

Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Agenda of the Thursday, February 13th, 2020 Meeting
4:45-6:30pm in the Memorial Room of Willard Straight Hall

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

II. Announcements & Presentations

III. Open Microphone

IV. Approval of the Minutes

V. New Business

- a. [S.A. Resolution #27: Approving Special Projects Request for Ithaca Tenants Union](#)
- b. [S.A. Resolution #28: Approving Special Projects Request for Cornell Fashion Collective](#)
- c. [S.A. Resolution #29: Approving Special Projects Request for Cornell American Institute for Architecture Students](#)
- d. [S.A. Resolution #30: Urging Cornell University to Contribute Financial Support for the Summer 2020 Student Contribution Pilot Program](#)
- e. [S.A. Resolution #31: Amending the Student Assembly Charter to Create a Ticket System for the President and Executive Vice President Election](#)
- f. [S.A. Resolution #32: Support of the development and implementation of a Cornell Campus Circulator System](#)
- g. [S.A. Resolution #33: Changing The Name of the “LGBTQ+ Liaison At-Large” Position to “LGBTQIA+ Liaison At-Large”](#)
- h. [S.A. Resolution #34: In Determining University Weather-Related Operating Status: Requesting Equitable Student Representation in the Recommended use of University Policy](#)

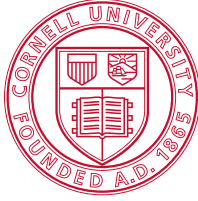
No. 8.2- Inclement Weather—as a Necessity to Maintain the Nature of Shared Governance

- i. S.A. Resolution #35: Support for the Ithaca Tenants' Union
 - i. Letter of Support
- j. S.A. Resolution #36: Creating a Study Committee that would evaluate the ACT/SAT test requirement for Cornell Admissions

VI. Business of the Day

- a. Joint Resolution #1: Changing the “Women's Issues Representative At-Large” position to the “Womxn’s Issues Representative At- Large”

VII. Adjournment



Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Tuesday, December 10th, 2019 Meetings

4:48-5:48pm & 6:32-6:40pm in the Lewis Auditorium, Room G76, Goldwin Smith Hall

I. Call to Order & Roll Call I

- a. J. Anderson called the meeting to order at 4:48 pm.
- b. Roll Call:

II. Announcements

- a. G. Martin said that the new VP will be voted on next semester, and that he did not have time to make the necessary edits for this semester due to his academic schedule.

III. Open Microphone

- a. No speakers at the open microphone.

IV. Byline Reports I

- a. Financial Aid Review Committee (FARC)
 - i. M. Adeghe said that AppsCom did their final three byline reports yesterday, and that the first was FARC. She added that FARC is an SA committee that was on byline up until 2009 when they decided to get off of byline due to the recession. She also said that FARC is now requesting \$5, \$2 of which would go to Students Helping Students, and the other \$3 for the Student Experience Grant (henceforth SEG). She added that this is great work that the assembly does, and that the SEG is also a partnership with each individual college, and so the colleges help to fund this program. She also said that the vote was unanimous and that there was not too much discussion in it.
 - ii. Motion to approve FARC's byline funding – **approved** 20-0-1.
- b. Student Assembly
 - i. M. Adeghe said that the SA requested \$4 and is currently funded at \$0.87, and that the increase in funding was mostly to support a more robust SPF. She added that their operating budget to run the assembly itself is about \$18,000 per year, and that this gives them \$35,000 or \$40,000 per year, which allows them to get more money for events for students. She also said that there was a conversation on whether they needed that much money, but that AppsCom did vote to approve funding at \$4.
 - ii. Motion to approve SA's byline funding – **approved** 20-0-1.
- c. Student Activities Funding Commission (SAFC)
 - i. M. Adeghe said that SAFC is a funding commission that funds about 550 organizations on campus, and that they are going through some restructuring and working on some new initiatives. She added that they get \$1.4 million in

funds at this time, but that they receive \$2.3 million worth of requests, and that through their restructuring, they are trying to lessen that gap. She also said that this funding is to help try and bridge the gap and close the holes, and that it is a sizable jump, but that this vote was unanimous.

- ii. Motion to approve SAFC's byline funding – approved 20-0-1.

V. Business of the Day

a. Resolution 19: Creating Internal Elections Rules

- i. N. Matolka asked if someone could cover for those in attendance what the decisions regarding this resolution were at the last sprint meeting.
- ii. O. Egharevba said that they left off at the one main point being the comment procedure and whether they wanted to have the appeals process or not. He added that there were people, including himself, who didn't think it was right to have only those three people decide what people can and can't say, and that if you have a President, EVP, and Parliamentarian who don't like a given individual or want to push a given individual, they can just censor things. He also said that there was also a point that an appeals process could make this more complicated.
- iii. J. Clancy said that there were definitely some counter-positions as well, and that those were the main points of contention, but that there were others.
- iv. N. Matolka asked if there could be a strawpoll about expanding the amount of people reviewing comments, or if they would prefer an appeals process.
- v. G. Martin asked what an appeals process would look like.
- vi. N. Matolka said that would be something to be discussed.
- vii. Discussion continued in this regard.
- viii. A. Cass said that they think that there is something to be said for there being distance between when statements are first made and then when people say things, and that this wouldn't work perfectly, but that they would hope that if people had issues with something somebody said about a person, there would be conversation between them and the people that vetoed it about why there is a problem. They added that this could allow that person to think more carefully about it and then possibly not say it or say it in a more constructive way later on. They also said that they don't know if the assembly can rely on that or if they would want to have some kind of appeal.
- ix. G. Martin said that he knows that they had discussed that OAR might be part of this, but the "Insight" portion of that had been removed. He continued to discuss this point.
- x. O. Egharevba said that he thinks that this really goes hand-in-hand with what G. Martin is doing, and that they could communicate on how this would work with the new Exec position that he is proposing. He added that he doesn't want to have this position alone and then have an additional new Exec position if those two things can't work together to make this better.
- xi. N. Matolka said that he likes the idea of this process being under the new Exec position. He asked G. Martin what the position is called at the time.
- xii. G. Martin said that it was referred to as "Research and Accountability" (henceforth RA).
- xiii. Discussion continued in this regard.

