

# Cornell University Student Assembly

## Student Assembly Meeting

### AGENDA

**October 27, 2022**

**4:45 - 6:30pm**

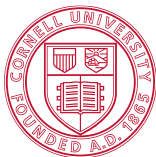
**MEMORIAL ROOM, WILLARD STRAIGHT HALL**

[ZOOM](#)

Meeting ID: 947 1648 3660 | Passcode: 303164

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Land Acknowledgement of the Gayogohó:nq̓ (Cayuga Nation)
3. Late Additions to the Agenda
4. Consent Agenda: [Approval of October 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes](#)
5. Open Microphone
6. Announcements and Reports
7. Initiatives
8. Presentations and Forums
  1. Big Red Bears
  2. Financial Analysis by Rocco DeLorenzo
9. Business of the Day
  1. [Resolution 8 Office of Ethics Bylaw Amendment](#)
  2. [Resolution 9 Establishment of HOTEL Commission](#)
10. New Business
  1. [Resolution 10 Mitigating Impact of 14% Tax](#)
  2. Elections of UA Representative
  3. Elections of Appropriations Committee member
11. 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.



# Cornell University Student Assembly

## Cornell University Student Assembly Minutes of the October 20, 2022 Meeting 4:45 PM – 6:30 PM 407 Willard Straight Hall

### **I. Call to Order**

- a. President V. Valencia called the meeting to order at 4:53pm

### **II. Roll Call**

- a. *Members Present [22]: M. Baker, S. Bhardwaj, D. Cady, K. Chan, P. Da Silveira, G. Dong, A. Lampert, J. Lee, A. Lewis, R. DeLorenzo L. Lu, J. Mayen, D. Nachman, J. Kolinski, M. Song, V. Valencia, S. Williams, R. Chatterji, K. Liu, B. Mehretu, A. Richmond, Y. Yuan*
- b. *Members Excused: S. Ali, E. D'Angelo, D. Edelman, B. Kotb, B. Luckow, N. Son, C. Ting, JP. Swenson*

### **III. Land Acknowledgment of the Gayogohó:nq̓ (Cayuga Nation)**

- a. President V. Valencia stated the land acknowledgment

### **IV. Late Additions to the Agenda**

- a. P. Da Silveira motions to add resolution 9, passed 12-0-2
  - i. P. Da Silveira motions to add resolution 9 above resolution 8, passed by unanimous consent
- b. P. Da Silveira motions to add SAIFC Manual report, passed 15-0-1

### **V. Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of the October 13, 2022 meeting minutes
  - i. S. Bhardwaj motions to approve meeting minutes, passed by unanimous consent

### **VI. Open Microphone**

- a. None

### **VII. Announcements and Reports**

- a. New Freshmen and Transfer Representatives are announced
  - i. New representatives are sworn-in

### **VIII. Business of the Day**

- a. Maggie Peng from OSGR came to talk about their budget



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- i. Budget is divided into lobby trip, voting education initiative, and miscellaneous
- ii. The most cost intensive is the DC lobby trip, 3 night stay in an Airbnb is \$2,500, transportation by car is \$200 and transportation by Ourbus and car is \$1,800, office-wide dinner is \$250
- iii. Based on the assumption that 10 people will be going on the trip
- iv. On the DC trip, they'll be meeting with elected officials about issues that students care about
- v. S. Bhardwaj asks what they'd do about fluctuating gas prices
- vi. Maggie states that they can't control that, but there's a cushion for that and the trip isn't too far in the future
- vii. J. Kolinski asks to expand on what exactly they're doing on the trip
- viii. Maggie responds that they're going to set up meeting with elected representatives to talk about issues that Cornell students are passionate about (ex: increased financial aid) and what policies these representatives are working on
- ix. M. Song asks how they got to 10 people going on this trip and the cost breakdown of the Airbnb
- x. Maggie states that 10 was a good estimate based on an interest form that they sent out to the OSGR general body and know for sure that at least half want to go
- xi. Maggie states that the lobby trip is the majority of the budget because trips are going to be more expensive than other initiatives, which aren't very costly
- xii. The lodging was based on the average cost for lodging that allows 10 people on Airbnb that was both in the area and safe
- xiii. Maggie talks about their voting education initiative and states that its goal is to help make students less confused about the voting process
- xiv. They're going to partner with Cornell Votes to print out voting education quarter cards, which will only cost \$30
- xv. Maggie talks about their miscellaneous expenses, which is \$150
- xvi. This includes recruitment materials such as poster boards and table clothes, and social costs, which includes 2-3 dinners or an ice cream social
- xvii. Maggie states that they're spending most of their budget in the fall
- xviii. J. Kolinski asks why the budget for voting education is 10% that of social costs
- xix. Maggie responds that voting education just doesn't have to be expensive. For \$30 they can get over 300 quarter cards



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- xx. Expands that the social costs are important to prevent large turnover, which they have had issues with. It's only \$100 per social, which is only a little more than 5% of the budget
- xxi. R. DeLorenzo asks if they think the social events will really help retain members
- xxii. Maggie states she's been on OSGR for 2 years and she's 1 of 2 members who've stayed that long. Before last semester, there was an almost 100% turnover rate
- xxiii. The majority of the members are from the last and current semester. It's extremely difficult to keep members and an element that draws people is a sense of community with social events brings
- xxiv. S. Bhardwaj asks why OSGR is prioritizing the DC trip over maybe Tompkins County or other local governments where they could make more of a difference
- xxv. Maggie states that a draw of OSGR is that people want to interact with different levels of government and people find worth with speaking with representatives
- xxvi. D. Cady states that OSGR is going to spend more money than Anabel's is spending the entire year, which is \$8,000
- xxvii. Maggie states that a lobby trip is an invaluable experience for students to speak to elected representatives and it would help with membership and their advocacy
- xxviii. They would also not be spending this amount of money next semester
- xxix. B. Mehretu asks how they're going to get opinions of the Cornell student body
- xxx. Maggie states that they've linked a survey in their bio and have collected over 100 responses about issues that students care about and their plan over next semester is to speak directly with student groups to collect testimony about their experiences
- xxxi. M. Baker states that she used a listserv from the Office of Assemblies and was able to get a lot more than 100 responses and it's a free resource, so she recommends reaching out to Erik
- xxxii. Maggie says she'll reach out to him
- xxxiii. S. Bhardwaj says they should start asking students about issues they care about sooner and asks for an itinerary to be shared for the lobby trip
- xxxiv. Maggie responds they're working on it this semester, but talking to student groups about issues they care about is always a yearlong thing that they do



