

### **Student Assembly Meeting**

# AGENDA September 14, 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. Open Microphone
- 4. Approval of the Minutes
- 5. Consent Calendar
- 6. Announcements
- 7. Reports
  - 1. Executive Board
  - 2. Committee Chairs
  - 3. Offices
  - 4. Liaisons
- 8. Presentations
  - 1. Presentation on SAF Applications
- 9. Old Business Calendar
  - 1. Resolution 17: Creating a Student Assembly Advisory Board
  - 2. Resolution 18: Rollover Funds
- 10. Resolutions Calendar
  - 1. Resolution 19: Election Rules
  - 2. Resolution 20: Charter Article IV Amendment
  - 3. Resolution 21: Solidarity with Cornell Graduate Students United

- 4. Resolution 22: Amending the Community Sponsorship Standing
  Rules
- 11. Appointments and Vacancies Calendar
  - 1. Appropriations Committee
  - 2. Dining 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 17: Student Assembly Advisory Board**

Abstract:

Sponsored by: Patrick Kuehl '24

**Reviewed by:** Executive Committee, DD/MM/YYYY

*Type of Action:* Internal Policy

Originally Presented: 08/07/2023

Current Status: Referred to Committee

Whereas, The Article IV section 4 of the Charter of the Student Assembly states:

The University President will appoint one member of the administration to serve as consultant to the SA at its meetings.

Whereas, the Student Assembly does not have an advisor appointed from the President's administration.

**Whereas,** the Student Assembly needs institutional advising for its Executive Board and voting membership.

**Be it therefore resolved,** the Assembly, with the consent of the University President, hereby adopts the attached document as the true and correct copy of the Charter of the Student Assembly.

#### Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick Kuehl '24

President, Student Assembly



#### Student Assembly Charter

#### **Article III, Section 4: Advisory Board**

- A. There shall be a committee to advise the Student Assembly known as the "Student Assembly Advisory Board.
- B. The members of the Advisory Board shall be appointed and removed by a majority vote of the Assembly, except where otherwise provided in this section.
- C. The following shall be members of the Advisory Board six alumni of Cornell University who have served as either a member of the Student Assembly or Student-Elected Trustee; the Speaker of the Faculty Senate; the Vice President for Student & Campus Life; the Dean of Students; and two current members of the Student Assembly.
- D. The term of members of the Advisory Committee shall expire upon the resignation or removal of the member, or, in the case of the members representing the Student Assembly, upon the expiration of their membership on the Assembly.

#### Student Assembly Bylaws

#### Section 3: Organizational Liaisons

- A. The SA shall grant one member chosen from each constituency of the Greek Tri-Councils. This will grant an ex-officio position to one member of the Multicultural Greek and Fraternal Council, Panhellenic Association, and InterFraternity Council.
- B. The SA will grant one executive member from Residential Student Congress an ex-officio position as an organizational liaison.
- C. The SA will grant one member from Cornell Undergraduate Veteran Association an ex-officio position as an organizational liaison. This liaison must represent the interests of the United States and its allies.
- D. The SA will grant one liaison, an undergraduate with an interest in computing and technology an ex-officio position titled IT Governance Liaison.
- E. The SA will grant one member from the Student Assembly Advisory Board an ex-officio position as an organizational liaison.



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# Resolution 18: To Create a Process for the Reallocation of Rollover Funds

	<b>bstract:</b> This resolution amends the Charter of the Student assembly to create a process for the callocation of the rollover funds of byline organizations.
Sį	ponsored by: Patrick Kuehl '24
R	eviewed by: Internal Operations, 08/30/2023, 2-0-0
T.	Type of Action: Legislation
0	Priginally Presented: 08/31/2023
C	Furrent Status: Introduced
W	Whereas, the Student Assembly is charged in Article II of the Charter with "the responsibility to examine any matters which involve the interests or concern the welfare of the studen community";
W	Whereas, the Charter of the Student Assembly provides, "the Student Assembly through the delegated authority of the President and the Board of Trustees, is charged with the allocation of the Student Activity Fee";
W	Whereas, the Assembly as the elected representative body of undergraduate students maintains a fiduciary responsibility to appropriate funds in best interest of the undergraduate studen body, and to ensure its appropriations reflect the interests and needs of the undergraduate student body;
W	Whereas, the excessive accumulation of unobligated funds in the reserve accounts of byline organizations raised through the Student Activity Fee represents an ineffective allocation of funds, and a financial disservice to undergraduate students;
W	Whereas, it is sense of the Assembly that a reappropriation of funds by means of levying a fine of fee against Student Activity Fee funded organizations represents an oblique method for reappropriating reserve funds, and prefers a transparent process for the reallocation of unobligated funds;
N	<b>Tow, be it therefore resolved,</b> that the following text be inserted as Section 13, Appendix A of the Charter of the Student Assembly —
	Section 13: Rollover Funds
	A. It shall be the prerogative of the Student Assembly, as a matter of internal policy, to transfer or reappropriate funds held in a Student Activity Fee funded organization or committee's reserve account, provided that the amount transferred or reappropriated does not reduce the



34		balance in any such reserve account below 30% of the relevant organization or committee's
35		annual Student Activity Fee appropriation.
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37	В.	Twenty-one days prior to the proposed transfer or reallocation pursuant to Paragraph A of
88		this Section, the Assembly shall notify the treasurer and advisor of the relevant organization
9		or committee in writing of the proposed transfer or reallocation specifying the amount of the
10		transfer or reallocation; if the organization or committee should object, it shall then notify the
1		Assembly no later than seven days following issuance of the notify, at which point the President
12		of the Assembly shall schedule a time a time for the Assembly to hear and decide an appeal
13		from the organization or committee.
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15		ner resolved, that immediately upon approval by the University President, this resolution
16	shall enter	into force.
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18	Respectfu	ally Submitted,
19	Patrick Ku	uehl '24
0	President,	Student Assembly



Originally Presented on:	(9/14/2023)
Type of Action:	Resolution
Status/Result:	New Business