- xiv. G. Martin said that there aren't many internal elections during the semester, and that he thinks the committee can work around that as a result.
- xv. N. Watson said that FARC does things over email when there is an emergency request, and that the SA could do that as well.
- xvi. G. Martin said that any member of RA is also up for internal election, they would have to recuse themselves.
- xvii. J. Anderson said that such language cannot be included yet because the position doesn't exist yet.
- xviii. G. Martin said that he thinks that they can pass this today as the format, and then amend it later once the position formally exists.
- xix. M. Adeghe said that she was going to say that she's still getting caught up about allowing three people or potentially the VPRA to have the moral high ground. She added that regardless of people's positions, she doesn't think that anyone really has a moral high ground in the group, right now or in general.
- xx. C. Huang asked if M. Adeghe has suggestions then.
- xxi. M. Adeghe said that she's not sure that she's comfortable with this at all, and that she doesn't think that she wants her speech vetted by other assembly members.
- xxii. J. Anderson said that he would now start a formal speakers list.
- xxiii. M. Haddad asked if there is a chance that they can have training before internal elections so that they can inform everyone what's okay and what's not.
- xxiv. N. Matolka said that he agrees, but that he doesn't think anyone was on the same page with that in discussing it the first few times. He added that he thinks that people will have different opinions regardless of training.
- xxv. J. Kroll said that he agrees somewhat with M. Adeghe that if they put this intense framework on the debate, they give some people power over people's speech, which is problematic. He asked if they could introduce some really high standard to censure people, like a 4/5ths majority or something of that nature.
- xxvi. J. Anderson said that he wanted to speak on training because they tried to do that this year, and that they were operating on the Class Councils model, and that the timing is difficult especially considering the spring special elections timeframe. He added that the ideal zone is for an assembly to do training before internal elections, but if that is the request, then it would have to be written in the President and EVP roles to work that in prior to internal elections.
- xxvii. A. Cass asked if someone could give a rundown at some point as to what happened in sprint.
- xxviii. M. Adeghe said that they don't have minutes for that.
- xxix. G. Martin said that he could give a quick rundown, and that people had issues with the title itself along with what came with that title, and that there were also questions of internal vs. external elections. He added that there were different things discussed and that they fell upon Research and Accountability for those reasons.
- xxx. A. Cass asked if anything major changed about structure and responsibility.

- xxxi. G. Martin said that it is no longer appointed through Exec, and that the committee is now larger.
- xxxii. A. Cass asked if the position is now elected.
- xxxiii. G. Martin said that it is now internally elected.
- xxxiv. M. Adeghe said that she doesn't see it as a problem to make it four weekends instead of three, and that she thinks that training is important enough that changing the calendar isn't particularly bad.
- xxxv. J. Clancy asked what the timeframe for the weekend training was last year.
- xxxvi. There was a general response that it happened in April.
- xxxvii. J. Clancy said that he's been listening to various members' concerns about free speech, and that he personally thinks that there should be a system where it's vetted so that they can have a more controlled process and so people's feelings can't get hurt. He added that he definitely thinks no matter what happens that there should be a more formal ruleset regardless of the form that it takes, wherein people aren't just raising their hands and saying something. He also said that he doesn't know if this helps, but that he does think that there needs to be a more formal process.
- xxxviii. O. Egharevba said that he thinks that there should be, and that the reason he is concerned about three people deciding is that the composition of the personalities of these three changes year to year, and that there is no set standard as to what an approved or rejected comment looks like. He added that he feels like it is all arbitrary and that there are definitely times where on the assembly, in his opinion, people would censor other people or bring them down just because they didn't like them. He asked if he is correct in thinking these would not be anonymous anymore.
- xxxix. N. Matolka said that a standard one would not be anonymous.
 - xl. O. Egharevba asked if it would be anonymous for negative ones and that only positive ones would have a name tied to it.
 - xli. N. Matolka replied in the affirmative.
 - xlii. O. Egharevba said that he is not very convinced that only three people get to select what he can and can't say, and that there are definitely people who have served on the assembly who will bring down other people in any way possible, and that it is very toxic.
 - xliii. C. Huang asked if O. Egharevba has a suggestion.
 - xliv. O. Egharevba said that he would want concrete standards as to what constitutes an acceptable and unacceptable comment, and that without those, it's arbitrary and increases the risk of censorship.
 - xlv. J. Youngblood asked if they were all okay with the rest of the structure, and if the vetting process is the only point of contention.
 - xlvi. N. Matolka asked if a strawpoll could be done to determine this.
 - xlvii. Discussion continued in this regard.
 - xlviii. There was a strawpoll.
 - 1. Rule 1 was agreed upon.
 - 2. Rule 2 was agreed upon.
 - 3. Rule 3 was agreed upon.
 - 4. Rule 4 started discussion.
 - xlix. G. Martin said that he knows that they had a discussion about positive comments and asked what constitutes positive or negative comments.

1. C. Huang asked if he would like to keep discussing this.
- li. G. Martin replied in the affirmative.
- lii. C. Huang specified the language of the rule.
- liii. M. Adeghe said that she wonders whether a good middle ground would be not necessarily having a comment have to be positive or in support of someone, but that a person could send it in and it would just be posted without vetting. She added that a person would just be able to type the message, and that they would hopefully be thinking about it as they were typing, and that she thinks this takes away from the moral high-ground type of thing.
- liv. N. Matolka asked for a strawpoll to condense rules 4 through 6 to send in comments, and said that it wouldn't be vetted, but no one can see all the statements until Wednesday night. He added that the statements are not anonymous.
- lv. M. Adeghe said that their applicants are not currently in the room for deliberations, and asked whether these would also be sent to the candidates. She added that she thinks that it says somewhere that the candidates would also be reading the comments.
- lvi. C. Huang said that it is assumed but not explicitly said.
- lvii. M. Adeghe said that this might also be something to think about, because at this time their comments are not heard by the candidates.
- lviii. G. Martin said that he is nervous if there are now positive and negative comments and there is no vetting, and that he did not see why they needed vetting when all the comments were positive and in support.
- lix. N. Matolka said that the positive statements weren't going to be vetted anyway, and that the idea was that if a person had something they needed to say, they could submit it and bring it up with leadership.
- lx. T. Reuning asked what the response to M. Adeghe's question was regarding applicants being able to see it.
- lxi. C. Huang said that they would.
- lxii. T. Reuning said that he doesn't think that they should be able to.
- lxiii. A. Cass said that if the assembly wants to have general comments, there should be guidelines, and that they definitely can't allow anything that's a personal attack, and they can only allow things immediately relevant to that position. They added that maybe if these statements aren't formally vetted, if there is a statement that someone on Exec sees and thinks is mean, they can hopefully ask the person not to say that. They also said that the assembly could say that if a person does say something malicious or negative and irrelevant, they might be asked not to comment in the future.
- lxiv. C. Huang asked what people would think about having guiding questions on the form, such as "if you are in support of this candidate, what qualities do you see in them?" and things of that nature, such that it's a little more formulaic so that the things people can say are limited in that way.
- lxv. S. Sun asked why people are allowed to make comments about these candidates if this is regarding internal elections, and that this means that people in the SA would have been able to assess the character of these candidates. She added that they could just have people give their three-minute candidacy speech, the assembly could think of questions and

concerns, and then in the next week have a question and answer session to discuss things in a controlled way, followed by a three-minute closing speech. She also said that she thinks that what they have here could introduce a lot of assembly politics, and that the reason that they're doing this is because they want to avoid that, and that this systemizes the problem.