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- b. P. Da Silveira and A. Lampert state that they got Manual passed by SAIFC and they're going to fund it as a pilot program at-cost and hopefully the administration will pick it up later on
  - i. P. Da Silveira states that the cost that came out of the budget is \$10,000 and \$50-60,000 left in the SAIFC budget
  - ii. A. Lampert states that in the beginning of the March they're going to talk to VP Lombardi and show him the data and hopefully get the administration to take it on
  - iii. D. Cady thanks them for their work
  - iv. A. Lampert thanks him for the comment
  - v. M. Baker recommends that they ask Erik to send an email to all Cornell students about it
  - vi. A. Lampert says they'll ask him about it
  - vii. JP Swenson asks about what the \$3,500 social media cost
  - viii. A. Lampert states that the amount is set by the company and they halved it for us because they really want to work with Cornell
  - ix. They'll do targeted ads on Tik Tok, Instagram, and other social media platforms
  - x. P. Da Silveira states that this involves them hiring Cornell students as representatives to go out and advertise
  - xi. M. Song reminds us that they're offering it to us at a break-even cost, so this is the most cost effective it'll get
  - xii. V. Valencia asks if there's a vote breakdown
  - xiii. A. Lampert states that it was 7-0-1
  - xiv. A. Lampert motions to add vote count and account number, passed by unanimous consent
- c. V. Valencia states that there's a makeup orientation for representatives this Sunday at 11:45am and attendance is mandatory
- d. R. DeLorenzo motions to move up Approbations Committee discussion before resolution 8 because they're trying to make a survey that they need SA members voices on and it would be good to get it done this week and R. DeLorenzo has a time conflict
  - i. M. Baker dissents that they should hear from the Office of Ethics if they have any conflicts and they state they have a prelim
  - ii. D. Cady asks if the VP of Finance has to be here for the discussion
  - iii. V. Valencia responds that they don't have to be, but it would be nice



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- iv. In a vote of 7-8-5 the motion fails and the order stays the same
- e. S. Bhardwaj states she's co-chair of the student health advisory committee and she sent out an email today to all members
  - i. Please email her if you're interested in joining the committee or working on the resolutions
- f. A. Lampert states they're doing a SA social on October 30<sup>th</sup>

### **IX. Initiatives**

- a. D. Cady states that they're working on a project on renting bikes in Ithaca and invites new members to reach out if they're interested in learning more

### **X. Presentation and Forums**

- a. None

### **XI. New Business**

- a. P. Da Silveira, JP Swenson, A. Lewis propose Resolution 9, the establishment of a new hotel committee
  - i. They go over their goals and the main one is to facilitate cohesion and increase sense of belonging through more schoolwide events
  - ii. P. Da Silveira states that this is a way for them to be guarantying that they can plan events and engage with the student body
  - iii. V. Valencia asks them to state the lines when they reference a document
  - iv. P. Da Silveira motions to amend the first and second "where as" clauses to include lines 62-64 of the Special Rules of Order and 12-15 of the Charter, passed with unanimous consent
  - v. J. Kolinski asks about what budget they'd need to provide the committee
  - vi. A. Lewis responds that they're still working on it, but it'll be cost-effective and not a burden on the SA
  - vii. P. Da Silveira states that money will come from special projects fund
  - viii. S. Bhardwaj asks for examples of the kinds of programming
  - ix. A. Lewis responds that they'll create wellness events that will be open to the whole student body
  - x. D. Cady points out the similarities with Class Council and recommends that work done here is done in collaboration with them
  - xi. P. Da Silveira states that collaboration is a big aspect and they plan on working a lot with the Communication and Outreach Committee



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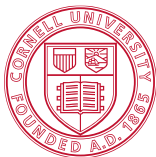
- xii. K. Chan states that all of these events also a good way to advertise resolutions that the SA is working on
  - xiii. A. Lewis responds that one of the goals is definitely to increase awareness about the SA
  - xiv. S. Bhardwaj asks for more specific event examples. Would the puppy palazzo and all other events fall under this?
  - xv. JP Swenson responds that an idea is having puppies come in and have food and music to help de-stress students and provide food as well
  - xvi. S. Bhardwaj clarifies will all outreach events be under this committee?
  - xvii. A. Lewis states that all the events will be executed by the Hotel committee
  - xviii. P. Da Silveira clarifies that it's meant to facilitate the outreach and events, but will not plan all events and it's not responsible for individual outreach
  - xix. K. Chan clarifies that communicating an event is under the Communications committee and event planning logistics is under the Hotel committee
  - xx. M. Song states that her chief concern is redundancy because there are so many student organizations already doing this type of work and that she would be more on board if the resolution had more of an SA focus
  - xxi. P. Da Silveira states that they're very open to change, but that the SA is a very powerful body and we have a significant amount more funding so this is another application of our outreach and way to get more involved
  - xxii. V. Valencia states that she agrees with M. Song because this committee would be funded through special projects and she fears they're taking those funds away from other orgs who apply for this funding. We can connect with constitutes without another ad hoc committee
  - xxiii. P. Da Silveira states he agrees, but the SA has been slow to get resolutions and events out there, so this is a way spur some action and get more representatives involved. There is also a significant number of special projects funds available for rollover
  - xxiv. M. Baker motions to change the format from resolution to internal policy resolution, passed by unanimous consent
  - xxv. D. Caddy motions to postpone the internal policy resolution until next week so that the details can be ironed out, passed by unanimous consent
- b. The Office of Ethics proposes Resolution number 8, amending the bylaws of the Office of Ethics
- i. Ethics committee goes over the changes they would like to see: ex-officio position for Office of Ethics, ex-officio position present at Executive Session



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- ii. States that the Ethics committee is an external committee and they get complaints about representatives, committees, and resolutions. They don't have executive power. They can only make recommendations
- iii. They have a chairperson limit of 1 year and they would like to see other committees adopt this same policy
- iv. They'll be starting an Instagram page where they have recommendations and a Qualtrics form to submit recommendations and complaints. They'll also have an email
- v. They also have the ability to talk with the University Administration about ethical concerns
- vi. They have also passed a code of ethics, which states what is considered unethical and how the committee operates
- vii. It's important to remember that what is unethical is up to interpretation by the committee and this alongside with the committee not having executive power allows them to involve and show how what is ethical involves
- viii. They have a clause that Ethics members cannot run for SA, while in the office
- ix. The Office of Ethics was created by resolution 20 last year to replace the Research and Accountability Committee, which was a system that did not work well
- x. The Office of Ethics is a resource and the bylaws is not the first thing they've tried to pass. They passed an amendment to the standing rules that details all ethical violations and the Code of Ethics which covers how the committee is governed
- xi. The bylaws serve as a basket to hold all these things in and updates the language that already exists in the bylaws
- xii. C. Taylor states that they have a vote of confidence that requires a blank pass and all that does is trigger a vote of no confidence that requires 2/3 to pass. This could create an endless loop.
- xiii. Responds that the only thing disrupting the vote of confidence would be someone going back and forth
- xiv. C. Taylor states there's a vote of confidence that requires a simple majority to pass. The only thing that does is trigger a vote of no confidence, which then requires a 2/3 vote to pass. This could create a loop where if there is a set number of people greater than a majority, but lower than 2/3, there's essentially endless debate. Wonders if it's just possible to mandate that a vote of no confidence occurs once a year?