1	S.A. Resolution #19
2	Amendments to Election Rules for Fall 2023
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5	ABSTRACT: This resolution updates the Student Assembly Election Rules for the Fall 2023
6	Elections.
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8	Sponsored by: Rahul Verma '24, Director of Elections
9	D : 11 El : C :: 00/40/2022
10 11	Reviewed by: Elections Committee, 09/10/2023
12	Type of Action: New Business
13	Type of fieldon. I vew Business
14	Originally Presented: 09/14/2023
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16	Whereas, the Student Assembly Bylaws (§IV, 3, F, line 167) task the Elections Committee with
17	coordinating and implementing the regular and special elections of the Student Assembly,
18	and
19 20	Whereas to appropriately according to and implement the Student Assembly Elections the Election
21	Whereas, to appropriately coordinate and implement the Student Assembly Elections, the Election Rules must be regularly updated, and
22	Rules must be regularly updated, and
23	Be it therefore resolved, the Student Assembly approves the Fall 2023 Student Assembly Election
24	Rules attached as Appendix A to this resolution.
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27	Respectfully Submitted,
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29 30	Rahul Verma '24 Director of Elections, Student Assembly
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# Appendix A: Student Assembly Election Rules

Adopted on Thursday, December 3, 2009. Amended on Friday, December 3, 2010, Friday, December 2, 2011, Thursday, November 29, 2012, Friday, December 6, 2013, Thursday, May 1, 2014, Thursday, November 20, 2014, Thursday, March 26, 2015, Thursday, December 3, 2015, Thursday, May 5, 2016, Thursday, December 1, 2016, Tuesday, August 29, 2017, Friday, December 1, 2017, Monday, May 7, 2018, Thursday, November 29, 2018, Wednesday, September 2, 2020, Thursday, March 11, 2021, Thursday, March 3, 2022, Tuesday March 14, 2023, September 14, 202

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80	<ol><li>Confidentiality</li></ol>



#### **Article I: Election Guidelines**

- 83 Elections are the foundation upon which representative governance rests. These rules are
- 84 designed to protect the rights of all candidates, as well as all members of the University
- community, and to ensure that the election process takes place in an open and fair arena.
- 86 Candidates must respect the rights and privileges of all members of the Cornell community, and
- 87 follow all election guidelines outlined in this document. Election rules are subject to the approval
- 88 of voting members of the Student Assembly each semester.

#### A. Voter Eligibility

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- To vote in an election for a seat in the Student Assembly (SA) or for the directly elected seats on
- 91 the University Assembly (UA), a person must:
- 92 1. Be a full-time, matriculated undergraduate student enrolled in a degree-granting unit of the Ithaca campus of the University; and,
  - 2. Be a member of the constituency for which the seat is designated, if it is designated for one of the following:
    - a. Specific to college of enrollment
- b. Freshman
  - c. Transfer

#### 99 **B. Definitions**

- 100 The following words throughout the Election Rules are defined as such:
- 101 1. Candidate: is any person who has successfully completed the outlined steps to become a candidate, as described in these Election Rules.
  - 2. Classroom: is any space in which a professor, teaching assistant, or any other instructor holds prescribed class time. "Classroom" includes in-person, hybrid, and online courses.
  - 3. Cyber Bullying: is the act of bullying in any online space. These election rules follow the same definition of bullying as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct and applicable university policies or governmental laws.
  - 4. Individual or self-promoting publicity: is any outreach events, office hours, postings, or public facing events, whether in-person or virtual, in which interaction with, or promotion of, the candidate is a substantial reason for the act.
- 5. Petitioner: is any person seeking signatures to become a candidate.



6.	Social Media: is any online service that allows users to share, create, or post content for
	social-networking purposes. Social media services include, but are not limited to:
	Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, LinkedIn, X (Formerly known as Twitter), Facebook,
	Tumblr, Reddit, MySpace, Pinterest, YouTube, GroupMe, Sidechat, and CampusGroups
	a. Email, GroupMe, WhatsApp, Signal, and text messaging are not social media.

#### C. Candidate Information

#### 1. Eligibility and Requirements

- To be a candidate, a person must, <u>prior to the petitioning deadline</u> specified in the election calendar:
  - 1. Be eligible to vote in the election for the seat and plan to remain seated so for the full term for which they are seeking election.
    - a. Candidates should not plan to pursue study abroad programs or internships that would require them to leave the Ithaca campus for any semester during their tenure.
  - 2. Submit a completed candidate registration form and any associated materials required in that form. You may not register for more than one position on the candidate registration form.
  - 3. Submit petitions endorsed by the required number of people who are eligible to vote in the election for that specific position, which is the lesser of 10% of those eligible to vote for that specific position or:
    - a. 250 for President and Executive Vice President
    - b. 50 for Womxn's Issues Representative At-Large, Minority Liaison At-Large, First Generation Student Representative At-Large, and International Students Liaison At-Large, LGBTQIA+ Students Liaison At-Large, Students With Disabilities Representative
    - c. 100 for all other at-large seats
    - d. For all college-specific seats, petitioners must gather 25 seats per representative on the Student Assembly (i.e. 25 for 3 Arts and Sciences seats means 75 petitions)
    - e. 25 for Freshman and Transfer seats
    - f. 75 for all other seats
  - 4. Not already hold a directly-elected voting position on the SA and/or UA for the term for which they are seeking election.
  - 5. Have never held or currently hold the role of Chair of the Office of Ethics.