- lxvi. C. Huang said that this is something that past assemblies have brought up.
- lxvii. S. Sun said that she thinks that problems and drama and conflicts arise when people say something about somebody, and that removing the person from the situating is not sharing valid concerns, and that it legitimizes gossip. She added that if everyone is just in the situation, if a person has something to bring up, they can say it to the person's face, and if they're lying or it's not a good answer, she would think that assembly members would have the discernment to make their own decision.
- lxviii. M. Haddad said that she sees where S. Sun is coming from, and asked about the possibility that someone is a very good speechwriter and they give an amazing speech that doesn't align with what their work ethic is.
- lxix. S. Sun said that she thinks that it would then be up to other assembly members to ask good questions, and that no amount of polish will make up for a lack of content and qualifications. She added that she thinks that it would become very apparent, especially once they've had a week to come up with questions after the speech.
- lxx. G. Martin said that he really likes S. Sun's idea, and that he thinks another thing to look at this would be internal elections in the spring, and that elections of VPs are difficult with this, in that new members don't know the qualifications needed or the people themselves.
- lxxi. S. Sun asked if they are trying to avoid the whole concept of dynamics of the assembly, and said that she thinks that anyone on the assembly has the capacity to develop leadership skills and serve in the right way. She added that she thinks that by systemizing comments about people, that will be even worse for new members, since they are taking away the new members' ability to assess people for themselves, since everyone else is doing it for them.
- lxxii. M. Haddad said that she thinks that what S. Sun is proposing would mean having an extra week during internal elections.
- lxxiii. C. Huang said that they could possibly do training in that time.
- lxxiv. M. Haddad said that that could be beneficial for internal elections as well as their regular meetings, and that they could teach the appropriate way to critique something.
- lxxv. U. Chukwukere said that there is a possibility of someone knowing they've had experience with someone on a committee with them who is running for a position, and that such a person might have valid and objective concerns that people can see. He asked how such things would be voiced in this framework.
- lxxvi. S. Sun said that it sounds like U. Chukwukere answered his own question, and asked whether he is saying that people would be able to see if someone doesn't have the skills or character traits to be successful.
- lxxvii. U. Chukwukere said that, as an example, someone could be sitting on the Dining Committee, and that not everyone on the assembly sits on that

committee, but that a person could have worked with them and saw firsthand that this person doesn't do certain things.

- lxxviii. S. Sun said that she thinks those could be answered during the debate and Q&A period, and that someone's idea of who a person is is influenced by the situation, but that she thinks that if someone has a track record of being ineffective, those concerns could be voiced during the debate. She added that a lot of people's efforts can go unnoticed, and that not everyone always wears that on their sleeve.
- lxxix. C. Huang said that it could maybe come in the form of a question, such as asking what committees a person has served on and what they did on them.
- lxxx. M. Haddad said that they normally ask all candidates the same question, and asked how they can work around that. She added that if they are asking specific questions like that, she thinks that a lot of questions would be generated, and that she doesn't think they would have the time.
- lxxxi. S. Sun said that she thinks that could be solved by having umbrellas of questions like character and fitness, past qualifications, and so on, and that this would have a basic framework filled in with things relevant to that candidate.
- lxxxii. Discussion continued in this regard.
- lxxxiii. M. Adeghe said that she thinks that this starts to get wishy-washy, and that she wants to know if a person is not committed, and that she doesn't know why those things can't be outed. She added that if a person doesn't show up to meetings, no one is going to come out and say that, but that it does happen during deliberations.
- lxxxiv. J. Clancy said that he would like to narrow the scope of this discussion, and that he does think that in going through the plethora of elections in spring up until the trial run of this system, he did see a significant difference, and that he's seen the rules try to be changed, and that he thinks that what they did during that trial run gave him a peace of mind about the questions they were pondering. He added that he doesn't know if this will completely fix this, but that he does think that they should start with what they had originally, and then actively think in the long term if they should revisit this and whether or not it has been working. He also said that if it has been working, they could lay out a probational period to the end of the spring, and that he definitely thinks that the original system put in place is something he would like to see over the long term.
- lxxxv. A. Cass said that S. Sun brought up good points about whether or not there should be comments at all, and that they think that if they are going to have people make comments, it shouldn't just be that people share whatever opinion they have of the person, and that they think that it should be just that if there are any comments at all, they should consider only constructive ones from people who have close experience with the person.
- lxxxvi. Ian Wallace said that he really thinks that there is something to S. Sun's suggestion, and that regarding the point G. Martin made earlier, he thinks it might be worth down the line for a slightly different set of rules altogether than those for regular internal elections during the semester. He added that there is attendance of committees available that could be made available to the members of the assembly beforehand.

- lxxxvii. S. Xu said that it is very reasonable to give a definition about what comments should be made, and that they should be thinking about what kind are necessary and helpful and what kind are not, but that it is hard to define. She added that one point they can make is to set a word limit.
- lxxxviii. S. Sun said that, to mitigate M. Adeghe's concern and bouncing off of having training in between, is that not everyone feels comfortable saying things to someone's face that they would be comfortable to say behind their back, and that saying things regarding attendance and track record are not personal and not ad hominem, but are valid statements to be made and can come out and be resolved in a fair and organic way. She added that the assembly trying to put rules on it will result in some strange circumstance coming along that they can't account for here.
- lxxxix. Discussion continued in this regard.
 - xc. U. Chukwukere said that, like I. Wallace brought up, if he knows that he is working with someone on a committee and if he assigns someone to a project in SAIFC, and he knows that this person doesn't check in or respond and the project isn't getting done, and they don't show initiative, he doesn't know if this is still something that would be solidified, but that asking questions and trying to tailor a question in a way that the truth can come out gives people a way to finesse it so that they don't get the full picture.
 - xc. S. Sun said that a person could say those things verbatim during the discussion period, as a "what do you have to say for yourself?" sort of question, and that if a person feels that way, then it is on them to say it so that everyone in the assembly knows.
 - xcii. M. Haddad asked if they could table this to next semester's sprint planning meeting.
 - xciii. J. Anderson said that a lot of this discussion is focusing on a person's SA experience, and that there are other types of leadership on this campus. He added that if a person has the experience in their organization, they can step into any one of the Exec roles and do it flawlessly, and that he thinks that it is a fundamentally flawed paradigm to operate in that an assembly member who has been on for two or three years necessarily has more experience than a person who's operated an ALANA organization flawlessly for years.
 - xciv. Motion to table Resolution 19 – **tabled** 20-0-1.

