

## Cornell University Student Assembly

### Cornell University Student Assembly

Agenda of the Thursday, September 26th, 2019 Meeting  
4:45-6:30pm in the Memorial Room of Willard Straight Hall

**I. Call to Order & Roll Call**

**II. Approval of the Minutes**

- a. [September 19, 2019](#)

**III. Open Microphone**

**IV. Announcements**

- a. Move to Slack and Sprint Planning on Sunday – EVP Huang
- b. Special Projects Funding for NAISAC – VPF Adeghe

**V. Byline Reports**

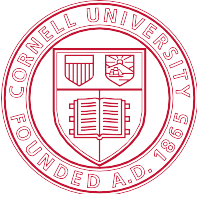
- a. [Outdoor Odyssey \(OO\)](#)
- b. [Orientation Steering Committee \(OSC\)](#)

**VI. New Business**

- a. [Approval of the SA 2019-2020 Meeting Calendar](#)
- b. [Resolution 7: Establishing the Office of the Student Advocate Bylaws](#)

**VII. Adjournment**

**VIII. Candidate Forum (6:45pm)**



## Cornell University Student Assembly

### Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, September 19, 2019 Meeting  
4:45pm-6:30pm in Memorial Room, Willard Straight  
Hall

#### I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. J. Anderson called the meeting to order at 4:45 pm.
- b. Roll Call:
  - i. Present: C. Benedict, U. Chukwukere, J. Clancy, J. Feit, M. Haddad, C. Huang, J. Kroll, A. Li, G. Martin, N. Matolka, I. Pavlov, L. Smith, P. Solovyeva, B. Weintraub, K. Wondimu, J. Youngblood, J. Anderson, A. Cass, T. Reuning.
  - ii. Absent: M. Adeghe (excused), O. Egharevba (unexcused), V. Xu (excused)

#### II. Approval of the Minutes

- a. Motion to approve the September 12, 2019 SA meeting minutes – **approved** with a vote of 18-0-1.

#### III. Open Microphone

- a. No speakers at the open microphone.

#### IV. Announcements

- a. Lending Library Special Project Funding
  - i. J. Anderson announced the SA Executive Committee approved funding in the amount of \$670 for the Cornell Lending Library to provide pre-professional support, including resume reviews, clothing, and textbooks. He explained that mid-tier funding requests of \$500-\$1499 requires approval from the Executive Committee. This funding request was passed unanimously by the committee.
- b. Fall Elections
  - i. J. Anderson noted that fall elections were underway. The SA seated two candidates who ran uncontested.
    1. T. Reuning assumed the LGBTQ+ Liaison At-Large position. He is a junior in Arts and Sciences.
    2. A. Cass assumed the College of Architecture, Art & Planning position. He is a freshman in Urban and Regional Studies.
  - ii. J. Anderson stated there will be three other elections with 14 candidates. The elections will be going on next month and voting will begin October 2, 2019. He asked SA members to support the new candidates and to attend the mandatory campaign meeting at 6:30pm in the same room.

#### V. Byline Reports

- a. J. Anderson explained it is currently a byline funding year. The Appropriations Committee oversees the process and approves a dollar amount for a two-year

funding period from the Student Activity Fee. The committee makes an initial recommendation and provides a rationale. Then, the SA can approve the amount through majority vote or overturn the recommendation with a two-thirds majority vote. If overturned, the SA will vote down from the highest amount to any recommendation through to zero.

- i. B. Weintraub asked if the SA has ever contested decisions made by the Appropriations Committee.
  - ii. J. Anderson responded there are usually one or two allocations every funding cycle that gets contested. Typically, he has seen it with organizations deserving more funding than what Appropriations has recommended. Two years ago, this happened with the Women's Resource Center (now the Gender Justice Advocacy Center, or GJAC) and Cornell Cinema. He and C. Huang were present at the Appropriations Committee meeting. He stated that the report captured the general sentiment of the room.
- b. Cornell University Emergency Medical Service (CUEMS)
  - i. C. Huang reported that the Appropriations Committee recommended the full amount requested of \$4.30 by a vote of 11-0-1. She conveyed gratitude for CUEMS' work in the community. The organization requested more funding for a meal plan as volunteers were paying for their own meals and working off-campus during diner-time shifts. CUEMS also requested more funding for laundry, as bedding in the on-call room had never been washed.
  - ii. Motion to approve the recommendation – approved by a vote of 18-0-1.
- c. International Students Union (ISU)
  - i. C. Huang reported that the Appropriations Committee recommended the full amount requested of \$4.81 by a vote of 10-0-2. She thanked the ISU for their work and explained the organization had been relying on minimal department funds. The organization is also looking to host more large-scale and small-scale events.
  - ii. B. Weintraub asked where the departmental funding ISU historically received will go.
    1. C. Huang explained that the organization can still receive the funding.
  - iii. Motion to approve the recommendation – approved by a vote of 18-0-1.
- d. Multicultural Greek & Fraternal Council (MGFC)
  - i. C. Huang reported that the Appropriations Committee recommended the full amount requested of \$1.00 by a vote of 6-3-2. MGFC has low membership and the organization would like to use the budget to expand outreach.
  - ii. B. Weintraub asked for an explanation on why three people voted against the funding.
    1. J. Anderson noted that votes from the Appropriations Committee are secret, but if members wanted to disclose their votes, it would be allowed.
    2. U. Chukwukere responded that those who voted the funding down did not understand what MGFC does and how it works. A lot of the organizations under MGFC have small membership. In addition, MGFC has never had enough funds to plan outreach on the level that the Interfraternity Council (IFC) and Panhellenic have. There were surpluses from the previous years due to the fact that

membership is low. However, MGFC does plan on expanding outreach this year.

