



Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Agenda of the Thursday, October 11, 2018 Meeting
4:45pm-6:30pm in Willard Straight Hall Memorial Room

- I. Call to Order & Roll Call**
- II. Open Microphone**
- III. Announcements and Reports**
 - a. EVP Anderson- Homeplate Program
- IV. Business of the Day**
 - a. Resolution 10: Approving Revisions to Appendix C
 - b. Resolution 12: Instituting Bi-Weekly Reports for Representatives
 - c. Resolution 13: Creating the Advocacy Agenda ad-hoc Committee
 - d. Resolution 14: Increasing the Minimum LEED Certification
- V. Executive Session**
 - a. Appointments to the Appropriations Committee
- VI. Adjournment**



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(10/4/2018)
Type of Action:	Internal Policy
Status/Result:	Business of the Day

S.A. Resolution #10 Approving Revisions to Appendix C

ABSTRACT: This resolution proposes amendments to the section of the SA Charter that contains guidelines for allocating the Student Assembly Infrastructure Fund to the Student Assembly Infrastructure Fund Commission.

Sponsored by: Ian Wallace '20

Whereas, Appendix C has not been revised since it was first approved during the 2014-15 school year;

Whereas, the timeline as laid out in the current language has never been followed by SAIFC;

Whereas, the unclear wording makes it difficult for the committee to follow the procedures as established in the charter;

Be it therefore resolved, the Student Assembly amends Appendix C of the Student Assembly Charter in accordance with the attached document.

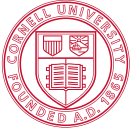
Respectfully Submitted,

Ian Wallace '20

Chair, Student Assembly Infrastructure Fund Commission

LGBTQ+ Liaison At-Large, Student Assembly

Reviewed by: SAIFC, 11-0-1, 09/27/2018



APPENDIX C: GUIDELINES FOR THE ALLOCATION OF THE STUDENT ASSEMBLY INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

Section 1: Preamble

The Student Assembly (the Assembly), is charged with the allocation of the Student Assembly Infrastructure Fund (SAIF). Applications for funding provided by the SAIF must be reviewed annually by the SAIF Committee and are subject to overview by the Appropriations Committee.

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Section 2: Sources of Funding

By the first of November of every year, the annual pay-out of the SAF endowment fund will be transferred into the SAIF under the Student Disbursement Account of the Assembly.

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Section 3: Closing of Account at Year End

By the last regularly scheduled Student Assembly meeting of the fall semester, the chair of the SAIFC will deliver a report to the Assembly of all funds, committed, spent and unspent, remaining in the SAIF Disbursement Account.

Deleted: On the first of June of every year, any outstanding amount in the budget of the SAIF under the Student Assembly budget be transferred back into the SAF endowment fund

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Section 4: Definitions

The following terms, which appear frequently in this Appendix, shall be defined as follows:

- A. Organization: a registered Independent or University organization that has authorization to receive funding.
- B. Application: the request to receive a funding award from the SAIF for a project or initiative.
- C. Applicant: any individual student, group of students, organization, or group of organizations who submits an application to receive a funding award from the SAIF.
- D. SAFC: Student Activities Funding Commission, a committee of the Student Assembly, as outlined in the Student Assembly Bylaws.
- E. Byline funding: line item funding that comes directly from the SAF as described under Appendix A of the Student Assembly Charter.
- F. Appropriations Committee: a committee of the Student Assembly, as outlined in the Student Assembly Bylaws.

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Section 5: Purpose

The purpose of the SAIF is to financially support projects and/or initiatives that improve infrastructure or facilities on campus that contribute to the undergraduate experience of Cornell students.



