S.A. Resolution #33
Changing The Name of the “LGBTQ+ Liaison At-Large” Position to “LGBTQIA+ Liaison At-Large”

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this resolution is to amend the Student Assembly bylaws to ensure that more marginalized communities are fairly and accurately represented.

Sponsored by: Uche Chukwukere '21, Gavin Martin ’20, Tomás Reuning ‘21

Whereas, The Cornell Student Assembly should be constantly striving to be a more diverse and inclusive governing body that constantly makes necessary changes to its governing documents that reflect the necessary efforts that are being made;

Whereas, The position of LGBTQ Liaison At-Large was created to represent the interests of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer communities as it pertains to Cornell’s campus;

Whereas, It is important to recognize the history and path-paving future of the LGBTQIA+ community and the impacts that they have had on our society and on Cornell’s campus. The term LGBTQ+ is an initialism that has been in mainstream existence since 1996; and has been used as a way to highlight and include the different groups and members of the LGBTQIA+ community and continue the path for increased representation amongst this group;

Whereas, Lesbian refers to homosexual womxn in relation to their sexual identity and behavior or used as a descriptor for womxn homosexuality or same-sex attraction;

Whereas, Gay refers to homosexual men in relation to their sexual identity and behavior or used as a descriptor for men homosexuality or same-sex attraction;

Whereas, Queer is an umbrella terms coined for gender and sexual minorities that are not heterosexual or cisgender and is used to describe a non-normative and sexual and gender identities and politics;

Whereas, In an effort to attempt to be more inclusive of other gender and sexual minorities we must recognize the increasing movement to use LGBTQIA+ as an umbrella term to refer to the LGBTQIA+ community and support the initialism bestowed upon this community;

Whereas, LGBTQIA+ is an umbrella term to represent Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, Genderqueer, Pansexual, Questioning, Two-Spirit, and etc. individuals;
Whereas, Intersex refers to someone whose combination of chromosomes, gonads, hormones, internal sex organs, gonads, and/or genitals differs from one of the two expected patterns.

Whereas, Asexual refers to a person who is not sexually attracted to anyone or does not have a sexual orientation;

Whereas, “A” does not stand for “Ally” as it has conventionally co-opted as for the acronym. It is important to recognize that allies do not have the same experiences as individuals who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, Genderqueer, Pansexual, Questioning, Two-Spirit, and etc;

Whereas, It is important that we increase the autonomy of all individuals who are a part of this community and show unwavering support and allyship by taking part in analyzing the inclusivity of the seats that exist on the Cornell Student Assembly;

Be it further resolved, The position of LGBTQ+ Representative At-Large should be changed to “LGBTQIA+ Representative At-Large”;

Be it finally resolved, Amending Article IV: Membership, Section 1: Composition, General Composition –

The SA will consist of 28 voting members who are registered undergraduate students 184 at Cornell University. Up to two additional votes shall be allocated to the entire community of undergraduates as a whole present at a Student Assembly meeting on motions that express the opinion of the assembly. Such community votes shall be allowed only as provided by the Assembly in its bylaws. Eleven voting members of the SA will be elected by and from the student populations of the colleges and schools, one from each: the College of Architecture, Art and Planning; the School of Hotel Administration; the College of Human Ecology; and the School of Industrial and Labor Relations. Two each shall be elected from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Engineering; and three shall be elected from the College of Arts and Sciences. In addition, twelve voting members will be elected at-large by and from the University undergraduate student population as a whole; two at-large seats are to be reserved for candidates seeking the offices of President and Executive Vice President of the Student Assembly and must be explicitly designated as such; two at-large seats are to be reserved for non-constituent, undesignated at-large group candidates who do not run for President or Executive Vice President; two at-large seats are to be reserved for candidates seeking to represent minority students; one at-large seat is to be reserved for candidates seeking to represent international students; one at-large seat is to be reserved for candidates seeking to represent women’s issues in relation to the broader Cornell community; one at-large seat is to be reserved for candidates seeking to represent First Generation College students; and one at-large seat is to be reserved for candidates seeking to represent the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Asexual, Genderqueer, Pansexual, Questioning, Two-Spirit, and etc community.

The two remaining non-constituent, undesignated at-large seats are to be contested by
candidates running for President and Executive Vice President and by non-constituent, undesignated at-large group candidates not running for President or Executive Vice President. Five seats shall be elected by and from new students entering in the fall. Should there be no candidate running for a given seat, the seat shall be considered vacant.

And, that henceforth, the previously named “LGBTQ+ Liaison At-Large” shall be renamed the “LGBTQIA+ Liaison At-Large”—as to be referred to in texts (such as public statements, posts, or liaisons with organizations) and all current and future iterations of the Cornell Student Assembly’s Governing documents—

Respectfully Submitted,

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Former LGBTQ+ Liaison At-Large, Student Assembly

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(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, x-x-x,)