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- xv. Office of Ethics responds that if a vote of confidence fails it goes to a vote of no confidence. If not everybody is not confident in a vote of confidence, then those people who are not confident should then vote for a vote of actual confidence, so if someone is going back and forth that would be the only thing disrupting the vote of confidence
- xvi. C. Taylor states that it's a vote that does not allow for anything between a majority and 2/3 to exist without forcing them to change it. Thinks if the only purpose of a vote of confidence is to trigger a second vote, then avoiding that might be helpful and it might be helpful to know that's the case for anyone voting.
- xvii. Office of Ethics responds that the vote of confidence is the SA giving a check to the Office of Ethics. The Office of Ethics cannot continue until they describe what they've done and the SA checks off on it.
- xviii. A sustained vote of no confidence removes the entire Office of Ethics and reappoints everyone, which is a very big measure, so the vote of no confidence is a confirmation that there's really enough of a grievance for this to occur.
- xix. Since it could be a loop, we could change 2/3 to a simple majority or remove the vote of confidence and just have it be a vote of no confidence, but we think that having the vote of confidence is an important step.
- xx. S. Bhardwaj motions to extend time by 10min, passed by unanimous consent
- xxi. M. Baker asks if the Office of Ethics is externally electing to serve as the ex-officio member or if it's a chairperson
- xxii. Office of Ethics responds that it's a chairperson and that they elect the chair
- xxiii. M. Baker recommends removing "solely" from 118 and asks about what the "failed community vote" in line 126 means
- xxiv. Office of Ethics responds that "failed community vote" is an extra step to keep the Office of Ethics as a working body. It's a kind of checks and balances. The whole community would have to find a distrust for the Office of Ethics to go away entirely.
- xxv. M. Baker asks if that's outlined anywhere that the student body would vote
- xxvi. Office of Ethics responds it's on line 169
- xxvii. M. Baker motions to amend line 118 to read "The Student Assembly Office of Ethics, alone, will be tasked with the ability to revise the Code of Ethics," passed by unanimous consent
- xxviii. D. Caddy asks if this resolution requires 2/3 of the whole SA or 2/3 of those present



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- xxix. V. Valencia responds that its 2/3 of those present
- xxx. D. Cady states they should remove any mention of the Elections committee because it seems repetitive and not in line with the request to not take action because the Elections committee does take action. That's line 68, 72, and 73. Also states that the concern C. Taylor brought up needs to be more seriously addressed because this redundancy was also an issue with the byline last year.
- xxxi. Office of Ethics responds that three of their members are on the Office of Elections. It's no executive power, it's just a guide. If there's a decision being made on elections it should be reviewed by us, but it's not one sole decision.
- xxxii. If someone has a better way to do the vote of confidence and no confidence let us know and we can revise it.
- xxxiii. S. Bhardwaj asks what the intention is with working with Elections Committee
- xxxiv. Office of Ethics responds that they're just check and balances for elections. They just do review and have no executive power
- xxxv. J. Kolinski says that line 180 says that new members can't make changes to the Office of Ethics bylaws. Asks if they would be willing to amend that to include a timeframe for them to add their perspective
- xxxvi. Office of Ethics responds that it could be during the first 3 SA meetings of each semester
- xxxvii. J. Kolinski motions to amend line 180 to say that "changes to the Office of Ethics bylaws may only occur during the first 3 SA meetings of each semester," passed 15-0-3
- xxxviii. R. Lorenzo asks how this is different from the Cornell Code of Conduct
- xxxix. Office of Ethics responds that's more of a Cornell Administrative thing. The Office of Ethics is more ethical concerns in general and concerning SA conduct specifically
  - xl. M. Song states that she fully believes the chair of the Office of Ethics should be there during Executive Session
  - xli. Office of Ethics thanks her for her comment
  - xlii. R. De Lorenzo asks if there's an exact code of what you can and can't stay
  - xliii. Office of Ethics responds that there's no strict this is an ethical violation and this is not because they want to leave room for all of them to discuss. The discussions will be had and be in-depth and they're important.
  - xliv. The Office of Ethics also takes after the Code of Conduct, but it's not just about what's ethically as a student, but what's ethical as a student



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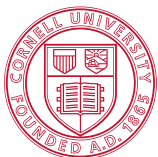
- xlvi. S. Bhardwaj motions to extend time by 10min, P. Da Silveira dissents, passes by 10-5-3
- xlvi. M. Baker motions to amend line 143 to say "vote of no confidence," line 146 to say "vote of no confidence," line 150-152 delete, and line 153 delete "in the event of a failed vote of confidence," line 154 to say "2/3 vote," line 161 to 163 to say "if the motion to commence a vote of no confidence fails the SA Office of Ethics will continue to operate in the present academic year," line 164-168 delete, passed by unanimous consent
- xlvi. K. Chan asks why it was changed to say "serve for the duration of their academic career" in line 99-101. How would this ensure diversity of opinion?
- xlvi. Office of Ethics responds that duration of academic career is because there's a benefit of having longevity of opinion and experience within student government.
- xlvi. P. Da Silveira asks about line 49-50 where it says that Office of Ethics is mandated to be in executive session. Believes the SA does need checks and balances, but that this is the only venue SA has for deliberation of internal policies.
  - i. The Office of Ethics responds that ethics doesn't end as a concept in executive session. They're there to be a check on members and if the Office of Ethics isn't there nothing could be done because they wouldn't know about it.
  - ii.

### **XII. Adjournment**

- a. V. Valencia adjourns because there's not enough members to hold quorum

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Megan Birmingham*  
Clerk of the Assembly



## Resolution #8: Student Assembly Office of Ethics Bylaw Amendment

**Abstract:** This resolution amends and ratifies the Student Assembly Bylaws. These amendments to the Bylaws create an ex-officio position for the Chairperson of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics, permits member of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics to remain during executive session, and establish the format of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics.

