

Cornell University Student Assembly

Student Assembly Meeting

AGENDA

November 9, 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. Office of Ethics
4. Open Microphone
5. Approval of the Minutes
6. Consent Calendar
7. Presentations
8. Reports
 1. Vice President of Finance Byline Report
 1. Orientation
 2. Multicultural Greek & Fraternal Council (MGFC)
 3. HAVEN: The LGBT Student Union
 4. Gender Justice Advocacy Coalition (GJAC)
9. Old Business Calendar
 1. Resolution 37: Tatkon Center and CUPB Stipulations
 2. [Resolution 34 – OSGR Deputy Director](#)
 3. Resolution 35 – Assembly Governance
 4. [Resolution 36 – Ensuring Equity and Fairness in 2023-2024 Voting Seat Appointments](#)
10. Resolutions Calendar

11. Appointments and Vacancies Calendar

1. Student Health Advisory Committee

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 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

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:

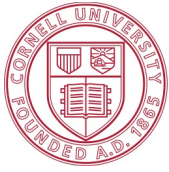
1. Oversee the recruitment of additional members of the office.
2. Perform other activities as determined by the Director.

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

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;

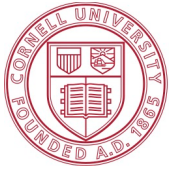
Whereas, Section 8 of the Student Assembly Charter allows for vacancies, following the declaration of a special election, to be “filled by the Assembly... by a roll-call... two-thirds affirmative vote of the seated membership of the Assembly”;

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



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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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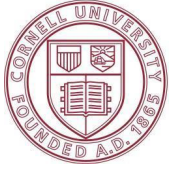
49 Aissatou Barry '24

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

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52 Claire Ting '25

53 *Executive Vice President, Student Assembly*



Resolution 37: Making Election Day a Holiday

Abstract: This resolution aims to increase civic engagement in the Cornell population by proposing Election Day to be made a holiday.

Sponsored by: Suraj Parikh, '24, Niles Hite '26, Nicholas Weising '24

Reviewed by: Academic Policy Committee, DD/MM/YYYY

Type of Action: Legislation

Originally Presented: 11/02/2023

Current Status:

Whereas, most Cornell students reside in the City of Ithaca, which has local elections in odd-numbered years and federal and state elections in even-numbered years;

Whereas, Cornell undergraduates comprise a substantial portion of eligible voters in Ithaca's Fourth and Fifth Wards;

Whereas, Cornell is currently in a competitive Congressional district where student votes have the ability to shift election outcomes;

Whereas, the entirety of Cornell University's campus and Collegetown is serviced by only a single polling station on West Campus;

Whereas, New York State does not have universal voting-by-mail;

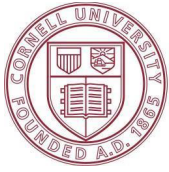
Whereas, having a single polling station in an inconvenient location for the majority of students makes voting a time-consuming process for students;

Whereas, students have difficulty voting because class schedules prevents them from finding the time to do so;

Whereas, the right to vote is the bedrock of free expression in a democracy, and Cornell University ought to be supporting that right in light of the Freedom of Expression Theme Year;

Whereas, canceling classes on Election Day would make it substantially easier for students to perform their civic duty of voting;

Whereas, Article III, Section 5a of the Student Assembly's Charter states: "The Provost will consult with the SA in the formulation of the University Calendar. The SA may review and ask for reconsideration of the calendar before it becomes final. In addition, the SA may propose changes in the calendar to the Provost."



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30 **Whereas**, the SA was not consulted in the formulation of the 2024-25 University Calendar, and
31 the SA, speaking on behalf of Cornell undergraduates, strongly believes that Election Day ought
32 to be a holiday;

33 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Student Assembly proposes to Provost Michael Kotlikoff that,
34 beginning with the 2024-25 Academic Year, Election Day will be designated a holiday on which
35 classes are not held;

36 **Be it further resolved**, that Election Day is defined as the first Tuesday of November, except
37 when that falls on November 1st, in which case it is the second Tuesday of November, and that
38 Election Day occurs every year.

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40 **Respectfully Submitted,**

41 Suraj Parikh '24

42 *Vice-President of External Affairs, Student Assembly*

43 *Minority Students at Large Liaison, Student Assembly*

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45 Niles Hite '26

46 *CALS Representative, Student Assembly*

47 *Director of Philanthropy, Cornell Democrats*

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49 Nicholas Weising '24

50 *President, Cornell Democrats*