- 147 6. Have not resigned for a reason other than a Health Leave of Absence or been 148 removed from the SA or from a directly elected UA seat during the Student Assembly 149 term prior to the academic year of the term for the seat being elected.
- To be a candidate, a person must, <u>prior to the commencement of voting</u> as specified in the elections calendar:
  - 1. Apply online to serve on at least one committee of the SA
  - 2. Contact the Director of Elections and the chair of the respective committee with a copy of their application
- The Office of the Assemblies, assisted by the Elections Committee, will review submitted materials for compliance with petitioning requirements as follows:
  - 1. A sampling method may be used as long as at least 10% of required signatures are validated for all petitions and all required signatures are attempted to be validated for any petition found to be ineligible.
  - 2. All petitions will be available for viewing only to members of the Cornell community and may be examined in the Office of the Assemblies, 109 Day Hall after the announcement of candidates. Petitions may not be photocopied once submitted.
  - 3. The Office of the Assemblies will notify the Director of Elections, who will then notify any necessary candidates who failed to meet petitioning requirements prior to the announcement of candidates.
  - 4. Candidates who are listed on the ballot but found to have not fulfilled eligibility requirements prior to tabulation of results will be disqualified with vote counts untallied and discarded.

#### 2. Petitioning

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- 170 In order to demonstrate that they will be a respectable representative of the student body at large,
- and/or of the community they vie to represent, candidates are required to collect a certain number
- of petition signatures. The required number of petition signers is designated above. In
- accordance with university policies in place at the time, and at the direction of the Elections
- 174 Committee, petition forms will available as paper forms (available in the Office of Assemblies,
- 175 109 Day Hall). Candidates are expected to maintain the highest standards of integrity when
- 176 collecting petition signatures. In addition to the Early Campaigning rules detailed in Article 1,
- 177 Section C(1) of these elections rules, the following restrictions are in place to ensure fairness
- during the petitioning period. Candidates may not:
- 1. Announce their candidacy on social media platforms under any circumstances



- 2. Announce their candidacy in front of a classroom, during class hours, or in interference of the learning environment in order to collect signatures
- Supporters of potential candidates may collect petition signatures in accordance with the above
- 183 rules. The names and netID of both the potential candidate and the individual who collected the
- 184 signatures must be noted on the petition form. Petitioners must collect signatures without the aid
- of supporters. Additional attestation of college affiliation may also be requested from supporters.

#### 186 3. Written Statements

- 1. Each candidate is asked to submit a short statement, which may be <u>no more than</u> 1,250 characters, including spaces (NOT word count) via the online Candidate Profile portal. Submissions must be plain text.
  - 2. Statements will be displayed in informational materials published by the Elections Committee.
- 3. Statements may not include names of any political coalitions.
- 4. If a candidate's statement does not conform to these guidelines, the statement will not be posted.

#### **4. Pictures**

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- 196 Photos will be displayed in informational materials published by the Elections Committee.
- 197 Candidates may submit a photograph of themselves that conforms to the specifications noted in
- the online candidate registration form, or have their photo taken by a staff member in the Office
- 199 of the Assemblies.

#### 200 **5. Candidate Forum**

- All candidates are encouraged to participate in the Candidates' Forums held by the Elections
- 202 Committee during the campaign period. The Elections Committee will be responsible for
- 203 planning, coordinating, and marketing these forums. At the forum, candidates are encouraged to
- discuss their experience, platforms, and more. Candidates are also encouraged to use the forum
- as an opportunity specifically to discuss why they are more qualified for the contested position
- 206 than their opponent(s). The Director of Elections shall reach out to student organizations that
- receive funding from the Student Assembly, encouraging them to use the candidate forum as an
- 208 opportunity to consider candidates for endorsements.

#### D. Election Guidelines

#### 210 **1. Early Campaigning Prohibition**



- 211 Candidates and supporters acting on their behalf must not participate in the following campaign
- 212 activities until campaigning **officially begins**:
- 1. Distribution of online campaign materials to the public.
- 2. Making speeches or statements to student organizations.
- 215 3. Promoting their candidacy through email, social networking tools, or other digital media
- The Elections Committee may challenge or disqualify a candidate if a violation is found to
- 217 compromise the fairness of the election.

#### 218 **2. Restrictions for Current SA Members**

- 219 Current SA members seeking reelection:
- 220 1. Must refrain from any form of individual or self-promoting publicity during the petitioning period.
- 22. Must not host constituency outreach events, including those that are meant to fulfill an outreach requirement from the deadline for election materials through the last day of voting.

#### 3. Compliance with University Policies and Student Code of Conduct

- Candidates and supporters acting on their behalf must be aware of and comply with all applicable policies and provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, including but not limited to:
- 1. Use of Cornell Name, Logo & Artwork policy
- 229 2. Event Registration policies

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- 3. Facilities reservation policies, including Willard Straight Hall area reservation policies
- 4. University Postering & Chalking policies
  - 5. Residential & New Students Programs' policy for postering in residence halls
    - 6. Dining hall policies, including a prohibition of distributing printed campaign materials in dining halls without permission from authorized staff, and as designated in the Student Code of Conduct.
      - a. Please note that it is against the University Postering and Chalking Policy to chalk on any vertical surface, regardless of the location.
    - 7. Intimidation tactics (including physical and verbal) and cyber-bullying online (on any platform) is strictly prohibited.
      - a. Any forms of online cyber-bullying or intimidation tactics should be reported to the Director of Elections as soon as possible.



- A violation of any University policy is a violation of these rules and therefore grounds for a
- challenge if it compromises the fairness of the election. It is the candidate's responsibility to read
- the referenced documents and be familiar with the rules and regulations established within them.
- 245 The Director of Elections may also refer any reported violations to the Office of Student Conduct
- and Community Standards (OSCCS) or any other appropriate office, which may impose
- 247 disciplinary remedies and penalties according to its own rules and procedures.

#### 248 **4. Campus Mail**

- 249 Candidates and their supporters acting on their behalf may not use Campus Mail for campaigning
- purposes.