**Sponsored by:** Michelle Song '25

**Reviewed by:** Student Assembly Office of Ethics, 09/01/2022

**Type of Action:** Internal Policy

**Originally Presented:** 5/5/2022

**Current Status:** New Business

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**Whereas,** the Student Assembly Office of Ethics was established through Student Assembly Resolution 22 as an external executive office to hold the Student Assembly accountable, maintain a high moral standard, and provide necessary ethical guidance and procedure to the Student Assembly;

**Whereas,** the membership of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics has actively researched, analyzed, coordinated, argued, and discussed ethical philosophies and applications;

**Whereas,** the members of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics have unanimously agreed that the undergraduate Cornell community, as well as the Student Assembly, is in need of a structured system imbued with the authority to ensure accountability, ethical conduct, justice, and growth;

**Whereas,** the current language utilized in “Section 2: Ex-officio Executive Committee Positions” of “Article I: Ex-Officio Members,” “Section 5: Executive Session” of “Article IV: Meetings,” and “Section 5: External Committees” of “Article VI: Committees” lines 10-19, 233-238, 562-617 prevent the Student Assembly Office of Ethics from becoming this type of system;

**Be it therefore resolved,** that “Section 2: Ex-officio Executive Committee Positions” of “Article I: Ex-Officio Members,” “Section 5: Executive Session” of “Article IV: Meetings,” and “Section 5: External Committees” of “Article VI: Committees” lines 10-19, 233-238, 562-617 of the Student Assembly Bylaws be amended as follows:



**ARTICLE I: EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

**Section 2: Ex-Officio Executive Committee Positions**

- A. The SA can grant an ex-officio position to any member of the Cornell community to serve as the Executive Archivist.
- B. The SA can grant an ex-officio position to any member of the Cornell community to serve as the Parliamentarian.
- C. The SA can grant an ex-officio position to any member of the Cornell Community to serve as Director of Elections.
- D. The SA can grant an ex-officio position to any member of the Cornell Community to serve as the Student Advocate.
- E. The SA can grant an ex-officio position to any member of the Cornell Community to serve as the Director of Student Government Relations.
- F. The SA must grant an ex-officio position to any member elected by the Student Assembly Office of Ethics to serve as the Chairperson.

**ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS**

**Section 2: Executive Session**

With the concurrence of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members in attendance, the SA or any of its committees may go into executive session during a regularly scheduled meeting only to discuss confidential matters as defined by this Charter. No policy determinations will be made in executive session. The Student Assembly may also hold executive sessions for internal elections and planning purposes. Executive session shall be closed to non-voting, non-executive members of the assembly except the Chairperson of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics and all present members of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics. Community members may be invited by the assembly to participate in an executive session. Secret ballot votes shall be reserved for executive sessions.

**ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES**



## Section 5: EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

### C. Student Assembly Office of Ethics

#### a. ~~Name, Mission, and Affiliation~~

- i. ~~Name~~—The name of the office shall be the Student Assembly Office of Ethics.

#### b. Mission:

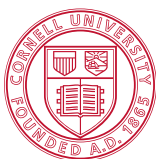
- i. ~~Mission~~—The mission of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics shall be to pursue any necessary ethics concerns of SA members and directly elected undergraduate representatives to the UA.
- ii. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics will investigate perceived ethical violations and draft reports to the SA for guidance and potential repercussions.
- iii. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics will be available for consulting and support on SA ethical issues for both SA members and the student body.

#### c. Affiliation

- i. ~~Affiliation~~—The Office will review evaluate all concerns submitted by community members the student body that involve are against any SA members, SA committees, SA elections, or directly elected undergraduate representatives of the UA.
- ii. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics shall be affiliated as an external executive office of the Cornell Student Assembly.
- iii. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics shall work jointly with the Elections Committee to review any potential election violations or concerns.

#### d. Roles and Responsibilities

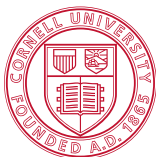
- i. A quorum shall consist of five members of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics.
- ii. Chairperson ~~Director~~ of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics:
  1. The Chairperson ~~Director~~ will chair all Student Assembly Office of Ethics meetings.
  2. The Chairperson ~~Director~~ shall only vote in the event of a tie.
  3. The Chairperson shall have a term limit of one academic year.
  4. The Chairperson shall correspond directly with the Student Assembly on matters of ethics and ethical decorum in its meetings and all proceedings.
    - a) In the event of absence, the Chairperson may select any member of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics to serve as an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee of the SA.
- iii. Review all alleged ethical violations submitted to the Office via:
  1. Qualtrics,



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2. Email,
3. Personal contact with a committee member of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics.
- iv. Open investigations on perceived ethical violations
  1. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics can open its own investigation on an ethical matter by a simple majority vote.
- v. Voting Members of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics:
  1. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics shall consist of seven voting members.
  2. All voting members shall serve for the duration of one academic year unless their term is renewed by the incoming Director of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics of their undergraduate academic career.
  3. Student Assembly Office of Ethics Voting members can be removed before their term expires by a unanimous vote of the entire voting membership of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics.
    - a) The subject of the removal vote must abstain from voting.
  4. All voting members shall be non-Student Assembly and non-University Assembly members of the Cornell undergraduate student population.
  5. Voting members may not seek SA or UA office through their for the academic year following their term of service in the Student Assembly Office of Ethics.
- vi. Update the Student Assembly of its proceedings and its mission on a semesterly basis at a hearing conducted during one of the first three general assembly meetings of the academic year. This will be formally referred to as the “Student Assembly Office of Ethics’ semesterly report.”
- vii. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics will be commissioned with interpreting and applying the guidelines set forth in the SA Code of Ethics.
  1. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics, alone, will be tasked with the ability to revise the Code of Ethics.
  2. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics will report revisions of the Code of Ethics to the Student Assembly at the subsequent meeting.
- e. Recruitment of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics Members
  - i. The first seven voting members shall be appointed individually by any SA member and confirmed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire voting membership of the Student Assembly.

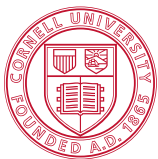




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1. Except for nominations following a failed community vote, all nominations for the Student Assembly Office of Ethics must be unanimously voted on by the Student Assembly Office of Ethics prior to the vote by SA.
  2. A week-long period in between nominations and appointments shall be dedicated to giving SA voting members the opportunity to speak one-on-one with each nominee.
  - ii. ~~The first slate of voting members must select the Director of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics internally by a simple majority of the Office before the end of the semester.~~
  - iii. ~~At the beginning~~ Before the conclusion of each academic year, the outgoing voting membership of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics must select the ~~Chairperson~~ Director of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics internally by a simple majority vote of the entire voting membership of the Office.
  - iv. ~~The Director of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics shall decide upon the voting membership of the incoming Office before the conclusion of each academic year.~~
- f. Vote of ~~No~~ Confidence
- i. The Student Assembly will assess the work of the ~~Office of the Student Assembly~~ Office of Ethics during the previous academic year and ~~must~~ conduct a vote of ~~no~~ confidence on an annual basis ~~during or following~~ by one any of the first three general assembly meetings of each SA term.
    1. Following the Student Assembly Office of Ethics' semesterly report, as defined in Article VI, Section 5, Subsection C, Clause D, Paragraph VI, the SA may commence a Vote of No Confidence by 2/3 majority vote on the grounds that the Office has failed to uphold and execute its mission, as defined in Article VI, Section 5, Subsection C, Clause B.
      - a) The Chairperson of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics and all present members of the Office may directly address the concerns brought against the Office prior to the vote of the SA to commence a Vote of No Confidence.
    2. If the motion to commence a Vote of No Confidence fails, the Student Assembly Office of Ethics will continue to operate.
    3. In the event of a sustained Vote of No Confidence, a community vote of ~~the entire undergraduate population~~ shall be taken in order to remove all Student Assembly Office of Ethics members. 10% of the undergraduate





