

Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	10/08/2020
Type of Action:	Internal Policy
Status/Result:	New Business

1 S.A. Resolution #5
2 Amending and Ratifying the 2020-2021 Student Assembly Standing Rules

3
4 ABSTRACT: This resolution amends and ratifies the 2020-2021 Student Assembly Standing Rules.

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6 **Sponsored by: Noah Watson '23**

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8 **Whereas**, Article IV Section III of the Student Assembly Bylaws state, “The first meeting of the
9 academic year shall be known as the Organizational Meeting and shall be for the purpose of
10 adopting the schedule for regular meeting and approving the standing rules;”

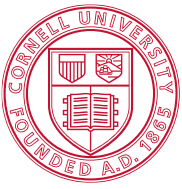
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12 **Whereas**, the Student Assembly President, Executive Vice President, and Parliamentarian are
13 charged with the responsibility of revising the Standing Rules at the beginning of each
14 semester;

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16 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Student Assembly approve the attached Standing Rules and its
17 amendments for the Fall 2020 Session of the 2020-2021 Academic Year;

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19 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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21 Noah Watson '23

22 *Executive Vice President, Student Assembly*



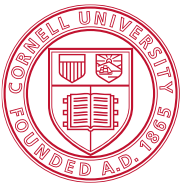
1 **Standing Rules**
2 **Cornell University Student Assembly**
3 *For 2020-2021*

4 **Section 1: Preamble**

- 5 A. The Student Assembly's foremost interest in 2019-2020 shall be the undergraduate students of Cornell
6 University. These Standing Rules shall serve as guidelines for specific rules and effective leadership from the
7 Student Assembly that may not specifically be covered in the charter or bylaws, but will aid in the efficiency
8 of a successful Assembly. These Standing Rules shall be adhered to by all Student Assembly members (elected
9 and ex-officio), committee members, community members, and staff.
- 10 B. These Standing Rules shall be utilized with the following prefaces:
- 11 i. Rule 1: In the event of a conflict, the Charter, Bylaws, and Special Rules of Order shall supersede the
12 Standing Rules.
- 13 ii. Rule 2: The Standing Rules shall be revised at the beginning of each semester by the President, the
14 Executive Vice-President, and the Parliamentarian and submitted by the Executive Vice President
15 and Parliamentarian to the Student Assembly for approval. The Standing Rules shall take effect upon
16 a majority vote of approval by the voting membership of the Student Assembly. The Standing Rules
17 can also be edited at any time by a majority vote of the membership of the SA.
- 18 iii. Rule 3: A motion to suspend the Standing Rules must be recognized by the Chair and approved by a
19 two-thirds vote of Student Assembly members present.

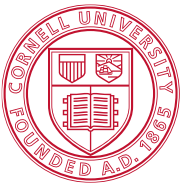
20 **Section 2: Ethical Standards and Attendance Policy**

- 21 A. Ethical Conduct is expected of all members at all times, as members are representative of their constituencies.
22 Any member found to be using the name of the SA outside of the bounds of the individual's described role
23 on the SA, abusing the SA brand to acquire additional benefits or privileges, or any such similar matter shall
24 be in violation of this ethics clause. The appropriate disciplinary action shall be determined by the Executive
25 Board, the Dean of Students, and the Office of Assemblies.
- 26 B. The Student Assembly is charged to "seek out and voice effectively the interests and concerns of the student
27 body." To do this, attendance and participation, as outlined below is imperative for efficiency within the
28 Assembly:
- 29 i. Rule 1: Attendance is required at all regularly scheduled meetings for all voting and ex-officio members
30 who serve in a liaison capacity. Absences will not be recorded for ex-officio organizational liaison
31 members, i.e. Tri-Council and Residential Student Congress, if the absence is a result of a conflicting
32 obligation related to their respective organization. Attendance requirements for all operational ex-officio
33 members shall be at the discretion of the executive committee. Absences for shared government liaisons
34 will not be under the discretion of the executive committee. Regularly scheduled meetings are held
35 Thursdays, from 4:45 until 6:30 p.m., while undergraduate colleges are in session. Informal meetings are



