

# Cornell University Student Assembly

## Student Assembly Meeting

### AGENDA

**October 26, 2023**

**4:45 - 6:30 p.m.**

**Memorial Room, Willard Straight Hall/Zoom**

**ZOOM**

Meeting ID: 927 5625 4940 | Passcode: 411537

1. Call to Order
2. Reading of the Land Acknowledgment
3. Announcements
  1. Vice President of External Affairs
4. Open Microphone
5. Approval of the Minutes
6. Consent Calendar
7. Reports
  1. Office of Ethics
  2. Vice President of Finance Byline Report
    1. Programming Council
8. Presentations
9. Old Business Calendar
  1. [Resolution 30 – Removing Median Grades](#)
  2. [Resolution 32 – Amending the Student Assembly Charter in Allyship with HAVEN](#)
10. Resolutions Calendar
  1. [Resolution 33 – Protecting Freedom of Expression](#)
  2. [Resolution 34 – OSGR Deputy Director](#)
11. Appointments and Vacancies Calendar

1. Committee Appointment Confirmation

1. Academic Policy

2. Appropriations

12. Adjournment

If you are in need of special accommodations, contact the Office of the Assemblies at (607) 255-3715 or Student Disability Services at (607) 254-4545 prior to the meeting.



## Resolution 30: Removing Median Grades

**Abstract:** This resolution requests Cornell University ceases the practice of reporting median grades on official transcripts.

**Sponsored by:** Jahmal Wallen '24, Niles Hite '26, Marwa Bakri '24, Aissatou Barry '24, Imani Rezaka '24, Ebreez Elbishir '24, Tamara Frith '24, Tokunda Chikuvire '26, Jennifer Sarprong '24, Himma Aklilu '25, Amara Chiedu '24, Samuel Tadmiri '24, Milan Broughton '24, Rachel Richards '24, Kayla Drew '25, Aissata Maiga '25, Jackson Thoby '25, Angelo Del Toro '24, Jaida Enekwe '25, Devin Gordon '24, Hector Hurtado '24, Muhamadou Jobarteh '25, Kenneth González '24, Pryor Simon '24, Ukana Basse '25, Asara Milton '24, Devyn Bryant '25, Justice Hoff '24, Shanzai Ikhlas '24, Micheal Abaseber '26, Aden Belay '24, Delina Selam '25, Leule Ashenafi '26, Lydia Yilekal '26, Venezia Ayalew '26, Cyan Crayton '25, Anatasia Assenso '25, Maia Lee '24, Delesa McCruter '25, Ebenezer Eshetu '24, Nayomi Asghedom '25, Patrick Kuehl '24, Nicholas Maggard '26.

**Reviewed by:** Academic Policy Committee, 10/11/2023, 10-0-0

**Type of Action:** Recommendation

**Originally Presented:** 10/12/2023

**Current Status:** New Business

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**Whereas,** Cornell University introduced the calculation and inclusion of median grades on undergraduate student records in 2008, in response to a student assembly resolution.

**Whereas,** Prior to 2008, median grades were calculated and posted on the Office of the University Registrar's (OUR) website, but this practice ceased when median grades began printing on transcripts.

**Whereas,** Students typically discover the practice of reporting median grades only upon ordering official transcripts.

**Whereas,** Cornell University is 1 of 4 out of 65 Association of American Universities (AAU) that include median grades on official transcripts, which contradicts the practices of the majority of peer institutions.

**Whereas,** The American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), in its 2020 Academic Records and Transcript Guide, does not list calculating or posting median grades on transcripts as a recommended component.

**Whereas,** Including median grades on transcripts can negatively impact student mental health, foster unhealthy competition, and undermine the university's commitment to holistic education and individual growth.

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33 **Be it therefore resolved,** Cornell University shall immediately discontinue the practice of including  
34 median grades on official transcripts.

35 **Be it further resolved,** The OUR shall revise its policies and procedures to eliminate the posting of  
36 median grades on official transcripts.

37 **Be it further resolved,** The Registrar's website shall be updated to reflect the removal of median  
38 grades from official transcripts, providing clear information to students regarding this change.

39 **Be it finally resolved,** The university will consider providing additional developer resources to the  
40 OUR to investigate the possibility of retroactively removing median grades from official transcripts.

