

1 Resolution #8: Student Assembly Office of Ethics 2 Bylaw Amendment

3 **Abstract:** This resolution amends and ratifies the Student Assembly Bylaws. These amendments to
4 the Bylaws create an ex-officio position for the Chairperson of the Student Assembly Office of
5 Ethics, permits member of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics to remain during executive
6 session, and establish the format of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics.

7 **Sponsored by:** Michelle Song '25

8 **Reviewed by:** Student Assembly Office of Ethics, 09/01/2022

9 **Type of Action:** Internal Policy

10 **Originally Presented:** 5/5/2022

11 **Current Status:** New Business

12 **Whereas,** the Student Assembly Office of Ethics was established through Student Assembly
13 Resolution 22 as an external executive office to hold the Student Assembly accountable, maintain a
14 high moral standard, and provide necessary ethical guidance and procedure to the Student Assembly;

15 **Whereas,** the membership of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics has actively researched,
16 analyzed, coordinated, argued, and discussed ethical philosophies and applications;

17 **Whereas,** the members of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics have unanimously agreed that the
18 undergraduate Cornell community, as well as the Student Assembly, is in need of a structured system
19 imbued with the authority to ensure accountability, ethical conduct, justice, and growth;

20 **Whereas,** the current language utilized in “Section 2: Ex-officio Executive Committee Positions” of
21 “Article I: Ex-Officio Members,” “Section 5: Executive Session” of “Article IV: Meetings,” and
22 “Section 5: External Committees” of “Article VI: Committees” lines 10-19, 233-238, 562-617
23 prevent the Student Assembly Office of Ethics from becoming this type of system;

24 **Be it therefore resolved,** that “Section 2: Ex-officio Executive Committee Positions” of “Article I:
25 Ex-Officio Members,” “Section 5: Executive Session” of “Article IV: Meetings,” and “Section 5:
26 External Committees” of “Article VI: Committees” lines 10-19, 233-238, 562-617 of the Student
27 Assembly Bylaws be amended as follows:



28 **ARTICLE I: EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

29 **Section 2: Ex-Officio Executive Committee Positions**

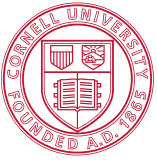
- 30 A. The SA can grant an ex-officio position to any member of the Cornell community to serve
31 as the Executive Archivist.
- 32 B. The SA can grant an ex-officio position to any member of the Cornell community to serve
33 as the Parliamentarian.
- 34 C. The SA can grant an ex-officio position to any member of the Cornell Community to serve
35 as Director of Elections.
- 36 D. The SA can grant an ex-officio position to any member of the Cornell Community to serve
37 as the Student Advocate.
- 38 E. The SA can grant an ex-officio position to any member of the Cornell Community to serve
39 as the Director of Student Government Relations.
- 40 F. *The SA must grant an ex-officio position to any member elected by the Student Assembly*
41 *Office of Ethics to serve as the Chairperson.*

42 **ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS**

43 **Section 2: Executive Session**

44 With the concurrence of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members in attendance, the SA or any of its
45 committees may go into executive session during a regularly scheduled meeting only to discuss
46 confidential matters as defined by this Charter. No policy determinations will be made in executive
47 session. The Student Assembly may also hold executive sessions for internal elections and planning
48 purposes. Executive session shall be closed to non-voting, non-executive members of the assembly
49 *except the Chairperson of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics and all present members of the*
50 *Student Assembly Office of Ethics.* Community members may be invited by the assembly to
51 participate in an executive session. Secret ballot votes shall be reserved for executive sessions.

52 **ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES**



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53 **Section 5: EXTERNAL COMMITTEES**

54 **C. Student Assembly Office of Ethics**

55 a. ~~Name, Mission, and Affiliation~~

56 i. ~~Name~~—The name of the office shall be the **Student Assembly** Office of Ethics.

57 b. ~~Mission:~~

58 i. ~~Mission~~—The mission of the **Student Assembly** Office of Ethics shall be to
59 pursue any necessary ethics concerns of SA members and directly elected
60 undergraduate representatives to the UA.

61 ii. **The Student Assembly Office of Ethics will investigate perceived ethical**
62 **violations and draft reports to the SA for guidance and potential repercussions.**

63 iii. **The Student Assembly Office of Ethics will be available for consulting and**
64 **support on SA ethical issues for both SA members and the student body.**

65 c. **Affiliation**

66 i. ~~Affiliation~~—The Office will **review evaluate** all **concerns** submitted by
67 ~~community members~~ **the student body** that **involve are against** any SA members,
68 SA committees, **SA elections**, or directly elected undergraduate representatives of
69 the UA.

70 ii. **The Student Assembly** Office of Ethics shall be affiliated as an external executive
71 office of the Cornell Student Assembly.

72 iii. **The Student Assembly Office of Ethics shall work jointly with the Elections**
73 **Committee to review any potential election violations or concerns.**

74 d. **Roles and Responsibilities**

75 i. **A quorum shall consist of five members of the Student Assembly Office of**
76 **Ethics.**

77 ii. ~~Chairperson Director~~ of the **Student Assembly** Office of Ethics:

78 1. The ~~Chairperson Director~~ will chair all **Student Assembly** Office of
79 Ethics meetings.

80 2. The ~~Chairperson Director~~ shall only vote in the event of a tie.