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#### 251 5. Electronic Communications and Social Media

- 252 Candidates and supporters acting on their behalf:
- Cannot receive campaign support through a Cornell Administered list-serv. E.g. The
   Cornell Athletics Department
- 255 2. Must comply with Cornell University IT policies

#### 256 **6. Campaign Finance**

- 257 Candidates or supporters acting on their behalf must submit all receipts and/or proof of fair
- 258 market value with the signed expense report to the Office of the Assemblies by the deadline
- specified in the election calendar. Candidates who do not submit receipts and/or proof of fair
- 260 market value will be presumed to have spent \$0 on their campaign.
  - 1. Candidates and supporters acting on their behalf may not exceed the \$40 limit for out-of-pocket expenses and fair market value of donations of materials, professional services, and/or money
    - a. Fair market value is the value at which something is to be obtained normally if documentation of its dollar value is not provided.
    - b. If there is a supporting receipt for goods used in a candidate's campaign, then the value of that good is the dollar value on the supporting receipt as long as the transaction was conducted at arm's length.
    - c. For donated materials, professional services, or other goods for which no official receipt is provided, candidates must seek the most plausible assessment of the fair market value of the good. Professional services will be defined as any work for which the given individual/donor is typically compensated. Volunteer time donated by full-time students, who are not professionals (have received payment

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- for service) in the area of their volunteer effort, will not be considered professional services.

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d. Paid advertisements and related costs on social networking sites or other websites must also be accounted for at fair market value.

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2. Candidates will be eligible for up to \$40 in reimbursements to cover out-of-pocket expenses from the campaigning period that can be used towards the following expenses: website expenses (web hosting, domain names, and online advertising) or any other promotional materials approved by the Director of Elections that are not a violation of these election rules.

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a. Candidates shall provide an estimate of costs prior to the campaigning period for review of the Office of Elections including expected expenses and quantities. The Office of Elections will notify a candidate if their estimate contains significant changes from manufacturer's expected retails price (MSRP).

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3. Candidates may use any platforms at their disposable, granted they are free. If these platforms require purchasing, candidates are required to report this in their expense report form.

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#### 7. Endorsements

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All registered student organizations receiving funds from the Student Assembly are encouraged to endorse candidates. If an organization chooses to endorse a candidate, it is expected to abide by the guidelines below.

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1. Student Activities Funding Commission (SAFC) funded and Student Activity Fee (SAF) byline funded organizations may endorse candidates. All groups must act in a way that is fair and balanced when deciding on the endorsement of candidates.

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2. The Elections Committee may recommend that the SA impose fines on or revoke allocated funds from organizations failing to comply.

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3. If a member of the Elections Committee sits on the Executive Board or governing body of an organization, that organization is prohibited from endorsing candidates.

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All registered students, except candidates, are encouraged to individually endorse candidates once the campaign period officially begins.

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#### 8. Campaign Ethics

Candidates and supporters acting on their behalf:



- 306 1. May not, at any time before, during or after the elections, harass, threaten, or coerce others.
  - 2. May not provide anything of material value to a member of the Cornell community to further themselves in the election or to promote their candidacy.
  - 3. May not compel any person to endorse their candidacy, assist their campaign, or act as supporter as an explicit or implicit condition for initiation to, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership in a group or organization.

#### E. Restrictions on Ticketing and Slates

#### 1. General Rules

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- 315 Candidates and supporters acting on their behalf may not:
  - 1. Include any other candidate's name, a common "ticket" name, or a shared slogan and/or symbol on any promotional materials or within any form of electronic communication and/or media.
  - 2. Share or pool campaign finances with any other candidates or supporters acting on their behalf.
  - 3. Distribute any promotional materials, send any electronic communication, or utilize any other form of electronic media on behalf of any other candidate except if the candidate does so for another candidate in the President and/or Executive Vice President races.
  - 4. Campaign with or on behalf of each other or engage in any coordination of campaigning activities except if the candidate does so for another candidate in the President or Executive Vice President races.

#### 2. Special circumstance for the President and Executive Vice President elections

- 328 Candidates in any race, besides those running for the position of President or Executive Vice
- President, will be given the freedom to distribute promotional material, send electronic
- communications, campaign on behalf of, and speak for candidates in the President or Executive
- Vice President races. Candidates who choose to do so are considered supporters and are held
- accountable to all clauses in these rules that pertain to candidates and their supporters. The
- President and Executive Vice President candidates are strictly prohibited from coordinating
- activities. Candidates are strictly prohibited from performing the actions above for candidates not
- in the President or Executive Vice President races.

#### 3. Plagiarism

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- Candidates may not disseminate written statements, promotional materials, or electronic communications that are plagiarized or substantially copied from any such items created or distributed by any current or former candidate. Materials distributed by the Director of Elections,
- 340 Elections Committee, and the Office of the Assemblies may be used as templates.

## **Article II:** Direct Election of President and Executive Vice President

#### A. President and Executive Vice President (EVP) Designation and eligibility

- 1. Two of the six Undesignated At-Large Representative seats are for the directly elected seats of President and Executive Vice-President.
- 2. Candidates running for President and Executive Vice President who do not win their race will automatically be entered into two races for two Undesignated At Large seats, separate from the Undesignated At Large race. The candidates in each race, one for Presidential candidates and a separate one for Executive Vice Presidential candidates, will run for one available seat per race. In the event that there are no other candidates for a particular race, regardless of reason as to why, the seat shall go to the next highest voted candidate in the original Undesignated At Large race. No voting shall occur for these two races and the votes shall be tallied from the original counts for President and Executive Vice President.

#### **Article III: Election Procedures**

#### A. The Election Calendar

- 1. The Director of Elections, in consultation with the Office of the Assemblies, will draft the election calendar prior to the semester of the election, and will be approved by the Elections Committee at a meeting in the prior semester if possible<sup>1</sup>.
- 2. Consideration shall be given to any religious holidays that may fall during the election period, guaranteeing that the right to free religious observance is afforded to all potential candidates.

#### **B.** The Elections Committee

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Director of Elections should coordinate the schedule of the Student Assembly elections with other campus elections, such as those of the Student-Elected Trustee and Class Councils.