41

42 **Respectfully Submitted,**

43 Jahmal Wallen '24

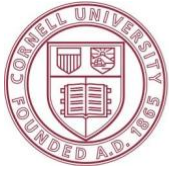
44 *Undergraduate Representative to the University Assembly, Student Assembly*

45

46 Niles Hite '26

47 *College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Representative, Student Assembly*

48 *Chair, Academic Policy Committee, Student Assembly*



# Resolution 32: Amending the Student Assembly Charter in Allyship with HAVEN

**Abstract:** This resolution amends the Student Assembly Charter to include additional roles of the LGBTQIA+ Liaison and exempts HAVEN from disclosing a full list of member names in order to submit a valid Byline application.

**Sponsored by:** Karys Everett '25, Nic Oke '26, Piper Kohlenberger '25

**Reviewed by:** DEI Committee, 11/10/2023 6-0-0

**Type of Action:** Internal Policy

**Originally Presented:** 10/26/2023

**Current Status:** Old Business

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**Whereas,** Per the current Charter regulations on Byline applications, all orgs applying for SAF funding must submit a list of all current members. This rule, though facially neutral, has harmful unintended consequences which impact the LGBTQ+ community at Cornell.

**Whereas,** In the Student Assembly Charter there is no mention of the LGBTQIA+ Liaison. The unutilized capacity of this role is harmful to the community it is seated to serve, and this resolution seeks to rectify that.

**Whereas,** according to the "SAF Application Requirement" HAVEN is classified as a Supplementary Funding Board and is required to complete Sections 6-14. This classification requires Haven to provide the names of all current members.

**Whereas,** HAVEN is unable to effectively protect and empower its community members if this information is compromised. Per current regulations, HAVEN lacks the autonomy to dictate where the information goes, as well as who is receiving this sensitive information.

**Whereas,** it is the duty of the LGBTQIA+ Liaison to ensure the protection, support, and collaboration of the and with the Queer organizations and students on campus. Furthermore, it is up to the students to decide when, how, and with whom they decide to share their identities; HAVEN nor the Liaison can take away their autonomy and freedom of choice by disclosing that information on their behalf. Doing so would go against the very nature of what the position represents and what HAVEN stands for. The Cornell Student Assembly recognizes the threat to safety and autonomy of the members, and will alternatively submit data on the quantity of current members in the organization.



Cornell University  
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31 **Whereas**, Students put their trust and voice into the LGBTQIA+ Liaison, and with this trust, the  
32 Liaison is then endowed with the responsibility of advocating, fighting, and ensuring the safety  
33 for and on behalf of students at Cornell. The immediate impacts of violating this trust by  
34 showing other individuals sensitive information is far reaching; Queer students would no longer  
35 view HAVEN as a safe community to be a part of and would see the position they elect as one to  
36 be mistrusted. The Cornell LGBTQ+ Community at-large would be left without the support,  
37 connection, and advocacy that HAVEN traditionally provides as well as the duty of the Liaison  
38 to protect them on a legislative level.

39 **Be it therefore resolved**, the following text shall be inserted as Appendix A, Section 4,  
40 Subsection A.vi. of the Student Assembly Charter:

41 "The LGBTQIA+ Liaison shall be required to verify the validity of the number and  
42 names of all members currently a part of HAVEN: The LGBTQ+ Student Union. Should  
43 the seat be vacant, Haven shall be exempt from sharing this information, and shall be  
44 required to submit data on the number of current members in the organization, as well as  
45 the number of student attendees at HAVEN-hosted events to demonstrate the  
46 organization's impact, utility, and student engagement at Cornell."

47 **Be it further resolved**, Haven, regardless of the LGBTQIA+ Liaison position being filled, will  
48 provide photographic evidence with a quantitative record of the total number of current  
49 members.

50 **Be it further resolved**, That HAVEN understands and agrees with the SAF mission to ensure  
51 equal treatment for any byline applicant regardless of mission. However, HAVEN is a unique  
52 circumstance in which the basis for students membership is rooted in an identity that is not, and  
53 could not be known, without the student sharing as such, should exempt HAVEN from having to  
54 share that information on their behalf.

55 **Be it finally resolved**, this resolution shall take effect when (1) agreed to by the President and 56  
56 (2) the Fall 2023 academic semester has concluded.