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- 36 considered official meetings when held in lieu of regular Thursday meetings or when deemed official by a
37 unanimous vote of the executive committee.
- 38 ii. Rule 2: Attendance at all organizational and specially-scheduled meetings is required, when the Executive
39 Committee provides SA members at least 48 hours' prior notice of the meeting. Such meetings shall be
40 considered "regularly scheduled meetings," for the purpose of accruing absences. Ex-officio members
41 will be excused from these meetings unless notified otherwise by the Executive Committee.
- 42 iii. Rule 3: All voting members must remain an active member of at least one committee as per the standards
43 established by the chair of their respective committee. Failure to remain an active member of at least one
44 committee can result in vacancy of a seat at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- 45 iv. Rule 4: Any member who fails to attend a required meeting or event shall be considered absent. Any late
46 arrival beyond the first 15 minutes of the meeting will result in a half-absence if there is no notification at
47 least 24 hours in advance to the Vice President of Internal Operations. Any early departure will result in a
48 half-absence if there is no notification at least 24 hours in advance to the Vice President of Internal
49 Operations. The Executive Committee reserves the right to decide what constitutes an early departure.
- 50 v. Rule 5: Any member who arrives late to a required meeting or event but within the first 15 minutes after
51 Roll-Call will receive a quarter-absence.
- 52 vi. Rule 6: At the discretion of the Vice President of Internal Operations, unavoidable academic conflicts
53 including prelims, final presentations, and field trips but not including office hours, review sessions or
54 professor visits that are in direct conflict with a required Student Assembly meeting will not be counted
55 towards the three cumulative regularly scheduled meetings if they are reported at least 24 hours before
56 the meeting conflict. Academic conflicts that cannot be reasonably predicted at least 24 hours before the
57 meeting conflict can be excused by a majority vote of the executive committee.
- 58 vii. Rule 7: At the discretion of the Vice President of Internal Operations, unavoidable conflicts as a result of
59 job interviews and scholarship interviews that are in direct conflict with a required Student Assembly
60 meeting will not be counted towards the three cumulative regularly scheduled meetings if they are
61 reported as soon as the conflict arises.
- 62 viii. Rule 8: At the discretion of the Vice President of Internal Operations, unavoidable conflicts as a result of
63 religious obligations that are in direct conflict with a required Student Assembly meeting will not be
64 counted towards the three cumulative regularly scheduled meetings if they are reported at least 24 hours
65 before the meeting conflict.
- 66 ix. Rule 9: The Vice President of Internal Operations can request documentation for proof of absence.
- 67 x. Rule 10: Any college or constituency who lacks representation as a result of a seat being vacated or
68 unclaimed shall be filled by the runner-up in the most recent election for that seat. If the seat remains
69 vacant, an interim representative shall be appointed by the President, and confirmed by a majority of SA
70 Members. The interim representative shall have full voting privileges associated with membership on the
71 SA. The interim representative post shall be terminated immediately upon the declaration of a permanent
72 replacement via an election. The interim position will remain in effect for the remainder of semester if
73 the position becomes vacant following the first 3 weeks of the semester.
- 74 xi. Rule 12: All candidates who are elected to the Student Assembly during Spring Elections are required to
75 attend all Organizational Meetings and the last two SA meetings during the Spring Semester. Absences at
76 these meetings will count toward the member's term total.
- 77 xii. Rule 13: All elected members of the Student Assembly will adhere to the Cornell University Student
78 Assembly Oath of Office, which states:



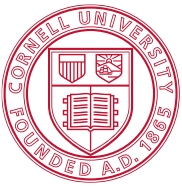
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79 *In the view of the trust the Cornell Community has vested in me, as well as my personal sense of honor, I _____,*
80 *do solemnly affirm to fulfill my responsibilities as a student-elected representative. I will engage in open and honest debate in*
81 *a process where I am guided by truth and fairness. I will never purposely misrepresent facts in an effort to achieve my goals. If*
82 *a conflict of interest arises, I will relinquish my right to participate in the decision making process. I will seek out and voice*
83 *effectively the interests and concerns of the student body, address the issues of my fellow students, and strive to improve the*
84 *quality of life at Cornell for all students.*