VI. Adjournment I

- a. J. Anderson adjourned the first meeting at 5:48 pm.

VII. Call to Order/Roll Call II

- a. J. Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

VIII. Byline Reports II

- a. Full 2020-22 Byline Funding
 - i. M. Adeghe said that SAFC is the only organization that can get more money than AppsCom, and that they will receive an extra \$0.91 to make the fee an integer. She added that Slope Day is not on this chart, and that they forgot to submit their application, so they will not be on byline anymore, and that this is a 51% increase overall.

- ii. N. Matolka asked if M. Adeghe is comfortable with how much this went up by.
- iii. M. Adeghe said that she thinks that the increases were important increases, and that it looks and sounds like a lot, but that there is nothing she is upset about or ashamed of in all the increases. She added that there were a lot of new organizations on byline such as IFC and FARC, and that a number of organizations that needed sizable increases got them. She also said that across the board, the organizations that got increases deserved them in her opinion.
- iv. Motion to approve the 2020-22 byline funding – approved 18-0-1.
- v. J. Anderson said that advisors who have done this for years said that this was the best process that they have seen, and that it really stands to show what they have done this year.

IX. Adjournment II

- a. J. Anderson adjourned the meeting at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Hannan
Clerk of the Assembly



Originally Presented on:	February 6th, 2020
Type of Action:	Internal Policy
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Joint Resolution #1₁₂

Changing the “Women's Issues Representative At-Large” position to the “Womxn’s Issues Representative At- Large”

ABSTRACT: This resolution seeks to amend the Cornell Student Assembly Bylaws and Charter, changing the “Women's Issues Representative At-Large” position to the “Womxn’s Issues Representative At- Large”.

Sponsored by: The Cornell Student Assembly’s Black Caucus

Whereas, this resolution is not predicated with the intent of a debate on what is “womxn” or “womxnhood,” instead is an active step for inclusion and a continual engagement and progressing towards gender justice;³

Whereas, more than two genders exist;⁴

Whereas, more than two sexes exist;⁵

Whereas, sex is an illogic marker of gender;

Whereas, wrongly, sex and gender are often conflated and confounded as a single overlapping, interchangeable identity;

Whereas, the word “womxn” acknowledges intersectional feminism—and more specifically Black trans intersectional feminism;

Whereas, the word “womxn” is a modification in spelling that is to “stress the concept that womxn are their own separate individuals, capable of operating on their own and without a man to help them”;⁶

Whereas, “[The] x allows space for individuals who identify as genderfluid, genderqueer, gender non-conforming, or non-binary. The “x” in womxn works the same way, and as such, opens up the free-human-woman concept to include trans women”;⁷

¹ As it stands, the Black Caucus requests that all resolutions manufactured by the Caucus to then be approved by the Student Assembly (which most, if not all resolutions will not fall under), respectfully be labeled a “Joint Resolution”. This categorization is used in order to preserve the autonomy, agency, and sovereignty of the Black Caucus.

² Attached below is the Black Caucus resolution, not to be voted on, rather to be referenced as the original document.

³ This is not to say active discussion about inclusion cannot take place, instead, that a debate on the conversation of “are trans-women, women” is degradative, violent and inexcusable.

⁴ <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminism-gender/#GenSocCon>

⁵ <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminism-gender/#GenSocCon>

⁶ <https://medium.com/@knottyvibescompany/intersectional-feminism-101-what-is-womxn-36c0a3140126>

⁷ <https://www.dailydot.com/irl/womyn/>

Whereas, the previously utilized word, “womyn”, created in 1975, was in part a commentary on the principle of, “We are females who survived girlhood”, which in its exact nature is exclusionary of transgender women;⁸

Whereas, for some the “x” represents the “complexity of gender”;

Whereas, “*womxn* with an *x* [is used] both to acknowledge the history of exclusion in many second wave feminist organizations and to signal its welcome to all woman-identified individuals, regardless of assigned sex at birth”;⁹

Whereas, the arcane use of “women”, “wimmin”, “womin”, or “womyn” undoubtably brings into question TERF-y implications and the purposeful exclusion of *womxn*; ¹⁰

Whereas, feminists are not immune to “infighting and gatekeeping”;

Whereas, “transmisogyny [...] within feminist communities – where [...] genders are invalidated by the policing of what women’s bodies and experiences should be, instead of embracing them for what they are”; ¹¹

Whereas, a change from “women” to “*womxn*” centers the Black trans experience as understood through *womxn*hood;¹²

Whereas, it is understood that this is a cosmetic, surface level change, that will hopefully bring about real long lasting change both intra-Assembly and on the wider campus;

Whereas, the social implications of using a colonizer language such as English to then weaponize the gatekeeping of “womanhood” props up the “larger structures that greatly impact [...] livelihoods [and] expose many trans wom[x]n, particularly Black trans wom[x]n who are targeted and surveilled by the State, to violence”;¹³

Whereas, EVERYONE has learning and unlearning to do, in which it is of the utmost importance to reiterate that those who are holders or vessels of said identities do not exist in order to correct, teach, and/or coddle those who are unknowing, unwilling, or even working towards said betterment;

Whereas, the renaming of the “women’s” seat to “*womxn*’s” seat is not a full stop, one step process to create inclusive spaces that combat trans-exclusionary, cis-white feminist narratives, transphobic narratives, and transmisogynist narratives—rather it is a (very) small step that works to codify inclusion, diversity, accessibility, and equity—along with the notion that it is each and every members’ duty (and specifically the soon to be “*womxn*’s” liaison) to lift those voices who do not have traditional normative modes of power along the (intersectional) lines of age, gender, sex, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and disability.

⁸ <https://www.dailydot.com/irl/womyn/>

⁹ <http://womxnofworth.web.unc.edu/sample-page-2/>

¹⁰ Reference: Trans-Exclusionary Radical Feminist

¹¹ <https://everydayfeminism.com/2015/05/feminist-phrases-marginalize-trans-women/>

¹² <https://www.csindy.com/coloradosprings/why-we-use-the-word-womxn/Content?oid=19884026>

¹³ <https://everydayfeminism.com/2015/05/feminist-phrases-marginalize-trans-women/>

Be it therefore resolved, that (1) The Cornell Student Assembly approve and adopt the attached Bylaws and Charter amendments.