57 **Respectfully Submitted,**

58 Karys Everett '25

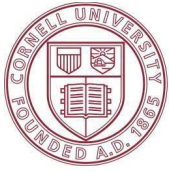
59 *LGBTQIA+ Liaison at Large*, Student Assembly

60 Nic Oke '26

61 *Co-President*, Haven: LGBTQ+ Student Union

62 Piper Kohlenberger '25

63 *Co-President*, Haven: LGBTQ+ Student Union



## 1                   **Resolution 33: Protecting Freedom of Expression: Anti-Doxxing**

2    **Abstract:** The threat of doxxing poses substantial safety concerns infringing upon students'  
3 abilities to freely express themselves, increasing their likelihood to be victims of targeted attacks  
4 and harassment. This resolution is intended to prompt the Cornell administration to adopt a more  
5 proactive role in safeguarding the privacy of its students and upholding their right to "Freedom  
6 of Expression."

7    **Sponsored by:** Marwa Bakri '24, Aissatou Barry '24, Imani Rezaka '24, Malak Abuhashim '24,  
8 Darren Kwan '24, Ebreez Elbashir '24, Alaa Farghli, Jahmal Wallen '24, Majd Aldaye '25,  
9 Claire Ting '25, Gracelynn Osei-Bosompem '25, Mach E Enweremadu '25.

10 **Reviewed by:** DEI Committee, 10/25/2023, 6-0-5

11 **Type of Action:** Resolution

12 **Originally Presented:** 10/26/2023

13 **Current Status:** New Business

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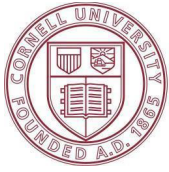
14 **Whereas,** President Martha Pollack named the academic year 2023-2024 the year of "Freedom  
15 of Expression," emphasizing the need to "to challenge personal beliefs, to consider new ideas  
16 and unfamiliar perspectives, and to foster discussion around core freedoms for democracy and  
17 higher education."<sup>1</sup>

18 **Whereas,** members of the university who take more radical or left-leaning perspectives on  
19 current events and political matters, including members of the Student Assembly, teaching  
20 faculty, and student organization leaders (such as Social Justice for Palestine), have historically  
21 faced consequences of the harmful practice of doxxing. This involves the public release of their  
22 names and personal information on media sources and websites.

23 **Whereas,** websites like Canary Mission do not fact check information and often take statements  
24 out of context, often completely misrepresenting what students and faculty actually say. These  
25 media sources use defaming language to ruin the public reputation of those that they post without  
26 verifying information. Media sources, without permission, post the names and identifying  
27 information of people within our Cornell community that take a certain position on global  
28 affairs, threaten their freedom of expression and consequently discussions around human rights.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.cornell.edu/expression/#:~:text=We%20encourage%20Cornellians%20everywhere%20to,for%20democracy%20and%20higher%20education.>



## Cornell University Student Assembly

29 **Whereas**, there is a substantial number of students and faculty listed on Canary Mission, in  
30 which, the majority of students listed are members of historically marginalized communities:  
31 Black, Brown, Muslim and Jewish students.

32 **Whereas**, the threat and fear of being posted on doxxing websites actively intimidates members  
33 of the university and threatens their ability to share their views, hindering them from exercising  
34 Freedom of Expression.

35 **Whereas**, social media pages posted on these sites are posted with malicious intent.

36 **Whereas**, members of Cornell University who take stances have received death threats to them  
37 and their families as a result of doxxing.

38 **Whereas**, members' social media pages are put under national scrutiny, thereby increasing the  
39 risk of their personal information being compromised. Once this information is compromised,  
40 the risk of harassment substantially increases.

41 **Whereas**, the threat of doxxing poses significant security and safety concerns infringing upon  
42 students' rights to freely express themselves. Being doxxed increases their likelihood to be  
43 victims of targeted attacks and harassment.

44 **Whereas**, the risk of being doxxed extends beyond safety, potentially impacting students' visa  
45 statuses, program funding, and career opportunities. These impacts are life-altering, affecting  
46 students even beyond their time at Cornell.

47 **Be it therefore resolved**, Cornell University administration takes a more active role in  
48 preventing members of the Cornell community from being doxxed, and harassed for free speech,  
49 and protecting those who have already been targeted.

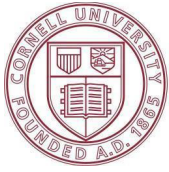
50 **Be it further resolved**, Cornell University administration takes a proactive measure to deter  
51 doxxing.