81 3. **The Chairperson shall have a term limit of one academic year.**

82 4. **The Chairperson shall correspond directly with the Student Assembly**
83 **on matters of ethics and ethical decorum in its meetings and all**
84 **proceedings.**

85 a) **In the event of absence, the Chairperson may select any member**
86 **of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics to serve as an ex-**
87 **officio member of the Executive Committee of the SA.**

88 iii. **Review all alleged ethical violations submitted to the Office via:**

89 1. **Qualtrics,**



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- 90 2. Email,
- 91 3. Personal contact with a committee member of the Student Assembly
- 92 Office of Ethics.
- 93 iv. Open investigations on perceived ethical violations
- 94 1. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics can open its own investigation
- 95 on an ethical matter by a simple majority vote.
- 96 v. Voting Members of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics:
- 97 1. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics shall consist of seven voting
- 98 members.
- 99 2. All voting members shall serve for the duration of one academic year
- 100 unless their term is renewed by the incoming Director of the Student
- 101 Assembly Office of Ethics of their undergraduate academic career.
- 102 3. Student Assembly Office of Ethics Voting members can be removed
- 103 before their term expires by a unanimous vote of the entire voting
- 104 membership of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics.
- 105 a) The subject of the removal vote must abstain from voting.
- 106 4. All voting members shall be non-Student Assembly and non-
- 107 University Assembly members of the Cornell undergraduate student
- 108 population.
- 109 5. Voting members may not seek SA or UA office through their for the
- 110 academic year following their term of service in the Student Assembly
- 111 Office of Ethics.
- 112 vi. Update the Student Assembly of its proceedings and its mission on a semesterly
- 113 basis at a hearing conducted during one of the first three general assembly
- 114 meetings of the academic year. This will be formally referred to as the “Student
- 115 Assembly Office of Ethics’ semesterly report.”
- 116 vii. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics will be commissioned with interpreting
- 117 and applying the guidelines set forth in the SA Code of Ethics.
- 118 1. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics, alone, will be tasked with the
- 119 ability to revise the Code of Ethics.
- 120 2. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics will report revisions of the
- 121 Code of Ethics to the Student Assembly at the subsequent meeting.
- 122 e. Recruitment of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics Members
- 123 i. The first seven voting members shall be appointed individually by any SA
- 124 member and confirmed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire voting
- 125 membership of the Student Assembly.



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1. Except for nominations following a failed community vote, all nominations for the Student Assembly Office of Ethics must be unanimously voted on by the Student Assembly Office of Ethics prior to the vote by SA.
 2. A week-long period in between nominations and appointments shall be dedicated to giving SA voting members the opportunity to speak one-on-one with each nominee.
- ii. ~~The first slate of voting members must select the Director of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics internally by a simple majority of the Office before the end of the semester.~~
 - iii. ~~At the beginning~~ Before the conclusion of each academic year, the outgoing voting membership of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics must select the ~~Chairperson~~ Director of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics internally by a simple majority vote of the entire voting membership of the Office.
 - iv. ~~The Director of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics shall decide upon the voting membership of the incoming Office before the conclusion of each academic year.~~
- f. Vote of No Confidence
- i. The Student Assembly will assess the work of the ~~Office of the Student Assembly~~ Office of Ethics during the previous academic year and must conduct a vote of no confidence on an annual basis during or following by one any of the first three general assembly meetings of each SA term.
 1. Following the Student Assembly Office of Ethics' semesterly report, as defined in Article VI, Section 5, Subsection C, Clause D, Paragraph VI, the SA may commence a Vote of No Confidence by 2/3 majority vote on the grounds that the Office has failed to uphold and execute its mission, as defined in Article VI, Section 5, Subsection C, Clause B.
 - a) The Chairperson of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics and all present members of the Office may directly address the concerns brought against the Office prior to the vote of the SA to commence a Vote of No Confidence.
 2. If the motion to commence a Vote of No Confidence fails, the Student Assembly Office of Ethics will continue to operate.
 3. In the event of a sustained Vote of No Confidence, a community vote of ~~the entire undergraduate population~~ shall be taken in order to remove all Student Assembly Office of Ethics members. 10% of the undergraduate



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162 population must vote in favor of removal of the Student Assembly Office
163 of Ethics membership for the vote to be sustained.

164 ii. In the event of a failed community vote, all Student Assembly Office of Ethics
165 members would continue to serve.

166 ~~iii. In addition to the annual vote of confidence, an additional vote of confidence~~
167 ~~can be called at any point during the academic year.~~

168 g. Student Assembly Office of Ethics Bylaws

169 i. All bylaw proposals to Article VI, Section 5, Subsection C, must be approved by
170 the Student Assembly Office of Ethics by a two-thirds (2/3) majority before
171 coming to the SA.

172 ii. Changes to the Student Assembly Office of Ethics bylaws may only occur during
173 the first three SA meetings of each semester.

174 h. ~~The Student Assembly Code of Ethics~~

175 ~~i. Before the conclusion of the 2021-2022 academic year, the Student Assembly~~
176 ~~Office of Ethics will be charged with creating a Student Assembly Code of~~
177 ~~Ethics that must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire voting~~
178 ~~membership of the Student Assembly.~~

179 ~~ii. The SA Code of Ethics should include, but is not limited to, including:~~

- 180 1. ~~An expansion of the language outlined in the Student Assembly~~
181 ~~Standing Rules, Section 2: Ethical Standards and Attendance Policy,~~
182 ~~Section A;~~
- 183 2. ~~An overview of possible ethical conduct offenses;~~
- 184 3. ~~The process of determining a violation of ethics;~~
- 185 4. ~~The process of recommending the appropriate disciplinary action to a~~
186 ~~third party.~~

187 ~~iii. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics will be charged with interpreting and~~
188 ~~applying the guidelines set forth in the SA Code of Ethics.~~

189
190 **Respectfully Submitted,**

191 Michelle Song '25

192 *Representative at Large, Student Assembly*