- 1. The Director of Elections shall serve as chair and a designated representative of the Office of the Assemblies shall serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of this Committee.
  - 2. The Director of Elections shall publish a list of Assembly seats to be filled, in accordance with Student Assembly Charter.
  - 3. During a Challenge Review Meeting, the interpretation of the Elections Rules will lie with the sitting Elections Committee in conjunction with the Student Assembly Office of Ethics.
  - 4. Elections Committee members are expected to abide by the highest standards of personal conduct and integrity. Students are mandated to excuse themselves from serving on the Elections Committee if they plan to take part in a campaign. Therefore, members should not be involved in the campaigning process. All conflicts should be considered and resolved before the election cycle begins. Elections Committee members may not sit on the Executive Board of an organization that endorses candidates in an SA election. If an Elections Committee member sits on the Executive Board of an organization or sat on that Executive Board at any time during the same semester of a particular SA election, that organization may not endorse candidates in that SA election, or that Elections Committee member must resign from the Elections Committee.
  - 5. The Elections Committee should be prepared to meet immediately following the challenge deadline to rule on all pertinent challenges. The Elections Committee shall use Robert's Rules of Order to consider challenges, in addition to the election rules. In the event of conflict, these election rules supersede Robert's Rules of Order. The Elections Committee has no power to overrule the election rules under any circumstances.
  - 6. The Director of Elections shall give a final report on the results of the election when there are no remaining unresolved matters.

#### C. Independence of the Elections Committee

- 1. While members of the Elections Committee are expected to abide by the highest standards of integrity, they also enjoy independence from undue interference. Hence, students may not falsely accuse, harass, threaten or coerce any member of the Elections Committee for actions taken in their official capacity.
- 2. Subject to the determination of the Elections Committee, any violation of this section can result in temporary or permanent disqualification from contesting elections to the SA or UA.
- 3. Members of the Elections Committee cannot personally endorse any candidates. However, members of the Committee may still privately vote in the elections themselves.

#### D. Voting and Tabulation



- 1. The order in which names appear on the ballot shall be randomly selected.
  - 2. Uncontested candidates will not be listed for a vote on the ballot and will be deemed victorious pending the resolution of challenges.
    - 3. Results for challenged races will be posted after the Elections Committee has ruled on those challenges and all challenges have been fully resolved.
    - 4. The Elections Committee will not have access to the results prior to and during challenge deliberations. The Office of Assemblies will release election results after the Director of Elections or the Elections Committee has validated the election results.
    - 5. A printout of election results for qualifying candidates shall be posted on line on the relevant webpages of the election. Disqualified candidates will not have their vote tallies made available.

#### 411 E. Challenges

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#### 412 **1. Eligibility to Challenge**

- 1. Any member of the Cornell community may submit a challenge.
- 2. The Director of Elections may submit a challenge.
- 3. The Elections Committee as a body may submit a challenge by majority vote.
- 4. Individual Committee members, except the Director of Elections, may not submit a challenge.

#### 418 **2. Challenge Deadlines**

- 1. Election challenges must be submitted by the election challenge deadline specified in the elections calendar.
  - 2. The Director of Elections or the Elections Committee by a majority vote can submit a challenge at any time before the declaration of results.
- 3. No challenges will be accepted after these deadlines.
- 4. Once submitted, a challenge becomes part of the formal record, and may not be withdrawn for any reason or by any person.

#### 426 **3. Format of Challenges**

- Challenges must be in writing, submitted on the signed Challenge Form, and accompanied by the following supporting documentation:
- 429 1. Challenger's name
  - 2. Candidate's name
- 431 3. Date of challenge



- 4. Reason for challenge and supporting evidence
- Challenges that fail to provide all required documentation will not be reviewed by the Elections
- 434 Committee.

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- 4. Notification of Election Challenges
- The Office of the Assemblies will notify the Director of Elections who will send an email
- and notifying anyone who is named in an election challenge. The email will contain a scanned copy
- 438 of the challenge.
- 439 **5. Response to Election Challenges**
- A challenged candidate may request to review challenges to which they are a party in the Office
- of the Assemblies, 109 Day Hall, who will share the challenges in a confidential setting. The
- challenged candidate may then address written statements in response to the Committee. The
- challenged candidate may request a hearing in person with the Committee.
- 444 **6. Challenge Review Meeting**
- The Committee, along with the Student Assembly Office of Ethics, will schedule a meeting to
- 446 review challenges in Executive Session. The Committee, less temporarily recused members, will
- provide an opportunity for the challenged candidate to respond in person if requested by the
- challenged candidate or a member of the Committee. The Director of Elections reserves the right
- 449 to recuse any member of the Committee in the event of a conflict of interest. Members may
- either recuse themselves prior to challenge hearings or at the discretion of the Director of
- 451 Elections. For each challenge, the Committee will determine:
  - 1. Whether each alleged violation can be substantiated, beyond a reasonable doubt. This vote will be taken for each violation individually, and a majority of the members present of the Elections Committee is required to declare that a preponderance of evidence substantiates each violation:
- 2. Which, if any, substantiated violations or combination thereof compromised the fairness 456 457 of the election and constituted a material advantage to the extent the challenged candidate 458 should be disqualified. If the Committee finds either that a single substantiated violation 459 or that a combination of substantiated violations should, beyond a reasonable doubt, 460 require the disqualification of a candidate, with at least two-thirds of the members present 461 of the Elections Committee in the affirmative, may disqualify the candidate. The 462 Elections Committee reserves the right to impose lesser sanctions on a candidate as it 463 sees fit.



#### 7. Written Report

- 1. For each rule violation, the Director of Elections or a member of the Elections Committee as delegated by the Director will create a written report thoroughly detailing the challenge(s), listing the tallies of all votes taken by the Committee including the bifurcated voting process, the decision made, and how the decision was reached.
- 2. The report is kept confidential and only released to the challenged candidate and the challenger(s).
- 3. A copy, with all names other than the challenged candidate redacted, is kept in the Office of the Assemblies, 109 Day Hall.
- 4. For each challenge, the Committee will report to the challenger(s) and the challenged candidate all evidence received/found, any violations substantiated, and any decisions to disqualify the challenged candidate.

