

Cornell University Student Assembly

Student Assembly Meeting

AGENDA

September 21, 2023

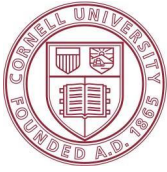
4:45 - 6:30 p.m.

Robert Purcell Community Center, Room 218

[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. Vice President of Finance
 1. CUTonight
 2. Club Sports Council
 3. Athletics
8. Presentations
9. Old Business Calendar
 1. [Resolution 21: Solidarity with Cornell Graduate Students United](#)
 2. [Resolution 22: Amending the Community Sponsorship Standing Rules](#)
10. Resolutions Calendar
11. Appropriations Appeal Hearings
12. Appointments and Vacancies Calendar
13. Adjournment



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;

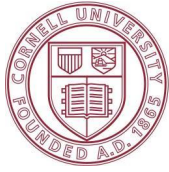
Whereas, undergraduate students have a direct interest in the well-being of graduate student workers;

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;



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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

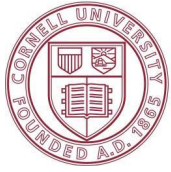
President, Student Assembly

Claire Ting '24

Executive Vice President, Student Assembly

Aissatou Barry '24

Vice President of DEI, Student Assembly



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Minority Students at Large Liaison, Student Assembly

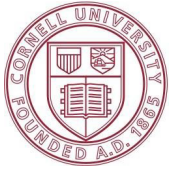
Adam Vinson '25

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;

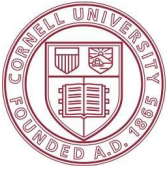
Whereas, SATI One requires all non-internal policy to have the support of a Community sponsor, which can be difficult to obtain, and are not obligated to inform their members about their involvement with the Assembly;

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



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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.