85 **Section 3: Agenda-Setting Policies and Procedures**

- 86 A. Rule 1: The agenda for any informal meetings shall not contain voting on legislation unless these meetings are
87 held in lieu of regular Thursday meetings or to meet a deadline.
- 88 B. Rule 2: The Executive Vice President will place under Business of the Day any item that has been previously
89 discussed. Additionally, appropriation requests and committee assignments are to appear under Business of
90 the Day. All other items shall be introduced as New Business, unless otherwise authorized by a majority vote
91 of the Executive Board or a majority vote of the Student Assembly.
- 92 C. Rule 3: New Business shall be an opportunity for SA and community members to ask questions of and make
93 suggestions to the author of a piece of legislation. Comments may not be argumentative in nature and
94 questions must seek factual answers.
- 95 D. Rule 4 Business of the Day shall be an opportunity for discussion and debate on the legislation.
- 96 E. Rule 5: Prior to introduction as New Business, all resolutions shall be reviewed and approved by an
97 appropriate SA committee no more than 30 days before the EVP sends the agenda to the general public. The
98 Executive Vice President or the Vice President of Internal Operations will determine which committee will
99 review a resolution. A resolution cannot be introduced to the SA without approval by an appropriate SA
100 committee except under extenuating circumstances in which the Executive Board determines that a
101 resolution should be brought to the floor without a committee review. Approval by a committee requires a
102 majority vote of the committee members present at the committee meeting. A representative of the
103 committee that reviewed the resolution is permitted to give a brief summary of the committee's thoughts or
104 concerns on the resolution when it is presented a regularly scheduled Student Assembly meeting.
- 105 F. Rule 6: In order for a resolution to be moved to Business of the Day, a Resolution must have been discussed
106 at a prior meeting or be moved to Business of the Day by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of members present.
- 107 G. Rule 7: If the Residential Student Congress needs to pass a formal legislative resolution concerning residential
108 life at Cornell, the Residential Student Congress has the authority to pass resolutions that will be introduced
109 as New Business on the Student Assembly agenda. These resolutions must explicitly pertain to residential life.
110 Any resolutions presented by the Residential Student Congress must have been voted on and approved by a
111 majority vote of the general body members of the Residential Student Congress and the Residential Student
112 Congress liaison to the Student Assembly, who must be the sponsor of the resolution. The resolution must
113 be sent to the Student Assembly EVP at least one week before the Student Assembly meeting where the
114 resolution will appear on the agenda. All resolutions appearing on the SA agenda through this method,
115 without having been passed by an SA committee, will require a vote of two-thirds of SA members present to
116 be passed.
- 117 H. Rule 8: At its weekly meeting, the Executive Committee will discuss the agenda for Student Assembly
118 meetings. Items for the agenda must be submitted to the Executive Vice President of the Student Assembly
119 in the proper format, as designated by the Executive Vice President.

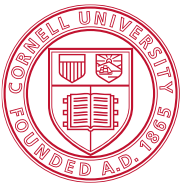


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- 120 I. Rule 9: The Office of the Assemblies must post the agenda to the Student Assembly website no later than
121 noon on the day of the meeting.
- 122 J. Rule 10: The Vice President of External Affairs and the sponsors of the resolution must ensure that all
123 parties, including but not limited to any specific Cornell student, administrator, faculty member, or staff
124 member, involved or impacted by particular legislative actions are notified and invited to attend the meeting
125 at which the action shall be heard. Additionally, any registered student organization must be notified if the
126 proposed legislation affects their funding or guidelines. The aforementioned need not consent to the
127 legislation, but it is highly encouraged that the aforementioned attend the meeting. In the event that the
128 author of said legislation is uncomfortable contacting all interested parties, they may request that the Vice
129 President of External Affairs does so on their behalf.
- 130 K. Rule 11: A short descriptive abstract of approximately 25 words will be submitted by sponsors of resolutions
131 before committee approval.
- 132 L. Rule 12: Student Assembly Initiatives should be presented as reports to the Student Assembly with an
133 opportunity for questions from Student Assembly Members and Community Members. A summary of
134 the initiative reports will be reported over the Actions Listserv bi-weekly (every other week). The
135 following procedures will be followed for initiative reports:
- 136 i. The Chair announces the initiative and the sponsors have two minutes to present their initiative
 - 137 ii. A moderated Q&A will follow the presentation, the questions can be argumentative in nature as
138 Student Assembly Representatives and community members shall be empowered to express their
139 approval or disapproval
 - 140 iii. The Chair shall be empowered to determine to end the time when the allocated time has expired,
141 conversation has become redundant, or the speaker's list has been exhausted
 - 142 iv. The Executive Vice President shall be empowered to make the determination as to what will be
143 presented as an initiative
- 144 M. Rule 13: Following the Referenda protocol in Article III §8 of the Student Assembly Charter, the Executive
145 Vice President will present an update on pro and con statements during the Promotional Period. The
146 Executive Vice President will give this presentation at the first regularly scheduled SA meeting after the
147 Office of the Assemblies posts the community statements anonymously to the Assemblies website.
- 148 N. Every voting member of the Student Assembly shall submit their weekly report for the previous week to the
149 Executive Vice President at least 24 hours in advance of the next regularly scheduled meeting to be included
150 with the meeting minutes for the previous Student Assembly meeting. Failure to provide a bi-weekly report
151 will result in a quarter absence unless the representative provided a reasonable excuse to the Executive Vice
152 President.