#### 8. Reconsideration

- 1. If the Committee and members of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics determines a candidate should be disqualified, the candidate may request reconsideration within twenty-four hours of receiving the written report. To be reconsidered, the candidate seeking such reconsideration must submit a request in writing to the Office of the Assemblies, via email to assembly@cornell.edu, and the Director of the Office of Ethics within twenty-four hours of receiving the disqualification email from the Director of Elections. The statement should address the specific findings in the written report to be reconsidered and should detail the specific points where the Elections Committee failed to correctly enforce the challenge procedure outlined in the Elections Rules Failure to submit all necessary documentation within twenty-four hours will restrict the seeking for reconsideration and the Office of Ethics's decision will be final.
- 2. The Committee, in conjunction with the Office of Ethics, will convene in response to such a request. The Committee Office of Ethics, after evaluating each request for reconsideration, will take a vote requiring a simple majority to determine if the previous decision to disqualify should be overturned. Email voting may be used by Committee members of the Office of Ethics.

#### 9. Confidentiality

1. Members of the Elections Committee and parties to a challenge may not share the contents of challenges, evidence, or decisions submitted to or received from the Committee, except when explicitly permitted by these rules or by the Director of



Elections. When publicly releasing confidential information, the Director of Elections must redact the names of all individuals who are not the challenged candidate.

2. A review of the Challenges may take place in coordination with the Office of the



### **Resolution 20: Amendments to**

### **Article IV of the Charter**

_	The tiere IV of the Charter
3	<b>Abstract:</b> This resolutions amends Article IV of the Charter to revise and modernize language on aspects of the membership of the Assembly.
5	Sponsored by: Clyde Lederman '26, Nicholas Maggard '26, Agnes Coleman '26
6	Reviewed by: Internal Operations, 09/08/2023, 3-0-0
7	Type of Action: Internal Policy
8	Originally Presented: 09/14/2023
9	Current Status: Adopted by the Assembly, 09/21/2023, 16-1-0
10 11 12	Whereas, Article IV of the Charter of the Student Assembly defines the compositon, qualifications of voting members, method of election, vacancy-filling procedure, and procedure for recalling voting members of the Assembly;
13 14 15	Whereas, the ambiguity following a vacancy in the Office of the President of the Student Assembly highlighted the need for revisions to imprecise language and poorly defined procedures in Article IV of the Charter;
16 17	Whereas, the Assembly seeks to update its governing documents to reflect current practices and ensure clarity of the documents' provisions;
18 19 20	<b>Be it therefore resolved,</b> that Article IV of the Charter of the Student Assembly be struck in its entirety, and the text contained in Appendix A to this resolution be inserted as Article IV of the Charter of the Student Assembly.

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- Respectfully Submitted,
- 23 Clyde Lederman '26
- 24 Interim Undesignated Representative, Student Assembly

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- 26 Nicholas Maggard '26
- 27 Parliamentarian, Student Assembly

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29	Agnes Coleman 26
30	Deputy Parliamentarian, Student Assembly
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57 58 **ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP** 59 **Section 1: Composition** 60 61 A. The Assembly shall consist of 37 voting members. 62 63 B. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected at-large by and from the University 64 undergraduate student population as President of the Student Assembly. 65 66 C. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected at-large by and from the University 67 undergraduate student population as Executive Vice President of the Student Assembly. 68 69 D. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected as a Representative At-Large by virtue of 70 attaining the second greatest number of votes in the most recent election for President of the Student 71 Assembly; this office shall be distinct from that of a directly elected Representative At-Large. 72 73 E. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected as a Representative At-Large by virtue of 74 attaining the second greatest number of votes in the most recent election for Executive Vice 75 President of the Student Assembly; this office shall be distinct from that of a directly elected 76 Representative At-Large. 77 78 F. Six voting members of the Assembly shall each be directly elected as a Representative At-Large by and from the University undergraduate student population as a whole. 79 80 81 G. Two voting members of the Assembly shall each be elected as a Minority Students Representative 82 by and from the University undergraduate student population as a whole to represent minority 83 students. 84 85 H. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected as the Women's Issues Representative by and 86 from the University undergraduate student population as a whole to represent women's issues. 87 88 I. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected as the First-Generation College Students 89 Representative by and from the University undergraduate student population as a whole to represent 90 first-generation college students. 91 92 J. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected as the Students with Disabilities 93 Representative by and from the University undergraduate student population as a whole to represent 94 students with disabilities. 95

**APPENDIX A TO RESOLUTION 20** 



- K. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected as the International Students Representative by and from the University undergraduate student population as a whole to represent international students.
  - L. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected as the LGBTQIA+ Representative by and from the University undergraduate student population as a whole to represent Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual students.
  - M. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected as Veterans Representative by and from the population of undergraduate students who currently or have previously served in the Armed Forces of the United States, except for undergraduate students who serve as members of the Reserve Officer Training Corps, to represent students who currently or have previously served in the Armed Forces of the United States.
  - N. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected as Student Workers Representative by and from the University undergraduate student population as a whole to represent undergraduate students who are engaged in paid employment contemporaneously with their academic studies.
  - O. Four voting members of the Assembly shall each be elected at-large by and from the undergraduate freshman student population to represent the same.
  - P. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected at-large by and from the undergraduate transfer student population to represent the same.
  - Q. One voting member of the Assembly shall be elected by and from the undergraduate student populations of each the following colleges and schools to represent the same: the Brooks School of Public Policy; the Dyson School of Business, the College of Architecture, Art and Planning; the School of Hotel Administration; the College of Human Ecology, and the School of Industrial and Labor Relations.
- R. Two voting members of the Assembly shall be elected by and from the undergraduate student populations of each the following colleges and schools to represent the same: the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and the College of Engineering.
- S. Three voting members of the Assembly shall be elected by and from the undergraduate student population of the College of Arts and Sciences to represent the same.

