

# Cornell University Student Assembly

## Student Assembly Meeting

### AGENDA

**November 2, 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
4. Open Microphone
5. Approval of the Minutes
6. Consent Calendar
7. Presentations
8. Reports
  1. Office of Ethics
  2. Vice President of Finance Byline Report
    1. Orientation
    2. SAFC
    3. Student Assembly
    4. Outdoor Odyssey
9. Old Business Calendar
  1. Resolution 30 – Removing Median Grades
  2. Resolution 32 – Amending the Student Assembly Charter in Allyship with HAVEN
  3. Resolution 34 – OSGR Deputy Director
10. Resolutions Calendar
  1. Resolution 36 – Ensuring Equity and Fairness in 2023-2024 Voting Seat Appointments

2. Resolution 37-Election Day as a University Holiday

11. Appointments and Vacancies Calendar

12. Adjournment

If you are in need of special accommodations, contact the Office of the Assemblies at [assembly@cornell.edu](mailto:assembly@cornell.edu) 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.



**Cornell University**  
**Student Assembly**

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.

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42 **Respectfully Submitted,**

43 Jahmal Wallen '24

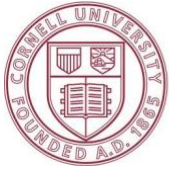
44 *Undergraduate Representative to the University Assembly, Student Assembly*

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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

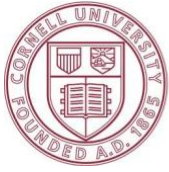
59 *LGBTQIA+ Liaison at Large*, Student Assembly

60 Nic Oke '26

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

62 Piper Kohlenberger '25

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



# 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:

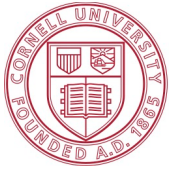
1. Oversee the recruitment of additional members of the office.
2. Perform other activities as determined by the Director.

**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



# Resolution 36: Ensuring Equity and Fairness in 2023-2024 Voting Seat Appointments

**Abstract:** This resolution creates an ad-hoc committee and additional guidelines pursuant to the governing documents to promote equity and structure in the appointment process for the new Student Workers Representative, Veterans Representative, and four new Representative At-Large seats.

**Sponsored by:** Rahul Verma '24, Alhassan Bangura '25, Aissatou Barry '24, Claire Ting '25

**Reviewed by:** Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, 11/01/2023, 7-0-5

**Type of Action:** Internal Policy

**Originally Presented:** 11/02/2023

**Current Status:** New Business

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**Whereas,** Student Assembly Resolution 20 of the 2023-24 term creates two new seats for the representation of student workers and veterans respectively and four new “At-Large” representative seats open to all undergraduates;

**Whereas,** Section 8 of the Student Assembly Charter allows for vacancies, following the declaration of a special election, to be “filled by the Assembly... by a roll-call... two-thirds affirmative vote of the seated membership of the Assembly”;

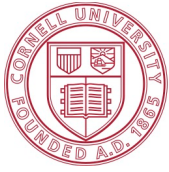
**Whereas,** beyond these parameters, no defined metrics for bringing forth a candidate to fill a vacancy is established in either the Charter, Bylaws, Standing Rules, or other governing documents or rules of the Student Assembly;

**Whereas,** a combination of factors, including the volume and nature of these seats, the current underrepresentation of specific colleges and communities on the Student Assembly, and expressed interest from the student body, are confounding to the current process and leaves room for confusion, inequity, and bias in selecting the inaugural holders of these new seats;

**Whereas,** the creation of an unbiased task force tasked with publicizing the existence of new seats, soliciting applications, and making recommendations to the Student Assembly President would assist in mitigating these confounding factors and align with the existing rules on appointment established in the governing documents.

**Be it therefore resolved,** that an ad hoc committee known as the “Advisory Committee on Presidential Appointments” be established pursuant to the approval of Resolution 20 by Cornell





## Cornell University Student Assembly

31 University President Pollack, tasked with (a) publicizing the creation and availability of new  
32 seats to the undergraduate population, (b) soliciting and sorting applications from eligible  
33 candidates, (c) presenting potential appointees to the Student Assembly for consideration, (d) set  
34 decorum for appointment procedures on the floor of the Assembly.

35 **Be it further resolved**, that the Advisory Committee on Presidential Appointments shall be  
36 composed of twelve voting members appointed by the President of the Student Assembly, where  
37 seven members shall be community members and five shall be from the voting membership of  
38 the Student Assembly

39 **Be it finally resolved**, that the Director of Elections shall serve as chairperson of this ad-hoc  
40 committee, and the President of the Student Assembly and Chair of the Office of Ethics shall be  
41 ex-officio members.

42 **Respectfully Submitted,**

43 Rahul Verma '24

44 *Director of Elections, Student Assembly*

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46 Alhassan Bangura '25

47 *Chair of the Office of Ethics, Student Assembly*

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49 Aissatou Barry '24

50 *Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Student Assembly*

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52 Claire Ting '25

53 *Executive Vice President, Student Assembly*