Bylaws- Section 4: Diversity; Subsection A- Diversity & Inclusion Committee; Sub-subsection d.-Composition; Subsub-subsection iii-

Student Assembly representation: SA LGBT Liaison at large, **Women's Womxn's** representative, International representative, both Minority Liaisons, and the Vice President of External Affairs are required to be members of the committee.

Bylaws- Section 4: Organization Specific Guidelines, Subsection T, Sub-subsection i-

The Women's Resource Center shall collaborate with the Student Assembly **Women's Womxn's** Liaison Representative, Community Life on safety, health, and other topics pertinent to women on campus.

Charter- ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP, Section 1: Composition, Subsection A. General Composition:

The SA will consist of 28 voting members who are registered undergraduate students at Cornell University. Up to two additional votes shall be allocated to the entire community of undergraduates as a whole present at a Student Assembly meeting on motions that express the opinion of the assembly. Such community votes shall be allowed only as provided by the Assembly in its bylaws. Eleven voting members of the SA will be elected by and from the student populations of the colleges and schools, one from each: the College of Architecture, Art and Planning ; the School of Hotel Administration; the College of Human Ecology; and the School of Industrial and Labor Relations. Two each shall be elected from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Engineering; and three shall be elected from the College of Arts and Sciences. In addition, twelve voting members will be elected at-large by and from the University undergraduate student population as a whole; two at-large seats are to be reserved for candidates seeking the offices of President and Executive Vice President of the Student Assembly and must be explicitly designated as such; two at-large seats are to be reserved for non-constituent, undesignated at -large group candidates who do not run for President or Executive Vice President; two at-large seats are to be reserved for candidates seeking to represent minority students; one at-large seat is to be reserved for candidates seeking to represent international students; one at-large seat is to be reserved for candidates seeking to represent **women's womxn's** issues in relation to the broader Cornell community; one at-large seat is to be reserved for candidates seeking to represent First Generation College students; and one at-large seat is to be reserved for candidates seeking to represent the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer community. The two remaining non-Constituent, undesignated at-large seats are to be contested by candidates running for President and Executive Vice President and by non-constituent, undesignated at-large group candidates not running for President or Executive Vice President. Five seats shall be elected by and from new students entering in the fall. Should there be no candidate running for a given seat, the seat shall be considered vacant.

(2) And, that henceforth, the previously named "Women's Issues Representative At- Large" shall be renamed the "Womxn's Issues Representative At- Large"—as to be referred to in texts (such as public statements, posts, or liaisons with organizations) and all current and future iterations of the Cornell Student Assembly's Governing documents—

Respectfully Submitted,

The Cornell Student Assembly's Black Caucus

Gavin Cole Martin '20

Founding and Original Member, Cornell Student Assembly's Black Caucus

Chair & Speaker, Cornell Student Assembly's Black Caucus

Vice President of Research & Accountability, Student Assembly

College of Arts & Sciences Representative, Student Assembly

Uche Chukwukere '21

Founding and Original Member, Cornell Student Assembly's Black Caucus

Vice Chair, Cornell Student Assembly's Black Caucus

Undesignated Representative At- Large, Student Assembly

Selam Woldai '23

Founding and Original Member, Cornell Student Assembly's Black Caucus

Deputy Speaker, Cornell Student Assembly's Black Caucus

Infrastructure Committee, Student Assembly

Jenniviv Bansah '22

Founding and Original Member, Cornell Student Assembly's Black Caucus

Whip, Cornell Student Assembly's Black Caucus

Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Student Assembly

Moriah Adeghe '21

Founding and Original Member, Cornell Student Assembly's Black Caucus

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

Minority Liaison At-Large, Student Assembly

Debbie Nyakaru '20

Founding and Original Member, Cornell Student Assembly's Black Caucus

Parliamentarian, Student Assembly

Former First-Generation College Student Representative ('17-'18, '18-'19)

Olubanke Agunloye '20

Founding and Original Member, Cornell Student Assembly's Black Caucus

Elections Committee, Student Assembly

Destiny Nwafor '21

Founding and Original Member, Cornell Student Assembly's Black Caucus

Appropriations Committee, Student Assembly

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Elyona Ihegiu '23

*Founding and Original Member, Cornell Student Assembly's Black Caucus
Student Assembly Infrastructure Fund Commission, Student Assembly*

Renelle Mensah '21

*Founding and Original Member, Cornell Student Assembly's Black Caucus
Undergraduate Student Representative, University Assembly*

Nabila Okudo '22

*Founding and Original Member, Cornell Student Assembly's Black Caucus
Appropriations Committee, Student Assembly*



1st CAUCUS SESSION (2019-20)

BC. RES. 02

Changing the Cornell Student Assembly's "Women's Issues Representative At-Large" position to the "Womxn's Issues Representative At- Large"

IN THE CORNELL STUDENT ASSEMBLY'S BLACK CAUCUS

Drafted: January 25th, 2020
Introduced: February 2nd, 2020- Spring Cycle
Passed: February 2nd, 2020

Caucus Member Gavin Martin submitted the following resolution; which was voted on in a 11-00-00 vote by the caucus with no noted descent.

RESOLUTION

Changing the Cornell Student Assembly's "Women's Issues Representative At-Large" position to the "Womxn's Issues Representative At- Large"

Whereas, this resolution is not predicated with the intent of a debate on what is "womxn" or "womxnhood," instead is an active step for inclusion and a continual engagement and progressing towards gender justice;¹

Whereas, more than two genders exist;²

Whereas, more than two sexes exist;³

¹ This is not to say active discussion about inclusion cannot take place, instead, that a debate on the conversation of "are trans-women, women" is degradative, violent and inexcusable.