#### **Section 2: Qualifications of Voting Members**

A. Each voting member of the Assembly shall be registered, full-time undergraduate student at Cornell



136		for the duration of their term; no voting member of the Assembly shall represent a particular college
137		or school without being a registered, full-time student in the same; nor shall a voting member hold
138		office without meeting the qualifications step forth for election to that office.
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140	В.	No member of the Assembly shall hold the office of more than one voting member, nor be absent
141		from the Ithaca Campus of Cornell University for more than three weeks during the academic year.
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143	C.	Upon failing to satisfy the provisions of this section, no voting member may be deemed disqualified
144		absent an affirmative two-thirds vote of the seated members of the Assembly.
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146	Section	1 3: Non-Voting Membership
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148	A.	Each undergraduate student shall be a non-voting member of the Assembly; such members may
149		participate in debate but may not to vote.
150		
151	В.	The Assembly may designate any faculty member, employee, or graduate or professional student
152		as a non-voting member.
153	Section	4: Method of Election
154	A.	Each voting member of the Assembly and undergraduate representative to the University Assembly
155		shall be elected by a single transferable voting system using the Hare Method, except as otherwise
156		provided for in this Charter.
157	Section	n 5: Term of the Assembly
158		
159	Α.	The term of each Assembly shall commence on May 1st and expire on April 30th annually; the term
160		of each voting and non-voting member shall be coterminous with the term of the Assembly.
161		
162	B.	There shall be no limit as to the number of terms a member of the Assembly may serve.
163		
164	C.	Each member shall take the oath of office and shall be bound to that oath for the duration of their
165		term prior to being seated.
166	Section	n 6: Advisor and Advisory Board
167	A.	The University President may appoint one administrator or faculty member to serve as an advisor
168		to the Assembly.
169		
170	R	There shall be board to advise the Assembly known as the "Student Assembly Advisory Board



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171		which shall herein after be referred to as the "Advisory Board."
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173	C.	It shall be the responsibility of the Advisory Board to provide the Assembly with counsel and
174		guidance.
175	Ъ	
176	D.	The Advisory Board shall consist of six alumni of Cornell University each of whom shall have
177		served either as a member of the Student Assembly or as a Student Elected Trustee; two members
178		of the Faculty Senate; the University President or their designee; two members of the Assembly;
179 180		and four other individuals whose qualifications shall be determined in the Bylaws of the Student Assembly.
181		Assembly.
182	E	Each member of the Advisory Board, except for the University President, shall be appointed and
183	L.	may be removed by the Assembly.
103		may be removed by the Assembly.
184	Section	n 7: Attendance Requirement
185		1
186	A.	Each voting member of the Assembly shall be required to attend all regularly scheduled and special
187		meetings of the Assembly.
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189	B.	The Assembly may adopt rules governing the attendance of voting members and non-voting
190		members and sanctions for violation of such rules including removal from the Assembly; however,
191		the Assembly shall adopt no rule that permits or requires the removal of a voting member for their
192		absence from no fewer than four regularly scheduled meetings.
193		
194	C.	The Assembly may not adopt attendance rules that interfere with the observance of a religious or
195		cultural holiday.
196	Section	1 8: Vacancies
197		
198	A.	A vacancy shall exist in the office of a voting member of the Assembly or undergraduate
199		representative to the University Assembly before the expiration of the term of office upon the death,
200		resignation, removal, recall, disqualification, declination of or failure to elect a duly qualified
201		officeholder.
202		

C. A vacancy that exists in the office of any voting member of the Assembly following the conclusion of the Spring Semester shall be filled by the Assembly. At the next regularly scheduled meeting

number of votes in the most recent election for the same office.

B. A vacancy that exists in the office of any voting member of the Assembly between May 1st and the

conclusion of the Spring Semester, shall be filled by the candidate attaining the second greatest



- following the creation of the vacancy, the vacancy shall be filled by a roll-call vote; the vacancy shall not be filled without a two-thirds affirmative vote of the seated membership of the Assembly.
- D. In the period between the creation of a vacancy in the office of President or Executive Vice President and the election of a new officeholder, pursuant to Subsections B and C of Section 8 of this Charter, the office shall remain vacant. The Assembly, by majority vote, may choose to exercise the powers of the vacant office of President or Executive Vice President, as needed to continue the proper functioning of the Assembly.
- E. In the period between the creation of a vacancy in the office of President and the election of a new officeholder, pursuant to Subsection B and C of this Charter, the order of precedence of the Officers, as established by the Bylaws, shall be used to determine who shall preside at meetings of the Assembly, as Acting Chair. The Acting Chair shall exercise no authorities otherwise delegated to the President except those as necessary for calling and presiding over the Assembly.
- F. Any undergraduate student shall be eligible to fill a vacancy, provided they meet the qualifications to hold office set forth in this article; notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, a vacancy in the office of a Representative At-Large elected by virtue of attaining the second greatest number of in either the most recent election for President or Executive Vice President of the Assembly, may, for the remainder of the term of the Assembly in which the vacancy was created, be filled by as though the office were that of a directly elected Representative At-Large.

#### **Section 9: Recalling of Voting Members**

- A. Each voting member of the Assembly may be recalled by their constituency. To be recalled through a member's respective constituency, the following procedure shall be followed in the given order:
  - 1. A petition for the recall of the specific Assembly voting member will be registered with the Office of the Assemblies before any signatures are obtained.
  - 2. Petitioning for recall shall last for a period of not more than fourteen days from the registration of the petition. The required number of signatures shall be, for representatives from a school or college, fifty percent plus one or one thousand from that constituency, whichever is less, for at-large representatives, 15% of the student body. The petition will be presented to the Office of the Assemblies.
  - 3. An informational forum will be scheduled and held within not more than one week of the presentation of the petition, where a discussion of the recall will occur. The Assembly voting member must have a reasonable opportunity to attend the forum.
  - 4. A special recall election will be scheduled for and held within not more than three days