52 **Be it further resolved**, Cornell University uphold its core value of "A Community of  
53 Belonging" defined by , "As a university founded to be a place where...any person can find  
54 instruction..." we value diversity and inclusion, and we strive to be a welcoming, caring, and  
55 equitable community where students, faculty, and staff with different backgrounds, perspectives,  
56 abilities, and experiences can learn, innovate, and work in an environment of respect, and feel  
57 empowered to engage in any community conversation."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> <https://president.cornell.edu/initiatives/university-core-values/>





## Cornell University Student Assembly

58 **Be it further resolved**, administration condemns Canary Mission’s targeted attacks on the  
59 reputations and wellbeing of Cornell community members and their threat to our right to  
60 Freedom of Expression.

61 **Be it further resolved**, that the Cornell University’s Board of Trustees consider *doxxing and*  
62 *digital harassment* when updating the official Student Code of Conduct.

63 **Be it further resolved**, Cornell offers further support to students and faculty members whose  
64 reputations have been publicly harmed and defamed. Such support should include health,  
65 academic, and legal resources put forward to help students experiencing mental hardships as a  
66 result of such defamation.

67 **Be it finally resolved**, that a statement be put out reaffirming the “Freedom of Expression”  
68 theme year, supporting students’ ability to express opinions, however unpopular, without facing  
69 harassment or threats to their wellbeing. Otherwise, President Martha Pollack should put out a  
70 clarifying statement on the limitations of “Freedom of Expression” academic freedom and how  
71 far they apply. Ultimately, this university continues to be a safe environment focused on  
72 dissemination of historical ideas and formation of opinions.

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74 **Respectfully Submitted,**

75 Aissatou Barry ‘24

76 *VP of DEI, Student Assembly*

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78 Marwa Bakri ‘24

79 *First-Generation Student Representative At-Large, Student Assembly*

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81 Claire Ting ‘25

82 *Executive Vice President, Student Assembly*

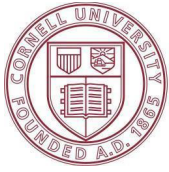
83

84 Imani Rezaka ‘24

85 *College of Arts and Sciences Representative (Interim), Student Assembly*

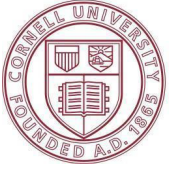
86

87 Malak Abuhashim ‘24



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- 88 *President, Social Justice for Palestine*
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- 90 Darren Kwan '24
- 91 *President, Muslim Educational and Cultural Association*
- 92
- 93 Ebreez Elbashir '24
- 94 *President, Pan African Muslim Student Association*
- 95
- 96 Alaa Farghli
- 97 *President, Arab Grad Students Association*
- 98
- 99 Jahmal Wallen '24
- 100 *Undergraduate Representative to the University Assembly, Student Assembly*
- 101
- 102 Majd Aldaye '25
- 103 *President, Middle Eastern and Mediterranean Music Ensemble*
- 104
- 105 Mach E Enweremadu '25
- 106 *Co- President, Black Students United*
- 107
- 108 Gracelynn Osei-Bosompem '25
- 109 *Co- President, Black Students United*
- 110
- 111 Yanisa Vararaksapong '26
- 112 *Cornell Progressives Outreach Chair*
- 113
- 114 Sonali Nicola '25



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115 *Cornell Progressives Community Action Chair*



# Resolution 34: Creation of the Role of OSGR Deputy Executive Director

**Abstract:** This resolution creates a new Executive Board Position in the Student Assembly's Office of Student Government Relations

**Sponsored by:** Akshey Mulpuri '25

**Reviewed by:** Executive Committee, 10/23/2023, 5-0-0

**Type of Action:** Internal Policy

**Originally Presented:** 10/26/2023

**Current Status:** In Discussion

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**Whereas,** the Student Assembly's Office of Student Government Relations (OSGR) was established in 2019 to lobby at the local, state, and federal levels for the benefit of the student body.

**Whereas,** the OSGR is currently ran by an Executive Director, Director of Communications, Director of Local Relations, Director of State Relations, and Director of Federal Relations.

**Whereas,** the Executive Board of the OSGR believes the creation of a new Deputy Executive Director Position would greatly help with the administration of the organization.

**Be it therefore resolved,** the following language be inserted as Article VI, Section 5, Subsection B.b.ii of the Student Assembly Bylaws:

Deputy Executive Director of Student Government Relations — the responsibilities of the Deputy Executive Director of Student Government Relations are as follows:

1. Oversee the recruitment of additional members of the office.
2. Perform other activities as determined by the Director.

**Be it finally resolved,** the remaining subsections be renumbered as subsections B.b.iii through B.b.vi.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Akshey Mulpuri '25

Director, Office of Student Government Relations