² <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminism-gender/#GenSocCon>

³ <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminism-gender/#GenSocCon>



Whereas, sex is an illogic marker of gender;

Whereas, wrongly, sex and gender are often conflated and confounded as a single overlapping, interchangeable identity;

Whereas, the word “womxn” acknowledges intersectional feminism—and more specifically Black trans intersectional feminism;⁴

Whereas, the word “womxn” is a modification in spelling that is to “stress the concept that womxn are their own separate individuals, capable of operating on their own and without a man to help them”;

Whereas, “[The] x allows space for individuals who identify as genderfluid, genderqueer, gender non-conforming, or non-binary. The “x” in womxn works the same way, and as such, opens up the free-human-woman concept to include trans women”;⁵

Whereas, the previously utilized word, “womyn”, created in 1975, was in part a commentary on the principle of, “We are females who survived girlhood”, which in its exact nature is exclusionary of transgender women;⁶

Whereas, for some the “x” represents the “complexity of gender”;

Whereas, “*womxn* with an x [is used] both to acknowledge the history of exclusion in many second wave feminist organizations and to signal its welcome to all woman-identified individuals, regardless of assigned sex at birth”;⁷

Whereas, the arcane use of “women”, “wimmin”, “womin”, or “womyn” undoubtably brings into question TERF-y implications and the purposeful exclusion of womxn;⁸

Whereas, feminists are not immune to “infighting and gatekeeping”;

Whereas, “transmisogyny [...] within feminist communities – where [...] genders are invalidated by the policing of what women’s bodies and experiences should be, instead of embracing them for what they are”;⁹

Whereas, a change from “women” to “womxn” centers the Black trans experience as understood through womxnhood;¹⁰

⁴ <https://medium.com/@knottyvibescompany/intersectional-feminism-101-what-is-womxn-36c0a3140126>

⁵ <https://www.dailydot.com/irl/womyn/>

⁶ <https://www.dailydot.com/irl/womyn/>

⁷ <http://womxnofworth.web.unc.edu/sample-page-2/>

⁸ Reference: Trans-Exclusionary Radical Feminist

⁹ <https://everydayfeminism.com/2015/05/feminist-phrases-marginalize-trans-women/>

¹⁰ <https://www.csindy.com/coloradosprings/why-we-use-the-word-womxn/Content?oid=19884026>



Whereas, it is understood that this is a cosmetic, surface level change, that will hopefully bring about real long lasting change both intra-Assembly and on the wider campus;

Whereas, the social implications of using a colonizer language such as English to then weaponize the gatekeeping of “womanhood” props up the “larger structures that greatly impact [...] livelihoods [and] expose many trans wom[x]n, particularly Black trans wom[x]n who are targeted and surveilled by the State, to violence”;¹¹

Whereas, EVERYONE has learning and unlearning to do, in which it is of the utmost importance to reiterate that those who are holders or vessels of said identities do not exist in order to correct, teach, and/or coddle those who are unknowing, unwilling, or even working towards said betterment;

Whereas, the renaming of the “women’s” seat to “womxn’s” seat is not a full stop, one step process to create inclusive spaces that combat trans-exclusionary cis-white feminist narratives, transphobic narratives, and transmisogynist narratives—rather it is a (very) small step that works to codify inclusion, diversity, accessibility, and equity—along with the notion that it is each and every members’ duty (and specifically the soon to be “womxn’s” liaison) to lift those voices who do not have traditional normative modes of power along the (intersectional) lines of age, gender, sex, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and disability. Now **therefore**, be it-

Resolved, That-

(1) The Cornell Student Assembly Bylaws and Charter be Amended to read:

Bylaws- Section 4: Diversity; Subsection A- Diversity & Inclusion Committee; Sub-subsection d.-Composition; Subsub-subsection iii-

Student Assembly representation: SA LGBT Liaison at large, ~~Women’s~~ Womxn’s representative, International representative, both Minority Liaisons, and the Vice President of External Affairs are required to be members of the committee.

Bylaws- Section 4: Organization Specific Guidelines, Subsection T, Sub-subsection i-

The Women’s Resource Center shall collaborate with the Student Assembly ~~Women’s~~ Womxn’s Liaison Representative, Community Life on safety, health, and other topics pertinent to women on campus.

Charter- ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP, Section I: Composition, Subsection A. General Composition:

The SA will consist of 28 voting members who are registered undergraduate students at Cornell University. Up to two additional votes shall be allocated to the entire community of undergraduates as a whole present at a Student Assembly meeting on motions that express the opinion of the assembly. Such community votes shall be allowed only as provided by the Assembly in its bylaws. Eleven voting members of the SA will be elected by and from the student populations of the colleges and schools, one from each: the College of Architecture, Art and Planning ; the School of Hotel Administration; the College of Human Ecology; and the School of Industrial and Labor Relations. Two each shall be elected from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Engineering; and three shall be elected from the College of Arts and Sciences. In addition, twelve voting members will be elected at-large by and from the

¹¹ <https://everydayfeminism.com/2015/05/feminist-phrases-marginalize-trans-women/>



University undergraduate student population as a whole; two at-large seats are to be reserved for candidates seeking the offices of President and Executive Vice President of the Student Assembly and must be explicitly designated as such; two at-large seats are to be reserved for non-constituent, undesignated at-large group candidates who do not run for President or Executive Vice President; two at-large seats are to be reserved for candidates seeking to represent minority students; one at-large seat is to be reserved for candidates seeking to represent international students; one at-large seat is to be reserved for candidates seeking to represent ~~women's~~ womxn's issues in relation to the broader Cornell community; one at-large seat is to be reserved for candidates seeking to represent First Generation College students; and one at-large seat is to be reserved for candidates seeking to represent the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer community. The two remaining non-Constituent, undesignated at-large seats are to be contested by candidates running for President and Executive Vice President and by non-constituent, undesignated at-large group candidates not running for President or Executive Vice President. Five seats shall be elected by and from new students entering in the fall. Should there be no candidate running for a given seat, the seat shall be considered vacant.

- (2) And, that henceforth, the previously named “Women’s Issues Representative At-Large” shall be renamed the “Womxn’s Issues Representative At-Large”—as to be referred to in texts (such as public statements, posts, or liaisons with organizations) and all current and future iterations of the Cornell Student Assembly’s Governing documents—

Action Statement: This resolution, if passed, by the Black Caucus will:

1. Issue the immediate creation of a standardized committee in order to format the Joint Resolution fashioned after the above Black Caucus Resolution, that is to be sent to the Cornell Student Assembly—
 - a. Where the Caucus resolution is to be attached as a pdf to said Resolution
2. Request approval before the Committee on Diversity & Inclusion--
3. Present said Joint Resolution to be deliberated and discussed by the Cornell Student Assembly—
 - a. When brought to the floor and voted on (final vote), to utilize the “roll call” voting method.
 - b. To request and preface the confines and parameters of appropriate comments during deliberation and discussion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gavin Cole Martin '20

*Founding and Original Member, Cornell Student Assembly's Black Caucus
Chair & Speaker, Cornell Student Assembly's Black Caucus
Vice President of Research & Accountability, Student Assembly
College of Arts & Sciences Representative, Student Assembly*

Uche Chukwukere '21

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Student Assembly Infrastructure Fund Commission, Student Assembly*

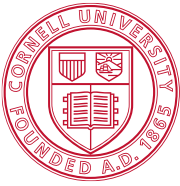
Renelle Mensah '21

*Founding and Original Member, Cornell Student Assembly's Black Caucus
Undergraduate Student Representative, University Assembly*

Nabila Okudo '22

*Founding and Original Member, Cornell Student Assembly's Black Caucus
Appropriations Committee, Student Assembly*

Noted Resolution Decent: N/A



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	2/10/2020
Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #27

Approving Special Projects Request for Ithaca Tenants Union

ABSTRACT: This resolution approves \$800 of Special Projects funding to the Ithaca Tenants Union for their call center and promotional materials.