153 **Section 4: Abstentions and Proxy Voting**

- 154 A. Rule 1: As per the Cornell University Student Assembly Oath of Office, members shall abstain from voting if
155 a conflict of interest arises.
- 156 B. Rule 2: SA members may abstain from voting at regularly scheduled or special meetings of the Assembly.
157 However, if the total number of abstentions is greater than the total number of votes in favor of a resolution
158 or motion, the resolution or motion fails.
- 159 C. Rule 3: The tendering of proxy votes shall occur in accordance with the Special Rules or Order, but shall
160 require that an excused absence be noted by the Vice President of Internal Operations.



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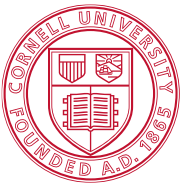
- 161 D. Rule 4: All members of the Appropriations Committee and the Student Assembly shall abstain from voting if
162 they have a conflict of interest. A member shall be deemed to have a conflict of interest if they hold an
163 executive board position in the organization. Additionally, a member shall be considered to have a conflict of
164 interest if they have requested funding or financial co-sponsorship from the organization in the previous 3
165 months or intend to request in the next 3 months.
- 166 E. Rule 5: The previous rule shall not apply to the Student Assembly's determination of the Student Assembly's
167 Byline Funding Allocation; however, all representatives shall hold the Student Assembly to the same or higher
168 standards as all other applicants.

169 Section 5: Committee Leadership and Oversight

- 170 A. The committees of the Student Assembly are essential to the functioning of the shared governance system.
171 Leaders of the Assembly committees are elected to effectively run the Assembly. As a result, members in
172 such a position are charged with these obligations and are required to adhere by as such:
- 173 i. Rule 1: In accordance with Rules 5–8 and Articles 3 and 7 of the Student Assembly Charter, the SA
174 Vice President of Internal Operations has the obligation to be in constant contact with the SA clerk,
175 all committee chairs, and all bodies in which the SA sends representation to keep an accurate log of
176 attendance. The SA Vice President of Internal Operations shall report any pressing matters regarding
177 attendance, such as members in jeopardy of exceeding the allowed number of absences, to the
178 Executive Committee at their weekly meeting.
 - 179 ii. Rule 2: Each SA member must be a voting member of at least one SA committee, the University
180 Assembly, or a UA committee. The Chair of each committee shall inform the SA VP of Internal
181 Operations of any SA members who are in jeopardy of violating the committee's attendance policy.
182 Additionally, the committee chair shall inform the VP of Internal Operations if an SA member has
183 violated the committee's attendance policy and has been removed from the committee.
 - 184 iii. Rule 3: The President, Executive Vice President, and Vice President of Internal Operations will be
185 ex-officio members of every committee, except the Elections Committee, and taskforce associated
186 with the Student Assembly and whose activities are delineated in the SA charter.
 - 187 iv. Rule 4: Committee chairs will report updates as necessary regarding upcoming committee meeting
188 dates and times at regularly scheduled meetings, as well as post committee agendas and minutes to
189 the SA website, as appropriate.
 - 190 v. Rule 5: All SA Committee members must be a member of their respective committee listservs.
191 Meeting dates, times, and agendas shall be sent to all committee members 24 hours prior to the
192 meeting via the appropriate committee listserv. By a two-thirds vote of committee members present,
193 the committee may amend their agenda.
 - 194 vi. Rule 6: Each committee chair is responsible for reaching out to relevant student organizations in
195 order to solicit feedback on ideas and collaborate with student groups on initiatives that the
196 committee is working on.