3. G. Martin added that there were misunderstandings surrounding outreach. Outreach was not needed during MGFC rush as its processes were very different from those of IFC and Panhellenic.
  4. L. Smith stated that part of the rationale came from the increase on the table not matching what was received in the past.
- iii. B. Weintraub asked how IFC and Panhellenic are funded and how much they receive.
    1. J. Anderson replied the organizations get their funding from chapter processes. Since they have larger bases of members, they have larger budgets.
  - iv. L. Smith asked why there were only 11 votes from the Appropriations Committee.
    1. J. Anderson replied that members left during the meeting.
  - v. U. Chukwukere explained that MGFC has about 10-12 fraternities and sororities. It provides funding for all of them to put on chapter and service events, including for outreach and volunteering services.
  - vi. Motion to approve the recommendation – approved by a vote of 18-0-1.
- e. J. Anderson announced that as the byline funding process continues, there will be two to three reports every Thursday at SA meetings. At the last meeting of the year scheduled for Tuesday, December 10, 2019 from 4:45-6:30pm in the Physical Sciences Building, the SA will vote on the Student Activity Fee (SAF). SAF is covered by financial aid and the committee evaluates every organization independent of the aggregate running total.
  - f. J. Anderson reported that the SA will forgo the Executive Session today.

## **VI. Adjournment**

- a. J. Anderson adjourned the meeting at 5:13 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Catherine Tran*  
Clerk of the Assembly



## Cornell University Student Assembly

Organization	Outdoor Odyssey
2018 – 2020 Allocation	\$1.75
2020 – 2022 Request	\$2.50
<b>Appropriations Committee Recommendation</b>	<b>\$2.25</b>

### Rationale of the Committee

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The Committee wants to thank Outdoor Odyssey for the work they do to create fun trips for incoming students. The main reason that The Committee decided to fund Outdoor Odyssey \$2.25 is because of their lack of explanation on how they planned to execute their goals. Outdoor Odyssey came with examples of things they wanted to accomplish like increasing financial aid for students in need, creating lower trip fees overall and promoting diversity and inclusion. While these are all noble goals, The Committee was concerned with the lack of concrete plans to achieve many of these goals.

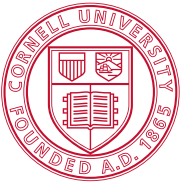
While we want to support Outdoor Odyssey and the work that they do, The Committee did not feel comfortable giving money to help solve stated problems, if there was not a concrete solution. We hope that Outdoor Odyssey effectively and efficiently uses the additional 50 cents that we appropriated to them and in the future we encourage Outdoor Odyssey to have action items to address the issues they see within their organization.

### Vote Totals

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The committee votes down from the highest amount proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$2.50	2-8-1



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\$2.45	2-8-1
\$2.40	2-8-1
\$2.25	9-1-1

Respectfully Submitted,

Moriah Adeghe  
*Vice President for Finance, Cornell Student Assembly*



## Cornell University Student Assembly

Organization	Orientation Steering Committee
2018 – 2020 Allocation	\$10.40
2020 – 2022 Request	\$10.40
<b>Appropriations Committee Recommendation</b>	<b>\$10.40</b>

### Rationale of the Committee

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The Committee wants to start off by thanking the OSC for all the work they do for every new student that come onto Cornell's campus. The Committee felt as though the OSC has done great in using their money to provide a comprehensive orientation program. We have seen an improvement in conserving funds since the last byline cycle and encourage the OSC to use any leftover money they may have from previous years to buy more durable goods that could save them money over the next couple byline cycles. In the future, The Committee would like for the dollar amount that the OSC is requesting be clearer in the application.

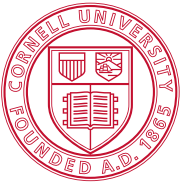
We are comfortable to fund OSC at the amount they are currently at and hope that in the future they will be able to provide as many robust programs as possible without having to cut down on costs for food or other items that make these events as enjoyable as possible for everyone involved. Again, the committee is very pleased with the OSC and looks forward to the work they will do in the future.