Sponsored by: Moriah Adeghe '21

Whereas, according to the Student Assembly Standing Rules, Special Project “requests over \$400 and under \$1500 by a majority vote. The SA, at large, may reverse an Appropriations Committee decision to fund amounts over \$400 by a two-thirds vote. The request should be presented to the Student Assembly in the form of a resolution.

Whereas, the Appropriations Committee, by a majority vote, recommended \$800 in Special Projects Funding to the Ithaca Tenants Union for their new call center program;

Be it therefore resolved, the Student Assembly necessitates that this funding be used to cover the cost of paying for the call center space and printing promotional material;

Be it finally resolved, the Student Assembly encourages all undergraduate students to use the resources of the Ithaca Tenants Union.

Respectfully Submitted,

Moriah Adeghe '21

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

(Reviewed by: Appropriations Committee, 8-0-3, 2/10/2020)



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	2/10/2020
Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #28

Approving Special Projects Request for Cornell Fashion Collective

ABSTRACT: This resolution approves \$2,000 of Special Projects funding to Cornell Fashion Collective for their inclusive efforts.

Sponsored by: Moriah Adeghe '21

Whereas, according to the Student Assembly Standing Rules, Special Project “Requests \$1500 and over shall be decided upon by a majority vote of the Appropriations Committee and confirmed by a majority vote of the Student Assembly, at large. The SA, at large, is only required to confirm requests of \$1500 or greater. The request should be presented to the Student Assembly in the form of a resolution;”

Whereas, the Appropriations Committee, by a majority vote, recommended \$2,000 in Special Projects Funding to CFC for their project collaborating with a foundation dedicated to promoting disability awareness in the fashion industry;

Be it therefore resolved, the Student Assembly approves the \$2,000 Special Projects disbursement to CFC for their project

Be it finally resolved, the Student Assembly necessitates that this funding be used to cover the cost of the ramps and changing rooms needed to promote inclusivity during the fashion show;

Respectfully Submitted,

Moriah Adeghe '21

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

(Reviewed by: Appropriations Committee, 11-0-1, 2/10/2020)



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	2/11/2020
Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #29

Approving Special Projects Request for Cornell American Institute for Architecture Students

ABSTRACT: This resolution approves \$1,600 of Special Projects funding to AIAS for their project.

Sponsored by: Moriah Adeghe '21

Whereas, according to the Student Assembly Standing Rules, Special Project "Requests \$1500 and over shall be decided upon by a majority vote of the Appropriations Committee and confirmed by a majority vote of the Student Assembly, at large. The SA, at large, is only required to confirm requests of \$1500 or greater. The request should be presented to the Student Assembly in the form of a resolution;"

Whereas, the Appropriations Committee, by a majority vote, recommended \$1,600 in Special Projects Funding to Cornell AIAS for their project helping a disability center in Detroit;

Be it therefore resolved, the Student Assembly approves the \$1,600 Special Projects disbursement to Cornell AIAS for their project

Be it finally resolved, the Student Assembly necessitates that this funding be used to cover the cost of completing the project, including but not limited to, travel to and from the site;

Respectfully Submitted,

Moriah Adeghe '21

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

(Reviewed by: Appropriations Committee, 8-0-1, 2/10/2020)



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(2/13/2020)
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #30 Urging Cornell University to Contribute Financial Support for the Summer 2020 Student Contribution Pilot Program

ABSTRACT: This resolution urges Cornell University's administration and The Board of Trustees to contribute financial support towards the student contribution pilot program such that they waive the student contribution fee for low-income students pursuing non-paid summer opportunities over the summer.

Sponsored by: Kataryna Restrepo '21, Cat Huang '21, Yana Kalmyka '21

Whereas, the Student Contribution fee is the total amount that students are expected to pay from the Summer Savings Expectation and Student Contribution from Assets. The Summer Savings Expectation is the amount Cornell expects students to contribute towards academic expenses from earnings from the Summer while the Student Contribution from Assets takes into consideration assets owned by the student that adds on in addition to the Summer Savings Expectation. The Summer Savings expectation is the only component of your tuition that is not covered by financial aid;

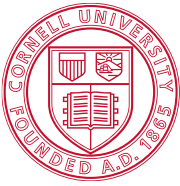
Whereas, the Student Contribution increases every academic year under the assumption that a student earns more each year. The fee ranges from 2,700 dollars freshman year to as much as 3,700 dollars senior years. This is particularly burdensome for low-income students, whom do not earn the thousands of dollars that said fee requires over the summer; especially when considering how low-income students are expected to help support their families over the summer financially;

Whereas, Cornell University claims to be dedicated to "Any Person, Any Study" and must uphold the tenets of its motto;

Whereas, Cornell University must create affordability strategies for low-income students and increase income diversity across its student body as well as equalizing opportunities for students to pursue;

Whereas, the People's Organizing Collective started the Abolish the Student Contribution Campaign in Fall 2018 where they dropped a petition addressed to President Pollack and the Interim Chief Financial Aid Officer, Colleen Wright, and Interim VP of Enrollment, Jason Locke with over 240 signatures. The People's Organizing has since then engaged in a photo campaign "I already contribute by..." in which students were encouraged to write down what they are already involved in on campus to demonstrate the ways in which low income students already contribute i.e., leading some of Cornell's 1,000 plus student organizations on campus, conducting research, working on campus, planning events for the whole community, and upholding Cornell's academic excellence;

Whereas, the People's Organizing Collective held a teach-in with The First Generation Students Union, in order to educate the Cornell student body about the Student Contribution's negative effects;



Cornell University Student Assembly

Whereas, the People's Organizing Collective has collected numerous student testimonies, which show the burdensome effects of the Student Contribution on students across Cornell University's undergraduate colleges;