197 Section 6: General Meeting Procedures

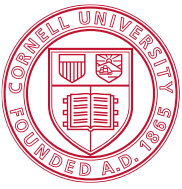
- 198 A. To “voice effectively” these interests which were mentioned above, strict rules must be adhered to when
199 conducting business as an assembly. These rules focus on the efficiency and organization of the tasks at hand:



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- 200 i. Rule 1: Speakers will be recognized at the discretion of the Chair and placed on a speaker's list
201 maintained by the Chair. Each speaker shall have a maximum of two minutes to speak, with the
202 option to yield the balance of his, her, or their time to another single individual at the meeting,
203 including the Chair. It is at the Chair's discretion to place additional limitations on speaking time.
- 204 ii. Rule 2: All speakers shall address their remarks to the Chair.
- 205 iii. Rule 3: The Chair shall keep time at any point when such is required.
- 206 iv. Rule 4: Except for points of order, information, and questions of privilege, no person shall be
207 recognized by the Chair twice before all other members (voting, community, and ex-officio) have had
208 the opportunity to speak.
- 209 v. Rule 5: The Chair will recognize the members of the community who wish to speak on the question.
210 The Chair will have discretion as to when community members are recognized. Each speaker will
211 limit his, her, or their comments to no more than two minutes, If multiple speakers wish to address
212 the Student Assembly, equal opportunity will be given to those in favor of and those opposed to the
213 question, in such order, to speak.
- 214 vi. Rule 6: The Chair may call the question, without it requiring a second or vote, when he or she deems
215 that debate has exceeded its time limit or when discussion becomes repetitive.
- 216 vii. Rule 7: When the vote of the Chair may decide the outcome of a decision (i.e. to make or break a
217 tie), he, she, or they shall be empowered to cast a vote, but shall do so only after all other voting
218 members of the Student Assembly have registered their votes.
- 219 viii. Rule 8: A voting Student Assembly member may appeal the decision of the Chair when he, she, or
220 they disagrees with the Chair's interpretation or application of the Standing Rules, Bylaws, or the
221 Charter. The motion shall require a simple majority to pass.
- 222 ix. Rule 9: Any voting SA member may attempt to overrule a decision by the Executive Committee by
223 submitting their challenge in the format of a resolution at the next regularly scheduled meeting. A
224 2/3 majority of the voting membership must be reached to overrule the Executive Committee at any
225 time.
- 226 x. Rule 10: The Parliamentarian shall administer a short examination on parliamentary procedure to all
227 voting members of the SA within four meetings of a representative taking the oath of office. This
228 examination will cover content from Robert's Rules of Order and the most recent version of the SA
229 Charter, Bylaws, and Standing Rules. Any member who does not pass (a grade of 70% or higher) will
230 be required to attend an additional review workshop and retake the exam.
- 231 xi. Rule 11: Student Assembly members shall be permitted to withdraw a motion after it has been
232 seconded and before a vote has been taken on it.
- 233 xii. Rule 12: Ex-officio members as defined in the by-laws shall be permitted to make motions to amend.
- 234 xiii. Rule 13: Ex-officio members as defined in the bylaws shall also be permitted to sponsor resolutions,
235 without a voting SA member, if the content relates directly to their position.
- 236 xiv. Rule 14: By a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of SA members present, Robert's Rules of Order can be suspended.
- 237 xv. Rule 15: Discussion can be closed by a 60% vote of SA members present.
- 238 xvi. Rule 16: All meeting attendees are expected to be respectful to other meeting attendees and to
239 maintain proper meeting decorum.