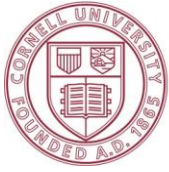
## Cornell University Student Assembly

- population must vote in favor of removal of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics membership for the vote to be sustained.
- ii. In the event of a failed community vote, all Student Assembly Office of Ethics members would continue to serve.
- ~~iii. In addition to the annual vote of confidence, an additional vote of confidence can be called at any point during the academic year.~~
- g. Student Assembly Office of Ethics Bylaws
- i. All bylaw proposals to Article VI, Section 5, Subsection C, must be approved by the Student Assembly Office of Ethics by a two-thirds (2/3) majority before coming to the SA.
- ii. Changes to the Student Assembly Office of Ethics bylaws may only occur during the first three SA meetings of each semester.
- h. ~~The Student Assembly Code of Ethics~~
- ~~i. Before the conclusion of the 2021-2022 academic year, the Student Assembly Office of Ethics will be charged with creating a Student Assembly Code of Ethics that must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire voting membership of the Student Assembly.~~
- ~~ii. The SA Code of Ethics should include, but is not limited to, including:~~
- ~~1. An expansion of the language outlined in the Student Assembly Standing Rules, Section 2: Ethical Standards and Attendance Policy, Section A;~~
  - ~~2. An overview of possible ethical conduct offenses;~~
  - ~~3. The process of determining a violation of ethics;~~
  - ~~4. The process of recommending the appropriate disciplinary action to a third party.~~
- ~~iii. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics will be charged with interpreting and applying the guidelines set forth in the SA Code of Ethics.~~

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Michelle Song '25

*Representative at Large, Student Assembly*



## Resolution X: Approving the Code of Ethics

**Abstract:** This resolution aims to approve the Office of Ethics' Code of Ethics for immediate implementation. The Code of Ethics shall serve as the governing document of the Office of Ethics and outlines its core processes.

**Sponsored by:** Joane Kim '24, Michelle Song '25

**Reviewed by:** Office of Ethics, 05/04/2022

**Type of Action:** Legislation

**Originally Presented:** 05/05/2022

**Current Status:** New Business

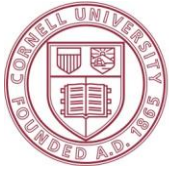
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**Whereas,** the Student Assembly's Resolution 22 establishes the Office of Ethics with the purpose of providing necessary ethical guidance and procedure to the Student Assembly;

**Whereas,** "Section 5: External Committees" of "Article VI: Committees" lines 606-617 of the Student Assembly Bylaws tasks the Office of Ethics with the responsibility of creating a Code of Ethics that must be approved by the Student Assembly with two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire voting membership;

**Whereas,** the membership of the Office of Ethics has actively researched, analyzed, coordinated, argued, and discussed ethical philosophies and applications, and has unanimously written and approved a final draft of the Office's Code of Ethics;

**Be it therefore resolved,** that the Student Assembly approve and immediately adopt the following "Code of Ethics" for the Cornell University Student Assembly:



# Code of Ethics

## Cornell University Student Assembly

*As updated on May 5, 2022*

### PREAMBLE

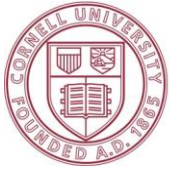
- A. The foremost interest of the Office of Ethics shall be to pursue any necessary ethics concerns of SA members and directly elected undergraduate representatives to the UA. This Code of Ethics will serve as guidelines for specific rules and internal operations that may not specifically be covered 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.

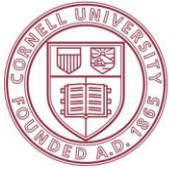


## VIOLATIONS OF ETHICS

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

## DETERMINING ETHICAL VIOLATIONS

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



## COMMUNICATION WITH THE STUDENT ASSEMBLY

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

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Joane Kim ‘24

*Transfer Representative, Student Assembly*

Michelle Song ‘25

*Freshman Representative, Student Assembly*



# 1     **Resolution #8\*: Amendments to Student** 2     **Assembly Office of Ethics Bylaw Amendment**

3     **Abstract:** This resolution amends and ratifies the Student Assembly Bylaws. These amendments to  
4     the Bylaws create an ex-officio position for the Chairperson of the Student Assembly Office of  
5     Ethics, permits member of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics to remain during executive  
6     session, and establish the format of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics. **This document does not**  
7     **serve as a resolution, but instead a summary of all amendments previously passed and discussed.**

7     **Sponsored by:** Michelle Song '25

8     **Amendments Sponsored By:** Kelly Chan '24, Sanvi Bhardwaj '24, Pedro Da Silveira '25, Rocco  
9     Delorenzo '24, Jack Kalinski '24, George Dong '24, David Nachman '25, Noon (Stellar) Sun '25,  
10    Luna Lu '25, Anna (Veronica) Lewis '25, Jesus Mayen-Palomo '25, JP Swenson '25, Bahaa Kotb  
11    '25, Claire Ting '25, Emily D'Angelo '25

9     **Reviewed by:** Student Assembly Office of Ethics, 09/01/2022

10    **Type of Action:** Internal Policy

11    **Originally Presented:** 5/5/2022

12    **Current Status:** New Business

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13    **Whereas,** the Student Assembly Office of Ethics was established through Student Assembly  
14    Resolution 22 as an external executive office to hold the Student Assembly accountable, maintain a  
15    high moral standard, and provide necessary ethical guidance and procedure to the Student Assembly;

16    **Whereas,** the membership of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics has actively researched,  
17    analyzed, coordinated, argued, and discussed ethical philosophies and applications;

18    **Whereas,** the members of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics have unanimously agreed that the  
19    undergraduate Cornell community, as well as the Student Assembly, is in need of a structured system  
20    imbued with the authority to ensure accountability, ethical conduct, justice, and growth;

21    **Whereas,** the current language utilized in "Section 2: Ex-officio Executive Committee Positions" of  
22    "Article I: Ex-Officio Members," "Section 5: Executive Session" of "Article IV: Meetings," and  
23    "Section 5: External Committees" of "Article VI: Committees" lines 10-19, 233-238, 562-617  
24    prevent the Student Assembly Office of Ethics from becoming this type of system;

25    **Be it therefore resolved,** that "Section 2: Ex-officio Executive Committee Positions" of "Article I:  
26    Ex-Officio Members," "Section 5: Executive Session" of "Article IV: Meetings," and "Section 5:  
27    External Committees" of "Article VI: Committees" lines 10-19, 233-238, 562-617 of the Student



28 Assembly Bylaws be amended as follows:

## 29 **ARTICLE I: EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

### 30 **Section 2: Ex-Officio Executive Committee Positions**

31 A. The SA can grant an ex-officio position to any member of the Cornell community to serve  
32 as the Executive Archivist.