42 Section 6: Eligibility

43 To be eligible to receive a funding award from the SAIF, an application for a project or initiative must:

- 44 A. be developed, organized, and submitted by Cornell undergraduates;
- 45 B. allow Cornell undergraduate students equal access to the benefits of the project;
- 46 C. be an initiative located on the Ithaca campus of Cornell University;
- 47 D. Be reliant on an SAIF funding award in order to be completed in a timely fashion;
- 48 E. not have previously requested and received a funding award from the SAIF for the same purpose.

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49 Section 7: Permitted Applications

50 The following applications represent some, but not all, of the eligible projects or initiatives that, if they are not among
51 the list of prohibited applications, may receive funding awards from the SAIF:

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- 52 A. a renovation of a room or building
- 53 B. the construction of new infrastructure (ex. Bike racks, electrical outlets, water fountains)
- 54 C. an opportunity to increase the size of a capital goods expenditure to receive an unforeseen benefit (i.e. a
- 55 planned renovation by the administration could be substantively expanded via student support); and
- 56 D. a project or initiative that needs initial start-up funding before it can become eligible for other sources of
- 57 funding on campus.
- 58 E. A web-based application that provides benefits to Cornell undergraduate students.

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59 Section 8: Prohibited Applications

60 The following applications are prohibited from receiving funding awards from the SAIF:

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- 61 A. an application that did not receive funding or failed to get reimbursed from other sources due to an error on
- 62 behalf of the applicant;
- 63 B. requests to help an applicant avoid running a deficit resulting from a lack of adequate planning;
- 64 C. an application to cover the costs of a regularly occurring project or initiative; and
- 65 D. an application that directly or indirectly subsidizes the cost of tuition of an individual student.

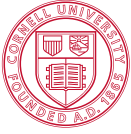
66 Section 9: Procedure for Determining Funding Awards

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- 67 A. Release of Application
- 68 i. The chair of the SAIF Commission (SAIFC) is responsible for submitting the application to receive
- 69 funding from the SAIF to the Office of the Assemblies by the second regularly scheduled Student
- 70 Assembly meeting;

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- 84 ii. The Office of the Assemblies shall make the application provided by the chair of the SAIFC available
85 to all eligible applicants by the third regularly scheduled Student Assembly meeting, or one week
86 following the meeting with the SAIFC Chair, whichever is sooner.
- 87 iii. The chair of the SAIFC shall create a publicity plan, in conjunction with the Executive Committee of
88 the Student Assembly, detailing how the SA will make all students aware of the SAIFC. This plan
89 shall be approved by the Executive Committee, by the second regularly scheduled Student Assembly
90 meeting of the Fall semester.
- 91 iv. The chair of the SAIFC is responsible for releasing a timeline by third regularly scheduled Student
92 Assembly meeting of the Student Assembly each semester consisting of the deadline for applications,
93 when those applications will be reviewed by the SAIFC, and when those funding awards will be
94 announced.
- 95 v. The chair of the SAIFC may choose to hold additional SAIFC meetings to evaluate all received
96 applications that have not yet been reviewed in addition to the dates released in the timeline on the
97 first day of each semester.
- 98 B. Funding Award Evaluation Process
- 99 i. For each application, the SAIFC will:
- 100 a. arrange a hearing where the proposers of the application may address questions of the
101 committee,
- 102 b. determine if the application is eligible to receive a funding award from the SAIF,
- 103 c. decide the order in which applications are voted upon to receive funding awards by first
104 holding a ranked order vote by committee members. Once SAIFC has established
105 application rankings, the vote on funding awards will proceed from the highest ranked
106 application and so on in descending order.
- 107 ii. After the SAIFC evaluates an application, the chair of the SAIFC must issue a written report which
108 includes the:
- 109 a. name of the applicant,
- 110 b. project or initiative requested in the application,
- 111 c. date that the SAIFC reviewed the application,
- 112 d. funding award amount requested by the applicant,
- 113 e. funding award granted by the SAIFC and what that funding award is as a percentage of the
114 available funding in the SAIF at the beginning of that academic year, and
- 115 f. rationale explaining the SAIFC's decision
- 116 iii. All funding awards granted by the SAIFC must be approved by the Dean of Students before
117 becoming finalized.
- 118 iv. If the applicant has a University operating account with internally controlled funds and oversight by a
119 Cornell-employed advisor, the Vice President for Finance will approve the transfer of funds from
120 the SAIFC into their account. If the applicant does not have an account that meets these eligibility
121 requirements, the amount of the funding award will be separated from the remaining balance of the

