

Cornell University Student Assembly

Student Assembly Meeting

AGENDA

November 30, 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
 1. [Resolution 34: Creation of the Role of OSGR Deputy Director](#)
 2. Resolution 41: OSGR Election Timeline
7. Presentations
 1. Office of Ethics
8. Reports
 1. Vice President of Finance
9. Old Business Calendar
 1. Resolution 39: Recommendation for the Student Activity Fee for 2024-2026
 2. Resolution 40: Valuing DEI in Congruence with Freedom of Expression
 3. Resolution 42: A Resolution in Support of Amending the Student Suicide Prevention Act
 4. Resolution 43: Authorizing the Transfer of Reserve Funds to Black Students United (BSU)

10. Resolutions Calendar

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 or Student Disability Services at (607) 254-4545 prior to the meeting.



Resolution 38: Recommendation for the Student Activity Fee for 2024-2026

Abstract: This resolution recommends the respective allocations for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation Cycle.

Sponsored by: George Rocco DeLorenzo

Reviewed by: N/A, 11/16/2023

Type of Action: Recommendation

Originally Presented: 11/16/2023

Current Status: New Business

Whereas, lines 324-328 of the Student Assembly Charter state;

“The Student Assembly (the Assembly), through the delegated authority of the President and the Board of Trustees, is charged with the allocation of the Student Activity Fee (SAF). This fee is mandatory for all undergraduate students of the University and shall be used to fund participation in, and viewing of, activities and programs that benefit the Cornell community. The SAF shall be determined during the fall semester of every odd-numbered year, and be subject to the approval of the President of the University.”

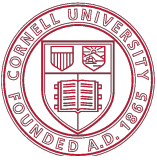
Whereas, lines 511-514 of the Student Assembly Charter state;

“Neither a check-off option nor an option to pay an amount in addition to the established SAF for specific programs or services will be allowed for purposes of exempting a student from paying the full amount of the SAF. Exceptions may be considered if recommended and approved by the Student Assembly and approved by the President of the University.”

Whereas, lines 545-548 of the Student Assembly Charter state;

“The SA and the GPSA and a representative of the President of the University shall review these guidelines and the procedures established in accordance therewith at least every four years in a non-fee-setting year (e.g. 2014-2015, 2018-2019). This review shall be conducted with strict adherence to the guidelines set forth by the Board of Trustees in Attachment A: Criteria for Setting and Allocating the Student Activity Fee (03/01/99).”

Be it therefore resolved, that the Student Assembly recommends the Student Activity Fee be set at \$424, to be distributed as follows (with details on the accompanying Appendix);

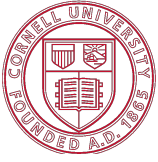


34 **Student Activity Fee Allocation Proposal**

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36 **2024-2026 Byline Funding Cycle**

Organization	2022-2024	2024-2026		% Change
	Allocation	Request	Allocation	
Alternative Breaks	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.50	--
Athletics and Physical Education	\$ 7.13	\$ 8.00	\$ 7.70	7.99%
Collegiate Readership Program	\$ 4.30	\$ 2.92	\$ 2.92	-32.09%
Community Partnership Funding Board	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	0.00%
Empathy, Assistance, and Referral Service	\$ 1.60	\$ 1.60	\$ 0.50	-68.75%
Emergency Medical Services at Cornell University	\$ 4.70	\$ 5.15	\$ 5.15	9.57%
Minds Matter at Cornell	\$ 1.63	\$ 1.63	\$ 0.50	-69.33%
Tatkon Center for New Students	\$ 11.00	\$ 14.20	\$ 13.86	26.00%
Outdoor Odyssey	\$ 2.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 2.90	45.00%
Student Assembly	\$ 1.50	\$ 4.25	\$ 2.75	83.33%
Student Club Insurance	\$ 5.50	\$ 5.50	\$ 5.50	0.00%
Students Helping Students Awards	\$ 5.00	\$ 4.60	\$ 4.60	-8.00%
Cornell Sports Council	\$ 22.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 29.00	31.82%
Interfaith Council at Cornell	\$ 7.00	\$ 7.00	\$ 6.50	-7.14%
Student Activities Funding Commission	\$ 113.28	\$ 132.00	\$ 148.33	30.94%
Student Programming Council	\$ 0.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	--
Convocation Committee	\$ 18.00	\$ 22.00	\$ 18.00	0.00%
Cornell Concert Commission	\$ 13.50	\$ 27.42	\$ 22.00	62.96%
Cornell University Class Councils & Senior Days	\$ 7.40	\$ 16.45	\$ 16.00	116.22%
Cornell University Program Board	\$ 13.56	\$ 17.74	\$ 15.39	13.50%
Multicultural Community Fueled Activities Board	\$ 0.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 14.75	--
Slope Day Programming Board	\$ 21.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	138.10%
Willard Straight Hall Student Union Board	\$ 3.30	\$ 6.60	\$ 6.60	100.00%
ALANA Intercultural Board	\$ 20.00	\$ 14.00	\$ 14.00	-30.00%
CUTonight Commission	\$ 8.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 12.00	50.00%
Gender Justice Advocacy Center	\$ 3.45	\$ 3.45	\$ 3.45	0.00%
Haven: The LGBTQ Student Union	\$ 4.40	\$ 5.40	\$ 5.40	22.73%
Environmental Collaborative	\$ 0.75	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	-100.00%
International Students Union	\$ 7.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 8.50	21.43%
Multicultural Greek Fraternity Council	\$ 1.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	100.00%
Total Student Activity Fee	\$ 310.00	\$ 435.91	\$ 423.80	36.71%