33 B. The SA can grant an ex-officio position to any member of the Cornell community to serve  
34 as the Parliamentarian.

35 C. The SA can grant an ex-officio position to any member of the Cornell Community to serve  
36 as Director of Elections.

37 D. The SA can grant an ex-officio position to any member of the Cornell Community to serve  
38 as the Student Advocate.

39 E. The SA can grant an ex-officio position to any member of the Cornell Community to serve  
40 as the Director of Student Government Relations.

41 F. The SA ~~must~~ can grant an ex-officio position to any member elected by the Student  
Assembly Office of Ethics to serve as the Chairperson.

42 *Rationale: As listed above, ex-officio positions have never been mandated. For instance,  
the role of Parliamentarian, who is tasked with the very foundational proceedings of every  
SA meeting, is not mandated. There is no doubt that the Chairperson will be granted ex-  
officio status due to the nature of their office and responsibility.*

## 43 **ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS**

### 44 **Section 2: Executive Session**

45 With the concurrence of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members in attendance, the SA or any of its  
46 committees may go into executive session during a regularly scheduled meeting only to discuss  
47 confidential matters as defined by this Charter. No policy determinations will be made in executive  
48 session. The Student Assembly may also hold executive sessions for internal elections and planning  
49 purposes. Executive session shall be closed to non-voting, non-executive members of the assembly  
50 ~~except the Chairperson of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics and all present members of the~~  
51 ~~Student Assembly Office of Ethics.~~ Community members may be invited by the assembly to  
52 participate in an executive session. Secret ballot votes shall be reserved for executive sessions.

53 *Rationale: In similar vein with the amendment at line 41, the Student Assembly has the  
power to choose who is included in executive session. Other ex-officio positions, such as  
OSGR or OSA are recommended to attend. With these respective external committees, the  
precedent is one representative is present at executive session. If the Office of Ethics is an  
office that is based on making powers of recommendation, then it is inconsistent to be  
mandated a position on the executive session. Furthermore, this clause should be open to  
“heavily recommending” or “strongly suggest”*





## 54 ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES

### 55 Section 5: EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

#### 56 C. Student Assembly Office of Ethics

##### 57 a. ~~Name, Mission, and Affiliation~~

58 i. ~~Name~~— The name of the office shall be the Student Assembly Office of Ethics.

##### 59 b. Mission:

60 i. ~~Mission~~— The mission of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics shall be to  
61 pursue any necessary ethics concerns of SA members and directly elected  
62 undergraduate representatives to the UA.

63 ii. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics will investigate perceived ethical  
64 violations and draft reports to the SA for guidance and potential repercussions.

65 iii. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics will be available for consulting and  
66 support on SA ethical issues for both SA members and the student body.

##### 67 c. Affiliation

68 i. ~~Affiliation~~— The Office will review evaluate all concerns submitted by  
69 community members the student body that involve are against any SA members,  
70 SA committees, SA elections, or directly elected undergraduate representatives of  
71 the UA.

72 ii. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics shall be affiliated as an external executive  
73 office of the Cornell Student Assembly.

74 iii. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics shall work jointly with the Elections  
75 Committee to review any potential election violations or concerns.

##### 76 d. Roles and Responsibilities

77 i. A quorum shall consist of five members of the Student Assembly Office of  
78 Ethics.

79 ii. Chairperson Director of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics:

80 1. The Chairperson Director will chair all Student Assembly Office of  
81 Ethics meetings.

82 2. The Chairperson Director shall only vote in the event of a tie.

83 3. The Chairperson shall have a term limit of one academic year.

84 4. The Chairperson shall correspond directly with the Student Assembly  
85 on matters of ethics and ethical decorum in its meetings and all

86 proceedings. At the conclusion of the academic year, the Chairperson  
will present the executive committee with a comprehensive analysis of  
each voting member's performance on the Office of Ethics. This  
information should also be available to the public.

87 *Rationale: This will facilitate feedback and performance of the Office  
of Ethics directly to the Student Assembly. Additionally, it will better  
inform the Student Assembly on its decision of who to potentially*





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*elevate to the position of chair. The input and opinion of the Chairperson is imperative to this process and we hope that the “passing of the baton” will be akin to our current process of choosing a Director of Elections—once the current Director steps down, in their farewell speech they set forth who they want the Student Assembly to confirm as their successor.*

- a) ~~In the event of absence, the Chairperson may select any member of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics to serve as an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee of the SA.~~ Rationale: Inconsistencies with previous amendments

iii. Review all alleged ethical violations submitted to the Office via:

1. Qualtrics,
2. Email,
3. Personal contact with a committee member of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics.

iv. Open investigations on perceived ethical violations

1. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics can open its own investigation on an ethical matter by a simple majority vote.

v. Voting Members of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics:

1. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics shall consist of seven voting members.
2. All voting members shall serve for the duration of one academic year. ~~unless their term is renewed by the incoming Director of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics of their undergraduate academic career.~~ Rationale: To ensure a diverse collection of opinions among the voting members of the Office of Ethics, students should serve for one academic year. Undergraduate lifetime appointments would be detrimental to diversity of opinions. In addition, an undergraduate academic career tenure does not account for students who study abroad or need to take leaves of absence from the university.
3. ~~Student Assembly Office of Ethics~~ Voting members can be removed before their term expires by a unanimous vote of the ~~entire~~ voting membership of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics.
  - a) The subject of the removal vote must abstain from voting.
4. All voting members shall be non-Student Assembly and non-University Assembly members of the Cornell undergraduate student population.
5. Voting members may not seek SA or UA office ~~through their for the academic year following their term of service in the Student Assembly Office of Ethics.~~

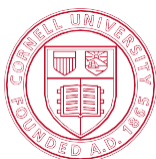


## Cornell University Student Assembly

113

- vi. Update the Student Assembly of its proceedings and its mission on an annual basis at a hearing conducted during one of the first three general assembly

