:

04/16 - NSA X IC ASA: Tantalizing Talks

04/19 - EESA: Sambusa Food Sale

04/20 - EAST: Swahili Night

04/21 - G@C: Africa Night Market

04/22 - SOSA: Afrobeats and Brunch

04/23 - NSA: Africa Ball

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