

# Code of Ethics

## Cornell University Student Assembly

*As updated on May 5, 2022*

### PREAMBLE

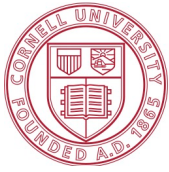
- A. The foremost interest of the Office of Ethics shall be to pursue any necessary ethics concerns of SA members and directly elected undergraduate representatives to the UA. This Code of Ethics will serve as guidelines for specific rules and internal operations that may not specifically be covered in the charter or bylaws but will aid in the efficiency of a successful Ethical body of the Student Assembly. This Code of Ethics shall be adhered to by all members of the Office of Ethics.

### MEETINGS

- A. Office of Ethics Meetings will be held in a timely manner.  
B. The direction and focus of the meeting are decided by the committee.  
C. Committee members will look out for each other during meetings to ensure our participation and voices are heard and recognized.  
D. The Chairperson guides the focus of the discussion.  
E. The Chairperson shall keep an official record of all significant actions taken by the Office of Ethics.  
F. This record should be presented in the annual report, as defined in Article VI, Section 5, Subsection C, Clause D, Paragraph VI of the SA Bylaws.

### INDIVIDUAL CONDUCT

- A. As members of the Office of Ethics, we will:
- Promote equality of opportunity and fair treatment for all colleagues, regardless of gender, race, ethnic and national origin, religion, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, veteran status, etc.
  - Actively pursue acceptance and maintain a safe, inclusive, and productive environment within the Office of Ethics, SA, and the student body as a whole.

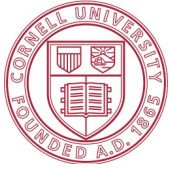


## 28 VIOLATIONS OF ETHICS

- 29 A. The Office of Ethics shall recognize and investigate all violations of Student Assembly  
30 Standing Rules, Section 2, Subsection A, which shall be known as the “Ethics Clause” as  
31 violations of Student Assembly Ethics.
- 32 a. This includes, but is not limited to:
- 33 i. The use of the SA outside of the bounds of the individual’s described role on  
34 the SA,
  - 35 ii. Abuse of the SA brand by members, staff, and other parties to acquire  
36 additional benefits or privileges,
  - 37 iii. Unethical behaviors or practices in the Cornell community,
  - 38 iv. Outstanding violation charges from the undergraduate colleges Academic  
39 Integrity Hearing Boards of the undergraduate colleges,
  - 40 v. Outstanding and ongoing hearings by the University Hearing and Review  
41 Panel of the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards, the  
42 Office of Institutional Equity and Title IX, or any similar university ethical  
43 body,
  - 44 vi. Reports and allegations of high confidence from members of the  
45 undergraduate student body that any member of the Student Assembly and  
46 Cornell community may be engaged in any such similar matter as described  
47 above in (i) - (v) in any similar manner.

## 48 DETERMINING ETHICAL VIOLATIONS

- 49 A. Upon receipt of the complaint of a violation of the Ethics Clause through the mediums  
50 defined in Article VI, Section 5, Subsections D, Clauses D, Paragraphs III & IV, the Office  
51 of Ethics may deliberate the report and vote to initiate an investigation or reject the  
52 notification. The decision to constitute an ethical violation is up to the discretion of the  
53 Office of Ethics.
- 54 a. A simple majority vote of the 7 members of the Office of Ethics may initiate an  
55 investigation.
- 56 B. Throughout the proceedings of an investigation, the Office may communicate with the  
57 Complainant, the Respondent, any witnesses, and/or other sources of information necessary  
58 to carry out their functions.
- 59 C. Following the collection of all required testimony, evidence, reports, and other applicable  
60 items, the Office of Ethics shall deliberate both the necessity and subsequently the form of  
61 mediation, resolution, disciplinary action, or alternative form of intervention.



62 **COMMUNICATION WITH THE STUDENT ASSEMBLY**

- 63 A. The Office of Ethics, in accordance with Sections 2 and 3 of “Article VII: Community  
64 Rights and Confidentiality” in the SA Bylaws, shall keep the personally identifiable  
65 information of the Complainant party confidential in all correspondence with the Student  
66 Assembly on investigation reports.
- 67 a. Confidentiality may be extended to the Respondent party upon request or special  
68 consideration of the Office of Ethics.
- 69 B. The Office shall present a report of the findings, supporting evidentiary materials, and any  
70 suggestion for intervention to the next Student Assembly meeting.
- 71 a. The contents of such suggestions for intervention shall be delivered to the Vice  
72 President of Internal Operations who will be tasked with implementing or rejecting  
73 the Office’s suggestions for intervention.
- 74 i. In moments of conflict, the Chairperson of the Office of Ethics may choose  
75 to consult the Executive Committee or defer the decision to the voting  
76 membership of the Student Assembly on the investigation.
- 77 1. In the event that a member of the Executive Committee or Student  
78 Assembly is involved as a party in the Office’s investigation, the Vice  
79 President of Internal Operations shall not consult or defer to those  
80 bodies respectively.
- 81 2. In the event that the Vice President of Internal Operations is  
82 involved as a party in the Office’s investigation, the suggestion for  
83 intervention shall be delivered to the President and Executive Vice  
84 President of the SA, who shall be subject to the Article VI, Section B,  
85 Subsection A of this Code of Ethics.
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