114



## Cornell University Student Assembly

- 115 meetings of ~~the academic year~~ **the semester**. This will be formally referred to as  
the “Student Assembly Office of Ethics’ annual report.”
- 116 *Rationale: Reflecting the amendment that was adopted at the prior meeting  
(10/20/22), and to facilitate more communication, transparency, and input from  
the Student Assembly, reports should be given once a semester instead of the  
academic year in order to allow the Student Assembly to be better informed on  
being able to suggest appropriate amendments to the Ethics Bylaws.*
- 117 vii. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics will be commissioned with interpreting  
118 and applying the guidelines set forth in the SA Code of Ethics.
- 119 1. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics, ~~alone~~, will ~~solely~~ be tasked with  
the  
120 ability to revise the Code of Ethics.
- 121 2. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics will report revisions of the  
122 Code of Ethics to the Student Assembly at the subsequent meeting.
- 123 *Rationale: This amendment was passed by the assembly at the 10/20  
meeting.*
- 124 e. Recruitment of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics Members
- 125 i. The first seven voting members shall be appointed individually by any SA  
126 member and confirmed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire voting  
127 membership of the Student Assembly.
- 128 1. Except for nominations following a failed community vote, all  
129 nominations for the Student Assembly Office of Ethics must be  
130 unanimously voted on by the Student Assembly Office of Ethics prior  
131 to the vote by SA.
- 132 2. A week-long period in between nominations and appointments shall be  
133 dedicated to giving SA voting members the opportunity to speak one-  
134 on-one with each nominee.
- 135 ii. ~~The first slate of voting members must select the Director of the Student~~  
136 ~~Assembly Office of Ethics internally by a simple majority of the Office before~~  
137 ~~the end of the semester.~~
- 138 iii. **At the beginning** ~~Before the conclusion~~ of each academic year, the ~~outgoing~~  
139 voting membership of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics ~~must select the~~  
140 ~~Chairperson~~ **Chairperson** ~~Director of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics internally by a~~  
141 ~~simple majority vote of the entire voting membership of the Office~~ **may select a**  
**current Office of Ethics member to nominate to the Student Assembly for approval**  
**to be the next Chairperson. The Student Assembly will vote to confirm the next**  
**Chairperson of the Office of Ethics with a 2/3 majority. The Student Assembly**  
**will also reserve the right to remove the Chair by a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote. The incoming**  
**Chairperson will reserve the right to nominate 7 members for approval by the**  
**Student Assembly.**

142



*Rationale: This mechanism ensures fairness and responsibility of the Office of Ethics and the Student Assembly to each other, through establishing a system that ensures communication and collaboration in the process of accepting new leadership into the Assembly*

iv. ~~The Director of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics shall decide upon the voting membership of the incoming Office before the conclusion of each academic year.—~~

### f. Vote of Confidence

i. The Student Assembly will assess the work of the ~~Office of the Student Assembly~~ Office of Ethics during the previous academic year and **must** conduct



## Cornell University Student Assembly

a vote of confidence on an annual basis ~~during or following~~ by one ~~any~~ of the first three general assembly meetings of each SA term.

1. Following the Student Assembly Office of Ethics' annual report, as defined in Article VI, Section 5, Subsection C, Clause D, Paragraph VI, ~~a simple majority vote of the SA will sustain a Vote of Confidence in~~ 2/3 of the voting members of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics is required to operate in the present academic year.

2. *Rationale: As previously mentioned by the Parliamentarian of the Student Assembly, the cycle of Vote of Confidence and Vote of No Confidence is not conducive to productive discussion as the Student Assembly can easily arrive to a gridlock where no decision can be made. The 2/3 of voting members is a parsimonious alternative to voting procedure.*

~~In the event of a failed Vote of Confidence, the SA may commence a Vote of No Confidence by simple majority vote on the grounds that the Office has failed to uphold and execute its mission, as defined in Article VI, Section 5, Subsection C, Clause B.~~

a) ~~The Chairperson of the Student Assembly Office of Ethics and all present members of the Office may directly address the concerns brought against the Office prior to the vote of the SA to commence a Vote of No Confidence.~~

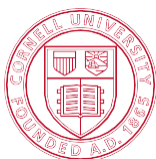
b) ~~If the motion to commence a Vote of No Confidence fails, the SA must return to a Vote of Confidence as defined in Article VI, Section 5, Subsection C, Clause F, Paragraph I.~~

3. ~~A Vote of No Confidence shall be considered sustained in the event that two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members of the SA votes in favor.~~

a) ~~If the Vote of No Confidence is not sustained, the Assembly must return to a Vote of Confidence as defined in Article VI, Section 5, Subsection C, Clause F, Paragraph I.~~

ii. In the event of a sustained Vote of No Confidence, a community vote of the entire undergraduate population shall be taken in order to remove all Student Assembly Office of Ethics members ~~by two-thirds (2/3) majority.~~ by 15% of student body.

*Rationale: The Student Assembly Charter Section 7 lines 275-279 outlines: "Petitioning for recall shall last for a period of not more than fourteen (14) days from the registration of the petition. The required number of signatures shall be: for representatives of a college constituency - 50% plus one or 1000 from that constituency, whichever is smaller; for at-large representatives - 15% of the student body. The petition will be presented to the Office of the Assemblies."*



## Cornell University Student Assembly

174 *Therefore, to maintain consistency, any member of the Office of Ethics is a  
representative at large, requiring votes from 15% of the student body rather  
than 2/3 majority.*

175 iii. In the event of a failed community vote, all Student Assembly Office of Ethics  
176 members would continue to serve.

177 ~~iv. In addition to the annual vote of confidence, an additional vote of confidence~~  
178 ~~can be called at any point during the academic year.~~

179 g. Student Assembly Office of Ethics Bylaws

180 i. All bylaw proposals to Article VI, Section 5, Subsection C, must be approved by  
181 the Student Assembly Office of Ethics by a two-thirds (2/3) majority before  
182 coming to the SA.

183 ii. Changes to the Student Assembly Office of Ethics bylaws may only occur during  
184 the first three SA meetings of each semester.

185 *Rationale: This amendment was passed by the assembly at the 10/20 meeting.*

186 h. The Student Assembly Code of Ethics

187 ~~i. Before the conclusion of the 2021-2022 academic year, the Student Assembly~~  
188 ~~Office of Ethics will be charged with creating a Student Assembly Code of~~  
189 ~~Ethics that must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire voting~~  
190 ~~membership of the Student Assembly.~~

191 ~~ii. The SA Code of Ethics should include, but is not limited to, including:-~~

192 ~~1. An expansion of the language outlined in the Student Assembly~~  
193 ~~Standing Rules, Section 2: Ethical Standards and Attendance Policy,~~  
194 ~~Section A;~~

195 ~~2. An overview of possible ethical conduct offenses;-~~

196 ~~3. The process of determining a violation of ethics;~~

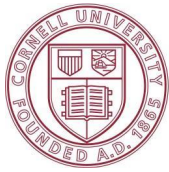
197 ~~4. The process of recommending the appropriate disciplinary action to a~~  
198 ~~third party.-~~

199 ~~iii. The Student Assembly Office of Ethics will be charged with interpreting and~~  
200 ~~applying the guidelines set forth in the SA Code of Ethics.~~

202 **Respectfully Submitted,**

203 Michelle Song '25

204 *Representative at Large, Student Assembly*



## Resolution 9: Establishment of the HOTEL Commission

**Abstract:** This resolution will establish the HOTEL Commission ad-hoc committee

**Sponsored by:** Anna Lewis '25, Pedro Da Silveira '25, J.P. Swenson '25

**Reviewed by:** The Communications and Outreach Committee (3-0-1)

**Type of Action:** Recommendation

**Originally Presented:**

**Current Status:** New Business

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**Whereas,** according to the Special Rules of Order of the Cornell Student Assembly

Ad-Hoc committee: "The Student Assembly shall be empowered to create an ad-hoc committee for the length of their term. If the ad-hoc committee requests to continue into the next term, they must seek approval from the newly seated assembly."