249		after the informational hearing.
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251 252		5. Should the constituency vote to recall its representative, the seat shall be declared vacant.
253	В	The Assembly may only recall a voting member by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the seated
254	ъ.	members of the Assembly.
255		inclineers of the Assembly.
256	Section	9: Responsibilities of Voting Members
257	A.	SA members who represent specific college or school constituencies are required to make a
258		reasonable effort to arrange at least two meetings a semester with their respective academic dear
259		or associate dean(s) to discuss college/school specific issues and concerns. These representatives
260		will then report back to the Student Assembly at the next regularly scheduled SA meeting briefing
261		the Assembly on pertinent issues and occurrences that would take place as a result of these
262		meetings.
263		
264	B.	SA members who represent specific college or school constituencies shall be charged with
265		gathering information about their particular college and representing their respective
266		constituencies, and voting according to their needs and desires.
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268	C.	All voting representatives shall host at least one forum or outreach activity with individuals from
269		their respective constituencies and report all outcomes to the SA at the next regularly-scheduled
270		meeting following such an activity.
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272	D.	All representatives may communicate regularly with their constituents through e-mail mailing lists
273		and listservs, which may be maintained by their respective college dean's office, the Departmen
274		of Campus Life, the Office of the Dean of Students, or the Office of the Assemblies.
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276	E.	Any Student Assembly member, including the Vice President for Public Relations, must submit a
277		mass message (e-mail, advertisement, press release, etc.) to the Executive Board for approval. The
278		Executive Board may approve a message by a majority vote and the vote may be conducted by e-
279		mail. The e-mail records must be saved.
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###



# Resolution 21: Solidarity with Cornell Graduate Students United

**Abstract:** This resolution expresses Cornell undergraduates' solidarity with graduate student workers and support for their unionization effort.

Sponsored by: Suraj Parikh, '24, Jessica Ness, Patrick Kuehl '24, Claire Ting '24, Aissatou

Barry '24, Adam Vinson '25, Casey Platkin '26

Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 9/11/2023, 6-0-0

*Type of Action:* Sense of the Body Resolution

Originally Presented: 9/14/2023

Current Status:

Whereas, graduate students work in research, teaching, and other capacities critical to the successful operation of the University;

**Whereas,** graduate students interface daily with undergraduates in classrooms, research labs, and office hours;

Whereas, graduate students occupy formal and informal roles as mentors, advisors, and collaborators to both graduate and undergraduate students;

**Whereas,** undergraduate students have a direct interest in the well-being of graduate student workers;

**Whereas,** Cornell graduate students face unacceptably low pay, evidenced by 62% of Cornell graduate students being unable to save the recommended 20% of their paycheck;

**Whereas,** Cornell graduate students face limited access to healthcare, evidenced by 65% of Cornell graduate students being unable to visit the dentist twice a year;

**Whereas,** Cornell graduate students face difficulty commuting to campus, evidenced by 65% of Cornell graduate students saying TCAT does not meet their transportation needs;

**Whereas,** many Cornell graduate students face additional challenges, especially those that are from other countries or caring for families with children;



**Whereas,** union representation will enable Cornell graduate workers to collectively bargain with the University for better wages, benefits, rights, and working conditions;

**Whereas,** Cornell Graduate Students United (CGSU) is a student-led effort to represent graduate workers at the University;

**Whereas,** Cornell University's 2023-2024 theme is Freedom of Expression, and association with a union is a key form of free expression;

**Be it therefore resolved,** that undergraduate students at Cornell University proudly stand in solidarity with CGSU in their effort to win collective bargaining rights to improve the lives of graduate students;

**Be it further resolved,** that undergraduate students strongly support graduate students' decision to exercise their right to free expression by signing CGSU union cards.

#### Respectfully Submitted,

Suraj Parikh '24

Vice-President of External Affairs, Student Assembly
Minority Students at Large Liaison, Student Assembly

Jessica Ness

PhD Candidate, The Department of Comparative Literature

Organizer, Cornell Graduate Students United

Patrick Kuehl '24

President, Student Assembly

Claire Ting '24

Executive Vice President, Student Assembly

Aissatou Barry '24

Vice President of DEI, Student Assembly



Minority Students at Large Liaison, Student Assembly

Adam Vinson '25

CALS Representative, Student Assembly

Representative to the University Assembly, Student Assembly

Casey Platkin '26

ILR Representative, Student Assembly



# Resolution 22: Student Assembly Transparency Initiative (SATI) Two

**Abstract:** This resolution allows for direct engagement with the student body to be used as an alternative to obtaining a community sponsor.

Sponsored by: Adam Vinson '25

Reviewed by: Internal Operations, 09/08/2023, 3-0-0

*Type of Action:* Internal Policy

Originally Presented: 09/14/2023

Current Status: Reported onto the Resolutions Calendar

Whereas, collaboration between the broader student body and the Assembly must be prioritized in order to maintain good community relations;

Whereas, the Assembly adopted Student Assembly Transparency Initiative (SATI) One;

Whereas, SATI One requires all non-internal policy to have the support of a Community sponsor, which can be difficult to obtain, and are not obligated to inform their members about their involvement with the Assembly;

**Be it therefore resolved,** that Rule 13 of the Standing Rules of Order be struck in its entirety and that the text contained in Appendix A to this resolution be inserted as Rule 13 of the Standing Rules of Order.

#### Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Vinson'25

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Representative, Student Assembly



#### Appendix A

#### RULE 13 – Community Engagement

- A. Assembly resolutions, except considered internal policy as defined in Article III, Section 2 of the Cornell University Student Assembly Charter, shall have either have the endorsement of *Community Sponsor* or bear the signatures of thirty members of the undergraduate student body.
- B. For the purposes of this rule, a *Community Sponsor* shall be defined as an organization at Cornell or in the broader Ithaca/Tompkins County community with a mission or activities relevant to the sponsored resolution and/or an individual legitimate interest in the passage of the resolution, along with an individual representing the organization.
- C. If a resolution fails to list a *Community Sponsor* or does not bear the signatures of thirty members of the undergraduate student body, the Assembly sponsor(s) must work with the Vice President of External Affairs to reasonably attempt to get a Community Sponsor.