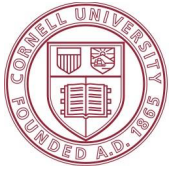
Cornell University
Student Assembly

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38 Respectfully Submitted,

39 Rocco DeLorenzo

40 *Vice President for Finance*



Resolution 41: Changing the Election timeline of the OSGR

Abstract: This resolution changes the Office of Student Government Relations (OSGR) Executive board election timeline to match the Student Assembly election timeline

Sponsored by: Akshey Mulpuri '25

Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 11/27/2023, (4-0-2)

Type of Action: Internal Policy

Originally Presented: 11/30/2023

Current Status: In Discussion

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

Whereas, the current OSGR Executive board election takes place at the end of the Fall semester.

Whereas, the Executive board of the OSGR believes changing the election to match the Student Assembly's would greatly help with the execution of its primary objectives, as most initiatives are executed over the full academic year.

Be it therefore resolved, the following language be inserted as Article III, Section 1 of the Student Assembly Bylaws:

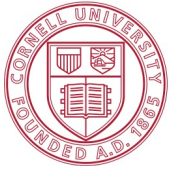
The outgoing Executive Director of the Office of Student Government Relations shall nominate a new Director of the office as well as new Directors of Local, State, and Federal Relations to be discussed and approved by the Student Assembly at the end of each academic year.

Be it finally resolved, the remaining text of Article III, Section 1 remain the same.

Respectfully Submitted,

Akshey Mulpuri '25

Director, Office of Student Government Relations



Resolution 42: A Resolution in Support of Amending the Student Suicide Prevention Act

Abstract: A resolution to join other student governments in calling the NY State Senate to amend the Student Suicide Prevention Act to include protections for college students.

Sponsored by: Adam Vinson '25, Amy Wang '26, Niles Hite '26, Zora DeRham '27, Nick Weising '24, Ocean Karim '25

Reviewed by: Student Health Advisory Committee, 11/28/2023, 10-0-0

Type of Action: Sent to the body

Originally Presented: 11/30/2023

Current Status: *New Business*

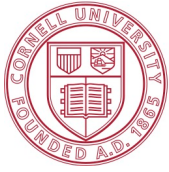
Whereas, New York State (NYS) has failed to enact any law requiring colleges and universities to develop comprehensive suicide prevention plans for their students.

Whereas, a state-level bill titled the Student Suicide Prevention Act (SSPA), known as Assembly Bill A4788¹ and Senate Bill S1537², has been proposed in the NYS Legislature to mandate the implementation of these resources for students in public 7-12 schools, but fails to address the similar needs of students attending nonpublic schools or NYS colleges and universities.

Whereas, a coalition of collegiate student governments across the state, organized by SUNY Stony Brook student Vignesh Subramanian and the Stony Brook Undergraduate Student Government (USG), is calling for the SSPA to be expanded in scope to include higher education institutions. Over twenty student governments have approved sister resolutions expressing support for this initiative and urging

¹ <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2023/A4788>

² <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2023/S1537>



Cornell University
Student Assembly

their respective state lawmakers to take action. Cornell's Student Assembly has been invited to join said coalition.