240 Section 7: Outreach Guidelines & Member Responsibilities

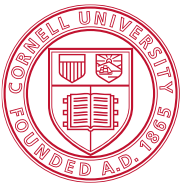


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- 241 A. Rule 1: All voting representatives shall host at least one forum or outreach activity with individuals from their
242 respective constituencies and report all outcomes to the SA at the next regularly-scheduled meeting following
243 such an activity. The four undesignated at-large representatives shall plan at least one Cornell Caring
244 Community, Lift Your Spirits, or large-scale outreach event per semester.
- 245 B. Rule 2: All elected members must fulfill two assigned outreach requirements per two-week time frame. Such
246 events will be designated by the Vice President of External Affairs. If the member does not document their
247 outreach as specified by the VP of External Affairs, the member will be credited with one whole absence.
248 Any conflicts in schedules or other special circumstances as references in Section 1, Rule 6 of this document
249 must be brought to the attention of the VP of External Affairs.
- 250 C. Rule 3: All voting representatives may communicate regularly with their constituents through e-mail mailing
251 lists and listservs, which may be maintained by their respective college dean's office, the Department of
252 Campus Life, the Office of the Dean of Students, or the Office of the Assemblies.
- 253 D. Rule 4: Any Student Assembly member, including the Vice President for External Affairs, must submit a
254 mass message (e-mail, advertisement, press release, etc.) to the Executive Board for approval. The Executive
255 Board may approve a message by a majority vote and the vote may be conducted by email. The
256 correspondence must be saved.
- 257 E. Rule 5: The Vice President for External Affairs and the President will give final approval for the Student
258 Assembly newsletter. No amendments or additions to the newsletter will be distributed without the approval
259 of both officers.
- 260 F. Rule 6: The Executive Vice President must monitor and respond to any inquiries on the SA website. Such
261 inquiries can be forwarded to the appropriate Assembly member in order to ensure the most accurate
262 answers.
- 263 G. Rule 7: All ex-officio members acting in liaison positions should report relevant information to the Student
264 Assembly about their respective organization and report relevant actions of the assembly to their respective
265 organization as they see fit.

266 Section 8: Spending Guidelines

- 267 A. Category Spending:
- 268 i. Rule 1: In order for a disbursement of budgeted funds to be made, either the SA President or the
269 Vice President for Finance must approve it. The Vice President for Finance is responsible for
270 classifying the expenditure into a budget category.
- 271 ii. Rule 2: The Student Assembly budget must be reviewed and approved by the SA by the conclusion
272 of the second meeting of the academic year.
- 273 iii. Rule 3: Any reallocation of funds between categories of the budget or spending of the budget surplus
274 must be confirmed by a majority vote of the Appropriations Committee followed by a majority vote
275 of the Student Assembly, at large.
- 276 iv. Rule 4: The Vice President for Finance will maintain a record of all expenses of their committee. At
277 the end of each semester, he or she will make public the amount left in the committee's account.
- 278 B. Special Projects Funding:
- 279 i. Rule 5: The Student Assembly may choose to fund any project, program or service through SA
280 Special Projects that it deems to improve the quality of undergraduate student life or to further the
281 goals of the SA. Special Projects funding is a type of category spending.
- 282 ii. Rule 6: Special Projects funding may be requested by any of the following, but not limited to:



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- i. Any Cornell registered student organization
 - ii. SA committee chairs that seek funding for expenditures that exceed their committee's budgeted allocation
 - iii. Rule 7: The SA President and Vice President for Finance together may approve any special projects funding request up to \$400 without consultation with the Executive Committee. Amounts up to \$400 may also be funded by a majority vote of Executive Committee. Request must be made public at a Student Assembly meeting in the form of an "Announcement/Report" before being approved. Any SA voting member can motion for the request to be sent to the Executive Committee if they feel necessary.
 - iv. Rule 8: The Executive Committee shall decide upon special projects requests over \$400 and under \$1500 by a majority vote. The SA, at large, may reverse an Executive Committee decision to fund amounts over \$400 by a two-thirds vote. The request should be presented to the Student Assembly in the form of a resolution.
 - v. 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.
 - vi. Rule 10: The Vice President for Finance shall present a written or oral report to the SA at large, each time a special projects disbursement is made.