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| Originally Presented on: | 3/12/20      |
| Type of Action:          | Legislation  |
| Status/Result:           | New Business |

1 S.A. Resolution #57  
2 Election Cancellation and Fall Election Restructuring

3  
4 ABSTRACT: A resolution in response to the University mandate concerning COVID-9 as it relates to  
5 Student Assembly elections: restructuring the elections process and cancellation.

6  
7 **Sponsored by: Elections Committee & Executive Committee**

8  
9 **Whereas**, on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020, President Martha E. Pollack announced the University mandate for  
10 students to stay home after Spring Break in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic (as classified by  
11 World Health Organization [WHO]); <sup>12</sup>

12  
13 **Whereas**, candidates have signed onto a letter, suspending campaigns in light of the administration’s  
14 mandate citing, “Any student who has chosen to run for any student assembly position should be well  
15 aware of the fact that we, as candidates, are *choosing* to serve the student body. Serving the student body,  
16 in this instance, means using our platforms to spread resources about how to help each other. Any  
17 candidate who chooses to continue campaigning is doing a disservice to the students that they are  
18 supposed to represent.”

19  
20 **Whereas**, in response to this, the Elections Committee voted in a 6- 0-3 decision to adopt the following  
21 rules and regulations for the Fall election;

22  
23 **Whereas**, in response to this letter, the Executive Committee, including the current: President, Executive  
24 Vice President, Vice President of Finance, Vice President of External Affairs, Vice President of Internal  
25 Affairs, Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion, and Vice President of Research and Accountability—  
26 voted in a unanimous decision to unequivocally support the Elections Committee in its decision;

27  
28 **Therefore be it resolved**, the Elections Committee in conjunction with the Student Assembly formally  
29 cancel the Spring 2020 elections, to be suspended and postponed until the Fall 2020 semester;

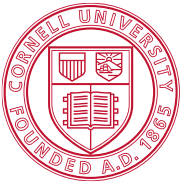
30  
31 **Be it further resolved**, the SA will keep its Executive Committee as the interim body charged with  
32 authority to engage with the university administration during these unprecedented times, and for the period  
33 of June 1, 2020 until the next Student Assembly elections take place and their respective successors are  
34 seated;

35  
36 **Be it further resolved**, the Student Assembly Bylaws be amended as follows:  
37 2.3 “Officers shall serve for a term of one year or until their successor is elected and is administered  
38 the oath of office. Following the next regular or special Student Assembly elections.”

39  
40 **Be it further resolved**, this Bylaw amendment is temporary, and meant to ensure continued representation  
41 of the undergraduate student body with the university administration during the period of time affected by  
42 the university’s response to the COVID-19.

43

<sup>1</sup> <https://statements.cornell.edu/2020/20200310-coronavirus-update.cfm>  
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.thedailybeast.com/world-health-organization-declares-coronavirus-a-global-pandemic>



# Cornell University Student Assembly

44 **Be it further resolved**, the following measures will be incorporated into the Interim Election Rules leading  
45 up to the elections in the Fall of 2020.

46  
47 ***The below portion of this resolution will act as the election rules, regulations, and instructions come***  
48 ***the Fall 2020 semester and written/innumeration powers:***

49  
50 **Article I:** Director of Elections and Elections Committee

51  
52 Section I: Collectively, the Student Assembly will nominate and appoint a Director of Elections by  
53 the end of the academic year 2019-20;

54  
55 Section II: The Director of Elections will select Election Committee Members;

56  
57 Sub-Section I: The selection of the Elections Committee and powers withheld in the  
58 Charter, Bylaws, Election Rules, and will be maintained as it is written;

59  
60 Section III: The Election Committee will create and publish a tentative elections schedule for the  
61 Fall 2020 semester before the end of the 2019-20 academic year;

62  
63 Section IV: The Elections Committee will provisionally parse the Elections Rules as it relates to  
64 dates and timing to ensure a timely, efficient, and stable election;

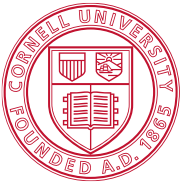
65  
66 **Article II:** Current Candidates

67  
68 Section I: In terms of those who are current candidates in competitive candidates who have  
69 collected signatures—have been validated by the Office of the Assemblies—attended Student  
70 Assembly meetings—and began campaigning races—

71  
72 **Including and limited to:**

- 73  
74 Candidates for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences seats  
75 Candidates for the Dyson School of Business seat  
76 Candidates for the College of Engineering seats  
77 Candidates for the School of Hotel Administration seat  
78 Candidates for the School of Industrial and Labor Relations seat  
79 Candidates for the Undesignated Representative At-Large seats  
80 Candidates for the First Generation Students Liaison At-Large seat  
81 Candidates for the International Students Liaison At-Large seat  
82 Candidates for the Womxn's Issues Liaison At-Large seat  
83 College of Arts and Sciences seats  
84 College of Architecture, Art & Planning seat  
85 Candidates for the College of Human Ecology seat  
86 Candidates for the LGBTQIA+ Liaison At-Large seat  
87 Candidates for the Minority Students Liaison At-Large seats  
88 Candidates for Undergraduate Representative to the University Assembly  
89 Candidates for President  
90 Candidates for Executive Vice President

91  
92 Will be able to recommence their campaigns, personal and/or organizations.  
93



# Cornell University Student Assembly

94 **Article III: Student Assembly Powers**

95  
96 Section I: This body will have *NO* legislative power, cannot pass resolutions, public statements,  
97 hold hearings, perform internal elections, convene/congregate in any fashion, or other actions that  
98 are deemed unfitting.

99  
100 Section II: If the body as a whole or individual members are found in violation of the above, Article  
101 II, Section I the Director of Elections will have the power to remove members by a majority vote  
102 of the Elections Committee.

103  
104 **Article IV: Concurrent Elections**

105  
106 Section I: For the vacant seats of (1) Minority Students Liaison At-Large seat; and (1)  
107 Candidates for Undergraduate Representative to the University Assembly—elections will run  
108 concurrent with the Fall elections, in which the petition period will open up along with the  
109 mandated Fall elections with Freshman Representatives and the Transfer Representative.

110  
111 **Article V: Referendum**

112  
113 Section I: No referenda items will be allowed onto the Fall 2020 semester ballot;

114  
115 **Article VI: Campaigning**

116  
117 Section I: Effective immediately, after the passage of this resolution, all campaigning must cease—  
118 with the exception of a message of gratitude to supporters, and a notification of suspending  
119 campagins;

120  
121 Section II: Any campaigning after the day of May 24<sup>th</sup> (until in accordance with the new Elections  
122 calander) will result in being disqualified by the Elections Committee;

123  
124 **Article VII: After the Fact**

125  
126 Section I: Immediately following the close of elections in the Fall 2020 semester, this document  
127 will no longer have citation power or purpose. Instead, any and all futher election and legislative  
128 matters will be deferred back onto the the Cornell Student Assembly Charter, Bylaws, Standing  
129 Rules, and Election Rules;

130  
131 **Article VIII: Amendments**

132  
133 Section I: These Emergency Election Rules and Regulations will be closed to amendments, unless  
134 by unanimous approval by the Elections Committee.

135  
136 **Be it finally resolved,** The Cornell Student Assembly will release a public statement regarding the  
137 cancelation of elections and the new restructuring of the Fall 2020 elections.

138  
139 **Respectfully Submitted,**

140 The Elections Committee

141 The Executive Committee