**Whereas,** according to the Charter of the Student Assembly

The object of this assembly shall be to effect more extensive involvement in campus governance in the undergraduate student body. This is accomplished by charging the assembly with the authority and the responsibility to examine any matters which involve the interests or concern the welfare of the student community

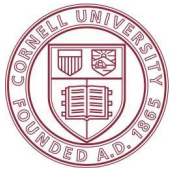
**Whereas,** the Student Assembly is tasked with increasing involvement in campus and with the undergraduate student body,

**Whereas,** the Student Assembly is mandated to examine and ameliorate the issues that affect the undergraduate student body,

**Whereas,** social wellbeing, community, and sense of belonging are among the main factors that constitute the social, emotional, and mental health of the undergraduate student body,

**Whereas** the overall health and welfare of the undergraduate student body is the upmost priority of the Student Assembly,

**Whereas,** community and social events bolster a stronger sense of community and social well being,



## Cornell University Student Assembly

**Whereas**, the Student Assembly facilitates stronger connections and sentiments between the undergraduate student body and the Administration/Faculty

**Whereas**, direct programming and event planning is a method that the Student Assembly can directly impact the lives of the undergraduate student body

**Be it therefore resolved**, the Student Assembly shall establish an ad-hoc committee called the Hospitality Organization to Elevate Leadership (HOTEL) Commission

**Be it further resolved**, the desired structure of this ad-hoc committee is as followed:

Leadership: One chair.

Role of the Chair:

1. Appoint the initial members of the committee
2. Host meetings for the committee
3. Work with the Communications and Outreach Committee to promote the Commission's events and to reach out to relevant stakeholders
4. Present a report to the Student Assembly describing the Commissions plans, executed events, and overall engagement with the undergraduate student body on a once-a-month basis

Membership:

- Every Cornell undergraduate student is eligible to serve in the committee. The initial members will be appointed by the chair. Additional members will be able to join via application.

Mission:

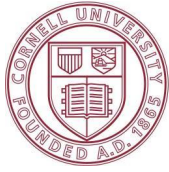
- To increase sense of belonging for Cornellians through the introduction of additional school spirit events open to the entire student body
- Establishing a direct means of tangible engagement with the undergraduate student body

Goals:

- Offer a series of unique school-wide events every month (or up to what is reasonably executable) to promote better school spirit, community engagement, and sense of belonging.
- Increase participation and involvement of the undergraduate student body with the Student Assembly

Timeline: October 27, 2022 to May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023





Cornell University  
Student Assembly

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna Lewis '25

*School of Hotel Administration Representative, Student Assembly*

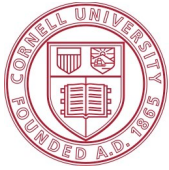
Pedro Da Silveira '25

*Vice President of Internal Operations, Student Assembly*

J.P. Swenson '25

*Undesignated Representative-at-Large, Student Assembly*

*(Reviewed by: Communications and Outreach Committee 10/19/22)*



# Resolution 10: Mitigating Negative Student Impact of 14% International Student Tax Withholding

**Abstract:** This resolution calls for action on behalf of financial aid and tax offices at Cornell to increase preparation of international students receiving financial aid for the 14% tax withholding.

**Sponsored by:** Pareesay Afzal '24, Amari Lampert 24'

**Reviewed by:** The Executive Committee (4-0-2)

**Type of Action:** Recommendation

**Originally Presented:** 10/27/2022

**Current Status:** New Business

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**Whereas,** the Student Assembly Charter, Section 2: Actions of the Assembly, Part A, iv., enlists Recommendation as one of the six principal actions of the Assembly pursuant to the legislative authority and responsibilities of the SA.

**Whereas,** Part E (lines 43-44) of the aforementioned section explains the purpose of Recommendation as follows:

E. Recommendation is an action of the SA expressing the recommendation of the SA in policy areas over which the SA through its Charter may or may not have policy-making power.

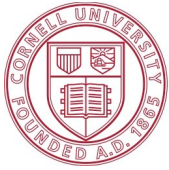
**Whereas,** IRS qualifies grant aid in excess of tuition and mandatory fees as taxable income;

**Whereas,** Cornell financial aid follows a 14% tax withholding policy for recipients of financial aid who are non-resident aliens and not eligible for exemption from taxes under a tax treaty;

**Whereas,** currently, the only mention of the 14% tax withholding is on the financial aid office's website's policy [page](#) and graduate school's tax information [page](#);

**Whereas,** incoming international students are asked, in orientation, requested one-on-one settings, upon hire by University and through the tax office website, to provide information via the Foreign National Questionnaire;

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## Cornell University Student Assembly

**Whereas**, the Foreign National Questionnaire collects information that is to evaluate the foreign national's U.S. tax status, i.e., eligibility for exemption from income or FICA taxes, etc;

**Whereas**, the Foreign National Questionnaire may be used to determine in/eligibility for the 14% tax withholding, but it does not serve as information or notification regarding the withholding;

**Whereas**, a considerable portion of the international student population has expressed concern, stress arising from the lack of notification regarding the withholding;

**Whereas**, for students receiving full or near full financial aid, the withholding amounts to around \$3,000-3,500 deducted from the financial aid refund;

**Whereas**, the unnotified deduction has incurred a negative impact on the academic, mental and financial aspect of several international students' experience, especially for those who are those who are receiving full financial aid with very little student and/or parent contribution;

**Whereas**, in some cases, the withholding amount exceeds students' estimated financial contribution and can therefore be viewed as unmet financial need;

**Whereas**, international students comprise 10% of the Cornell undergraduate student population and 50% of the graduate student population, according to Fall 2021 statistics;

**Be it therefore resolved**, that the Student Assembly recommend the financial aid office and tax office to incorporate an explicit and direct mention of the 14% tax withholding as an email notification to incoming international students who are receiving financial aid.

**Be it further resolved**, that the Student Assembly recommend the financial aid office to include the withheld amount in the financial aid award letter sent to students.

**Be it finally resolved**, that the Student Assembly recommend the concerned offices and departments to provide adequate, immediate, and effective financial relief to international students who have been disproportionately negatively affected by the withholding they were unprepared for.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pareesay Afzal '24

Amari Lampert 24'