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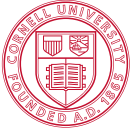
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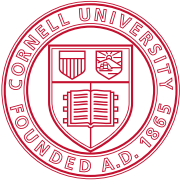


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- 156 SAIF and expenses will be processed [through regular university accounting procedures through the](#)
157 [Office of Assemblies, like](#) all others under the Student Assembly budget.
158
159 v. At each meeting of the Assembly immediately following [the final approval of a funding award by the](#)
160 [Dean of Students](#), the report associated with the application must be included in the meeting's
161 agenda.
162 vi. The chair of the SAIFC will file any reports or minutes of committee meetings pertaining to the
163 SAIF with the Office of the Assemblies.
164 vii. The chair of the SAIFC shall regularly report to the Assembly on the progress of projects and shall
inform the Assembly of any setbacks the Commission faces in implementing its projects

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Originally Presented on:	(10/04/2018)
Type of Action:	Internal Policy
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #12 Instituting Bi-Weekly Reports for Representatives

ABSTRACT: This resolution seeks to amend the Standing Rules to mandate that all voting representatives submit weekly reports in an effort to improve accountability.

Sponsored by: Joe Anderson '20

Whereas, much of the work of Student Assembly memebbers happens outside of Student Assembly meetings;

Whereas, submitting bi-weekly reports would allow representatives to show the meetings they attend weekly for Student Assembly related work;

Whereas, these bi-weekly reports would also improve the accountability of representatives as these reports would be reported in conjunction with the meeting minutes from the previous meeting;

Whereas, these bi-weekly reports would allow representatives to also report on any current initiatives;

Be it therefore resolved, insert on line 147 of the Standing Rules:

“N. Rule 14: Every voting member of the Student Assembly shall submit their weekly report for the previous week to the Executive Vice President at least 72 hours in advance of the next regularly scheduled meeting to be included with the meeting minutes for the previous Student Assembly meeting. Failure to provide a bi-weekly report will result in a quarter absence unless the representative provided a reasonable excuse to the Executive Vice President.”

Be it finally resolved, the form shall be the same for all representatives and will be included in all the weekly Calls for Agenda Items.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Anderson '20
Executive Vice President, Student Assembly

(Reviewed by: Executvie Committee, 5-0-0, 10/2/2018)



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Originally Presented on:	(10/4/2018)
Type of Action:	Internal Policy
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #13 Creating the Advocacy Agenda ad-hoc Committee

ABSTRACT: This resolution seeks to create a living document of the Student Assembly named the Advocacy Agenda to help advance long-term goals of the undergraduate community.

Sponsored by: Joe Anderson '20

Whereas, the Student Assembly focuses on a variety of issues throughout the academic year;

Whereas, many of these issues arise on an immediate basis, which causes many long-term advocacy goals to take a back seat in the process and prevents positive change on a variety of issues

Whereas, the implementation of a long-term planning document will both help with positive change with administration and provide a chance for members of the assembly and the community to actively collaborate on a variety of issues in a transparent manner;

Be it therefore resolved, that the Student Assembly creates a living document called the Advocacy Agenda and creates the Advocacy Agenda ad-hoc Committee to create the full document

Be it further resolved, the committee will consist of three voting members of the Student Assembly;

Be it further resolved, the committee will solicit advocacy ideas from the Student Assembly and consult with necessary student organizations to best craft the document;

Be it further resolved, the Executive Archivist of the Student Assembly will be an ex-officio member of the committee;