Whereas, the topic of student suicide prevention is especially relevant to Cornell University, which has been recognized as a particularly high-stress academic environment for many students and as a school with an extended and painful history of student suicides.

Be it therefore resolved, that the Cornell Student Assembly stands in solidarity with dozens of student governments across the state in support of the coalition's proposed amendments to the SSPA.

Be it further resolved, that in acknowledgment of the fact that the vast majority of partnering student governments are located downstate, this Assembly urges the student leaders of other universities in Western New York to join us in support of the amendment and passage of the SSPA, in both an effort to promote the legislation and to increase the student body's ties to neighboring universities.

Be it further resolved, that this Assembly calls upon NYS lawmakers representing this campus and its students to work collaboratively with their colleagues to expedite the revision and passage of the SSPA, before the current legislative session ends in June 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Vinson '25

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Representative, Student Assembly

Amy Wang '26

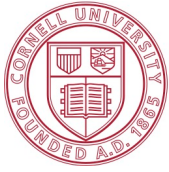
College of Engineering Representative, Student Assembly

Niles Hite '26

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Representative, Student Assembly

Zora DeRham '27

Freshmen Representative, Student Assembly



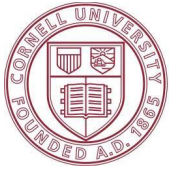
Cornell University
Student Assembly

Nick Weising '24

President, Cornell Democrats

Ocean Karim '25

Communications Director, Cornell Democrats



Resolution 43: Authorizing the Transfer of Reserve Funds to Black Students United (BSU)

Abstract: This resolution authorizes the transfer of \$24,378 from the Student Assembly’s reserve funds to Black Students United (BSU) to fund their annual trip to Washington, DC.

Sponsored by: Aissatou Barry ‘24, George [Rocco DeLorenzo](#)’24, Gracelynn Osei-Bosompem ‘25, Naana Owusu ‘25

Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 11/29/2023

Type of Action: Resolution

Originally Presented: 11/30/2023

Current Status: Drafted

Whereas, the Student Assembly has an obligation to allocate funds in the best interest of the Cornell University student body.

Whereas, the Student Activity Funding Commission (SAFC) maintains significant rollover funds in its reserve account;

Whereas, Black Students United is planning a bus trip to the Washington D.C. area on February 23rd, 2024 to February 26th, 2024 for 38 members;

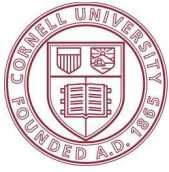
Whereas, Black Students United tried to plan this bus trip event last year, but ran into logistical issues with Cornell University because of the various Policies or Procedures restricting travel;

Whereas, Black Students United has planned this trip to adhere to the various travel Policies or Procedures and Campus Activities Universal Funding Guidelines¹ in order to ensure this event can occur in the Spring 2024 semester;

Whereas, the Student Activity Funding Commission, as established in Section 2, Appendix A of the Charter of the Student Assembly, is the “designated finance commission of the Student Assembly”;

Whereas, the amount of money being requested by Black Students United is significantly less than the total sum of money SAFC has agreed to allow the Student Assembly access to in the 2023-2024 AY;

¹ [Campus Activities Universal Funding Guidelines](#)



Cornell University Student Assembly

28 **Be it therefore resolved**, the Student Assembly mandates that the \$ \$24,378 transferred from the
29 reserve account to be earmarked for usage towards the transportation and lodging for Black
30 Students United's trip to Washington, DC.

31 **Be it therefore resolved**, Black Students United has an obligation to adhere to all Cornell
32 University Policies and Procedures related to travel guidelines, including registering their travel
33 with Campus Groups and include a Student Organization Travel Addendum and connecting with
34 the Office of Risk Management and Insurance for proper travel waivers;

35 **Be it further resolved**, should this planned bus trip be canceled or otherwise not occur, or total
36 expenses be less than the expenses elements outlined in their proposed budget, Black Students
37 United will be required to give back to the Student Assembly all the unspent allocated monies
38 proposed for this trip.

39

40 **Respectfully Submitted,**

41 Aissatou Barry '24

42 *VP of DEI, Student Assembly*

43 George [Rocco DeLorenzo](#) '24

44 *VP of Finance, Student Assembly*

45 Gracelynn Osei-Bosompem '25

46 *President, Black Students United*

47 Naana Owusu '25

48 *Event Coordinator, Black Students United*