



Cornell University Student Assembly

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Type of Action:	Internal Policy
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #42

Reducing the Number of Petition Signatures Needed for Certain At-Large Positions

ABSTRACT: This resolution seeks to amend the Student Assembly Election Rules and reduce the number of petition signatures needed to become a candidate for at-large identity-based positions.

Sponsored by: Noah Watson '22, Moriah Adeghe '21, Gavin Martin '20

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, students petitioning for the position(s) of:

1. Womxn's Issues Representative At-Large
2. Minority Liaison At-Large
3. LGBTQIA+ Liaison At-Large
4. First Generation Student Representative At-Large
5. International Students Liaison At-Large

Are by nature members of marginalized communities;

Whereas, it can be traumatizing for marginalized students running for such at-large positions to share their stories while petitioning;

Whereas, current election rules require 150 petition signatures to become a candidate for such positions, second only to the President and Executive Vice President positions;

Whereas, the current petitioning process for the aforementioned positions create an unnecessarily high barrier to entry for students seeking such roles;

Whereas, reducing the petitioning burden for the aforementioned positions will promote inclusivity and create a pathway for more students to become involved with shared governance at Cornell;

Be it therefore resolved, the number of petition signatures needed to become a candidate for the positions of: Womxn's Issues Representative At-Large, Minority Liaison At-Large, LGBTQIA+ Liaison At-Large, First Generation Student Representative At-Large, and International Students Liaison At-Large be reduced from 150 signatures to 75 signatures;

Be it finally resolved, Article I, Section B, Subsection I of the Student Assembly Election Rules be amended as follows, effective immediately:

1. Eligibility and Requirements

To be a candidate, a person must, prior to the petitioning deadline specified in the election calendar:



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1. Be eligible to vote in the election for the seat and plan to remain seated so for the full term for which they are seeking election.¹
 2. Submit a completed candidate registration form and any associated materials required in that form. You may not register for more than one position on the candidate registration form.
 3. Submit petitions endorsed by the required number of people who are eligible to vote in the election for that specific position, which is the lesser of 10% of those eligible to vote for that specific position or:
 - a. 300 for President and Executive Vice President
 - b. 75 for Womxn's Issues Representative At-Large, Minority Liaison At-Large, LGBTQIA+ Liaison At-Large, First Generation Student Representative At-Large, and International Students Liaison At-Large
 - c. 150 for all other at-large seats
 - d. 100 for Arts and Sciences seats
 - e. 25 for Transfer seat
 - f. 75 for all other seats

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63 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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65 Noah Watson '22

66 *Transfer Representative, Student Assembly*

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68 Moriah Adeghe '21

69 *Vice President of Finance, Student Assembly*

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71 Gavin Martin '20

72 *Vice President of Research & Accountability, Student Assembly*

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74 Uche Chukwukere '21

75 *Undesignated Representative At-Large, Student Assembly*

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77 Tomás Reuning '21

78 *LGBTQIA+ Representative At-Large, Student Assembly*

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80 *(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 4-0-0, 02/18/2020)*