

Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Agenda of the Thursday, February 7, 2019 Meeting
4:45pm-7:00pm in Memorial Room, Willard Straight Hall

- I. Call to Order & Roll Call**
- II. Approval of the Minutes**
 - a. January 31, 2019 Minutes
- III. Open Microphone**
- IV. Announcements and Reports**
- V. Business of the Day**
 - a. Resolution 18: Reinstating the Publication of Median Grades
 - b. Resolution 24: Updating the Non-Discrimination Clause
- VI. Executive Session**
 - a. Appointments
- VII. Adjournment**



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Originally Presented on:	11/29/18
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

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S.A. Resolution #18 Reinstating the Publication of Median Grades

ABSTRACT: This resolution seeks to reinstate the semesterly publication of median grade reports.

Sponsored by: Osai Egharevba '21

Whereas, from 1998 until 2011, the university published median grade reports at the end of each semester for all courses whose enrollment was greater than 10; and

Whereas, in May 2011, the Faculty Senate voted to cease the publication of median grades out of concerns regarding grade inflation; and

Whereas, median grades are recorded on student transcripts for graduate schools and employers to view, but students are not allowed to view this data until after they have completed the course; and

Whereas, at other universities, such as Dartmouth College and University of Michigan, median grades are published *in addition* to being recorded on transcripts, establishing a concept known as “Truth in Grading.”; and

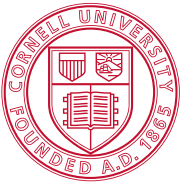
Whereas, median grades for many courses have largely stayed the same (and in some cases have increased) since the last time they were published, contradicting the argument that the publication of median grades contributes to grade inflation; and

Whereas, a student’s course grade can easily be compared to the median grade for that course by looking at their transcript¹, contradicting the argument that one can “shop” for supposedly easy courses based on a median grade report; and

Whereas, various courses inherently have different grading bases and different faculty members may have different grading standards for the same course, contributing to the difference in median grades; and

Whereas, faculty often announce the expected median grade before the drop date for their courses at the beginning of the semester, having the same effect as publishing a median grade report; and

¹For instance, a student who earns a B+ in a course whose median grade is a B would indicate stronger performance than one who received an A- in a class whose median grade is an A.



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38 **Whereas**, academic transparency can be significantly improved by reinstating the publication of
39 median grades, in addition to maintaining them on student transcripts; and

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41 **Whereas**, the Faculty Senate has the authority to reinstate the publication of median grades,
42 reintroducing the Truth in Grading concept; and

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44 **Be it further resolved**, that the Student Assembly recommends that the Faculty Senate reinstate the
45 semesterly publication of median grade reports.

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47 Osai Egharevba '21
48 *College of Engineering Representative, Student Assembly*
49 *Member, Academic Policy Committee*

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51 Moriah Adeghe '21
52 *Chair, Academic Policy Committee*

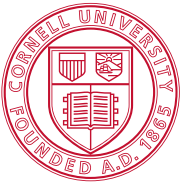
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54 Robert Sanchez '21
55 *Member, Academic Policy Committee*

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57 Jojo Cheng '21
58 *Member, Academic Policy Committee*

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60 TJ Hunt '21
61 *Member, Academic Policy Committee*

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63 Rachel Marciano '20
64 *Member, Academic Policy Committee*

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66 *(Reviewed by: Academic Policy Committee, 12-0-1, 11/8/2018)*



Originally Presented on:	1/31/2019
Type of Action:	Internal Policy
Status/Result:	New Business

1 S.A. Resolution #24
2 Updating the Non-Discrimination Clause
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4 ABSTRACT: This amendment to the Student Assembly Charter, Appendix B would update the
5 Non-Discrimination Clause for selection of membership and funding of other organizations. This
6 amendment would incorporate aspects of New York State Human Rights Law into the current
7 definition.
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9 **Sponsored by: Joe Anderson '20**

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11 **Whereas**, Appendix B, Section 3, Sub-Section L, is the Non-discrimination clause that all
12 organizations receiving Student Activity Fee money must comply to;
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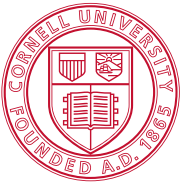
14 **Whereas**, the Non-discrimination clause protects students from discrimination in the following
15 protected classes: actual or perceived age, color, disability, ethnicity, gender identity or
16 expression, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, veteran
17 status, or any combination of these factors
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19 **Whereas**, this definition is not in line with New York State Human Rights law;
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21 **Be it therefore resolved**, lines Appendix B, Section 3, Sub-Section L now reads as follows:
22

23 **Non-discrimination:** All organizations receiving Student Activity Fee funds directly or that receive such
24 funds indirectly from a by-line funded organization shall not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived
25 age, race, religion, creed, color, national origin, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression,
26 military status, sex, disability, predisposing genetic characteristics, familial status, marital status, domestic
27 violence victim status, or any combination of these factors when determining its membership and when
28 determining the equal rights of all general members and executive board members, respectively, which shall
29 include, but are not limited to, voting for, seeking, and holding positions within the organization.
30 Additionally, all organizations receiving funding from the Student Activity Fee and that serve as a funding
31 source for other organizations on campus shall not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived age, race,
32 religion, creed, color, national origin, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, military
33 status, sex, disability, predisposing genetic characteristics, familial status, marital status, domestic violence
34 victim status, or any combination of these factors when awarding funding.

- 35 i. Notwithstanding these requirements, a club sport may make requirements based on
36 competitive athletic skill which may result in a club sport of one or predominantly one
37 gender. Organizations may also make requirements based on vocal range or quality which
38 may result in a chorus or choruses of one or predominantly one gender. Organizations that
39 participate in activities with governmental age restrictions may also make appropriate
40 requirements on the basis of age.
41 ii. Organizations may also enforce uniform standards of belief or conduct as a prerequisite for
42 obtaining some or all rights of general members and executive board members, respectively,
43 so long as said standards are protected by the 1st Amendment of the United States
44 Constitution in the context of a public university and do not impede enforcement of
45 Appendix B, Section II, subsection E.



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46 iii. Each organization receiving Student Activity Fee funds directly from the Student Assembly
47 shall include a “Non-discrimination Clause” section in its bylaws, constitution or other
48 governing
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50 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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52 Joe Anderson ‘20
53 *Executive Vice President, Student Assembly*

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55 *(Reviewed by: Appropriations Committee 14-0-1, 1-28-29)*