### Vote Totals

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The committee votes down from the highest amount proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$10.40	10-0-1



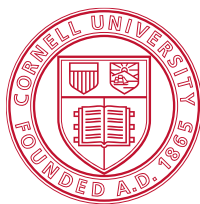
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**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Moriah Adeghe**

*Vice President for Finance, Cornell Student Assembly*





## Cornell University Student Assembly

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Joseph Anderson, President  
Catherine Huang, Executive Vice-President  
Valentina Xu Vice-President of Internal Operations  
Moriah Adeghe, Vice-President for Finance  
Indigo Pavlov, Vice President of External Relations  
Colin Benedict, Vice-President of Diversity and Inclusion  
Deborah Nyakaru, Parliamentarian  
Lydia Zheng, Director of Elections  
Ian Wallace, Executive Archivist

## Student Assembly 2019-2020 Meeting Schedule

### Fall 2019 – (15 meetings)

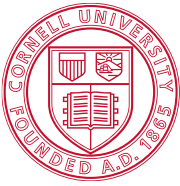
August 29th, 2019  
September 5, 2019  
September 12, 2019  
September 19, 2019  
September 26, 2019  
October 3, 2019  
October 10, 2019  
October 17, 2019  
October 24, 2019  
October 31, 2019  
November 7, 2019  
November 14, 2019  
November 21, 2019  
\*Thanksgiving Break Nov. 28\*  
December 5, 2019  
December 10, 2019

### Spring 2020 – (14 meetings)

January 23, 2020  
January 30, 2020  
February 6, 2020  
February 13, 2020  
February 20, 2020  
February 27, 2020  
March 5, 2020  
March 12, 2020  
March 19, 2020  
March 26, 2020  
\*Spring Break April 2\*  
April 9, 2020  
April 16, 2020  
April 23, 2020  
April 30, 2020

Meetings are traditionally held on Thursdays during the academic year from  
4:45–6:30 p.m. in the Memorial Room of Willard Straight Hall.

Last Revised 9/24/19



# Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	9/26/2019
Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	New Business

## S.A. Resolution #7

### Establishing the Office of the Student Advocate Bylaws

ABSTRACT: These amendments to the Student Assembly Bylaws seek to create an Office of the Student Advocate.

**Sponsored by: Liel Sterling '21, Cat Huang '21**

**Whereas**, Cornell's Office of the Student Advocate (OSA) would be an executive, non-partisan office created and legitimized by the Cornell Student Assembly.

**Whereas**, the Office of the Student Advocate has been created to offer help to any student or group trying to navigate Cornell's bureaucracy when their rights given by federal, state, and local laws or University policy have been violated;

**Whereas**, the OSA would be made up of undergraduate students acting as caseworkers in different fields to navigate issues including conduct violations, grade disputes, enrollment issues, financial aid problems, residency concerns, discrimination and harassment;

**Whereas**, when issues arise pertaining to areas of expertise already handled by other Cornell offices, the OSA will refer students to those offices as a first point of contact. All assistance would be free and confidential;

**Be it therefore resolved**, that the Student Assembly approve and adopt the attached Bylaws amendments:

#### OFFICE OF THE STUDENT ADVOCATE

##### Article 1. Roles and Responsibilities

##### Section 1: Student Advocate

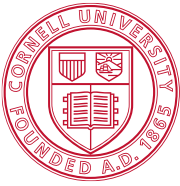
The responsibilities of the Student Advocate are as follows:

1. Attend and chair all office meetings
2. Correspond with the Student Assembly to affect office priorities
3. Create training programs for caseworkers and staff
4. Monitor the collection of data in the office
5. Develop relationships with University offices and coordinate informational materials

##### Section 2: Chief of Staff

The responsibilities of the Chief of Staff are as follows:

1. Supervise office staff and ensure cohesion
2. Ensure that all cases are met with an appropriate and timely response
3. Create training programs for caseworkers and staff
4. Develop relationships with University offices and coordinate informational materials
5. Write and present an office report at the end of each semester



## Cornell University Student Assembly

### Section 3: Director for Student and Campus Life

The responsibilities of the Director for Student and Campus Life are as follows:

1. Oversee caseworkers handling student issues pertaining to residency, discrimination, harassment and student-related conduct violations.
2. Create informational materials relating to these issues.

### Section 4: Director for Academic Affairs

The responsibilities of the Director for Academic Affairs are as follows:

1. Oversee caseworkers handling student issues pertaining to professor-related conduct violations, grade and enrollment disputes.
2. Create informational materials relating to these issues.

### Section 5: Director for Student Finance

The responsibilities of the Director for Student Finance are as follows:

1. Oversee caseworkers handling student issues pertaining to financial aid disputes and student-employment.
2. Create informational materials relating to these issues.

### Section 6: Caseworkers

The responsibilities of Caseworkers shall be as follows:

1. Follow the supervision of their Director
2. Participate in the office's training process
3. Respond to questions and inquiries sent via email by students or in person in a timely manner
4. Refer students to the appropriate office within the University to handle their complaint.

### Article 2: Recruitment of Office of the Student Advocate Members

Section 1: The outgoing Office of the Student Advocate shall nominate a new Student Advocate as well as staff-members each year, to be discussed and approved by the Student Assembly before the end of the academic year. The first student advocate shall be appointed by the SA President and confirmed by the Student Assembly and begin staffing the remainder of the office to be confirmed again by the Student Assembly.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Liel Sterling '21  
*President, ACLU*

Cat Huang '21  
*Executive Vice President, Student Assembly*

*(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 4-0-0, 9/24/19)*