Be it further resolved, the committee will include a record of all projects worked on by Student Assembly members in the Advocacy Agenda and will note at the end of each Assembly term which projects remain incomplete;

Be it finally resolved, the committee will look to release the formal document by the end of the Fall 2018 semester.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Anderson '20

Executive Vice President, Student Assembly

(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 5-0-0, 10/2/2018)



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Originally Presented on:	(10/04/2018)
Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #14 Increasing the Minimum LEED Certification

Abstract: This resolution urges the Board of Trustees to increase the minimum LEED certification from Silver to Platinum for campus buildings in the Climate Action Plan and conduct an Environmental Impact Statement for the North Campus Residential Expansion.

Sponsored by: Grace Park '19

Whereas, Cornell President Martha Pollack has taken a positive step towards a fossil fuel-free world by reaffirming Cornell's 2015 commitment to the American Campuses Act on Climate Pledge, which echoes the terms of the Paris Agreement;

Whereas, Cornell University has publicly committed to achieve carbon neutrality by 2035;

Whereas, While Cornell has reduced carbon emissions by over 30 percent since 2008, and by almost 50 percent since 1990 despite a 20 percent growth in square footage, this figure does not include emissions from upstream methane leakage which has increased;

Whereas, when upstream methane emissions are taken into consideration, as required by the State Environmental Quality Review, total greenhouse gas emissions have increased 10-fold since 2008 to over 600,000 metric tonnes of CO₂;

Whereas, currently Cornell has committed to LEED Silver certification for all projects over \$5 million under the Climate Action Plan, with the NCRE project set to meet LEED Gold;

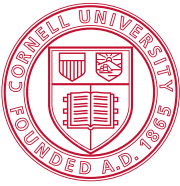
Whereas, LEED certification alone is insufficient to account for energy impacts;

Whereas, the Passive House metric prioritizes building energy performance of buildings and was used for the CornellTech buildings on the New York City campus;

Whereas, per the current design, the residential rooms will have a 22% window to wall ratio, despite the sustainably optimal ratio being 15%, leading to inefficient insulation and increased energy consumption;

Whereas, there is insufficient information regarding the cumulative window to wall ratio that includes the ground floor common areas, which are depicted as fully glass and when accounted for, would exacerbate the possibility of energy inefficiency;

Whereas, this decision for window area was influenced by aesthetic purposes and concerns for mental health, yet neither students nor student groups dedicated to the issue of mental health, like Cornell Minds Matter, were consulted;



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Whereas, the timeframe to engage students and to submit input on the project was limited as students only received one minimally publicized email about opportunities to provide comment;

Be it therefore resolved, that Cornell undergo an Environmental Impact Statement for the North Campus Residential Expansion project;

Be it further resolved, that Cornell use the Passive House metric and commit to obtaining LEED Platinum certification;

Be it further resolved, as part of an effort to improve energy efficiency of the new dorms that the common area window to wall ratio is very conspicuously stated publicly and is *significantly* reduced, and that the window to wall ratio is decreased from 22% to 15%;

Be it finally resolved, that NCRE project meet the time constraints of the Climate Action Plan, of being carbon neutral by 2035 and publicly and clearly announce when other impacts (such as upstream methane leakage) require the purchase of carbon offsets;

Be it finally resolved, that Cornell Administration establish updated and plentiful communication prior to construction to voice concerns, and throughout the process to regard the immediate wellbeing of students, by providing a platform for students to communicate concerns or requests with administration in the form of a public panel or forum

Respectfully Submitted,

Grace Park '19
Art, Architecture, and Planning Representative, Student Assembly

Julie Kapuvari '19
Climate Justice Cornell

Jenny Xie '20
Climate Justice Cornell

Zoya Mohasin '21
Climate Justice Cornell

(Reviewed by: Environmental Committee, 5-0-1, 10/2/2018)