Whereas, the People's Organizing Collective has held multiple meetings with Financial Aid Officers during the Fall 2019 semester, urging them to create a pilot program to assist students in unpaid summer work experiences to equalize opportunities to further their own career trajectory just as their higher income peers can;

Whereas, the current VP Provost for Enrollment Jonathan Burdick, Director of Financial Aid Diane Corbett, and Associate Director Colleen Wright have been in the process of instituting a pilot program, aimed at waiving the Student Contribution Fee for low-income students in unpaid summer opportunities, for Summer 2020;

Whereas, the proposal for the Summer 2020 pilot program can be seen in Appendix A.;

Whereas, Vice Provost of Enrollment Jonathan Burdick and Financial Aid Officers Colleen Wright and Diane Corbett have verbalized their support for The People's Organizing Collective's efforts in lowering the financial burdens of the Cornell student body and plan on passing it along a whole body of reforms;

Whereas, higher-income students come from higher-income families, who can afford to pay the Student Contribution on behalf of their children;

Whereas, low-income students cannot take unpaid/low-paid summer job positions in their preferred career paths, i.e. non-profit work, government, and or union work due to a need to make money for expenses during the academic year;

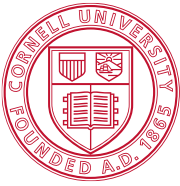
Whereas, the effects of the contribution are not felt equally, and students taking jobs in different states cannot save money to pay the Student Contribution fee due to varying cost of living across the United States;

Whereas, low-income students find themselves working jobs that do not further their career path, causing them to face difficulty in building their careers post-their undergraduate years;

Whereas, financial aid is typically viewed as only equalizing opportunities for students during the fall and spring and this program would advance Cornell's commitment to equalizing summer experience;

Whereas, summer internships are not student independent activities, they are instead greatly informed by the socio-economic status of the student.

Whereas, Vice Provost Burdick has expressed concerns about finding the funding for said Summer pilot program for the upcoming Summer 2020;



Cornell University Student Assembly

Whereas, The Summer 2020 Pilot Program requires funding from the Board of Trustees in order for the Student Contribution to be waived for low-income students in unpaid summer work opportunities;

Whereas, Vice Provost Burdick has expressed that the proposal for the pilot program will likely be included in the agenda of financial aid related items to be discussed with the Board of Trustees;

Whereas; the Summer 2020 Pilot Program must be expanded to include waiving the Student Contribution Fee for all low-income students in subsequent summers post-2020;

Whereas, Cornell University's sister institutions like University of Pennsylvania have as recently as 2019 greatly reduced student contributions for highly-aid undergraduate students. Harvard and Rice University even went as far as eliminating their Student Contribution altogether making Cornell lag behind its peers in supporting students regardless of income;

Be it therefore resolved, that the Office of the President investigate potential sources of funding for the pilot program and encourage the Board of Trustees and other potential funding sources to consider financially supporting the pilot program for this summer;

Be it further resolved, Cornell University commit to providing financial support for the Summer 2020 pilot program as well as implement said program for this upcoming summer and subsequent summers;

Be it finally resolved, Cornell University abolish the Student Contribution for all students and uphold Cornell's commitment to being a bastion of inclusivity for students of all socio-economic backgrounds;

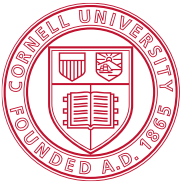
Respectfully Submitted,

Cat Huang '21
Executive Vice President, Student Assembly

Kataryna Restrepo '21
Director of Finance, Office of the Student Advocate
The People's Organizing Collective

Yana Kalmyka '21
The People's Organizing Collective

(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 5-0-0, 2/11/2020)



Cornell University Student Assembly

Appendix A

Student Contribution Summer 2020 Pilot Program Proposal

Proposal: provide financial relief and wider opportunities for Cornell student summer career experiences.

Financial eligibility: Cornell undergraduates participating in an approved summer internship, research, volunteer, and non-Cornell-affiliated academic enrichment programs, whose total expected family contribution is equal to or less than two times the standard expected student summer work contribution.

Total financial eligibility per student: an amount equal to the difference between the expected summer work contribution and the non-student (parent or family expected contribution).

- Example 1: a rising senior's total expected family contribution is \$4,700, including \$1,000 parent contribution and \$3,700 from expected summer earnings. The student's eligibility for relief through this program would be [expected summer earnings] minus [expected parent contribution] = \$3,700 - \$1,000 \$2,700.
- Example 2: a rising junior's total expected family contribution is \$3,200, equal to the student's standard expected summer earnings contribution. The expected parent contribution is \$0. The Student's eligibility for relief through this program would be \$3,000-\$0 \$3,000.

Note that participation in this program does not reduce a student's existing opportunity to borrow up to the extent that they are eligible.

- Academic eligibility: the student must be in good academic standing and meeting satisfactory academic progress (SAP) guidelines. Rising juniors and seniors must have declared majors.
- Experience eligibility: each year on September 1, a pre-approved list of approved organizations for the following summer term will be available. The university and college career service offices will maintain the list.

Students can seek to add new opportunities to the list at any time. The deadline for submitting a new opportunity proposal will be January 1 for the following summer. A standing review committee composed of professional representatives from career services, financial aid, and Engaged Cornell will review new requests. Approval will require up to two months for review. Newly-approved programs will require a follow-up review in the first year before being added to the permanent list, and all organizations and activities will be subject to re-review minimally every three years.

The program will commit to gradual expansion through College and donor participation. Students who are not financially eligible to participate can seek funding support from colleges and other Cornell offices and operations. Financial aid contributions will rise to match total of new dollars invested by colleges and new donors, with the intent to expand the number of eligible students with higher expected family contributions.



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	02/11/2020
Type of Action:	Internal Policy
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #31

Amending the Student Assembly Charter to Create a Ticket System For the President and Executive Vice President Election

ABSTRACT: These amendments to the Student Assembly Charter

Sponsored by: Moriah Adeghe '21

Whereas, Article V Section 2 of the Student Assembly Charter state, "This charter may be amended at any regular meeting of the assembly by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting. Amendments may be presented to the assembly by voting members and by community petition with at least 100 Cornell undergraduate student signatures;"

Be it therefore resolved, that the Student Assembly approve and adopt the attached Charter Amendments.

Be it therefore resolved, that the Student Assembly approve and adopt the attached Election Rules Amendments.

Respectfully Submitted,

Moriah Adeghe '21

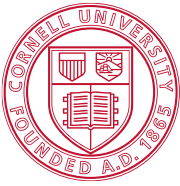
Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 5-0-0, 02/11/2020)

Charter:

Section 2: Election of Voting Members

A candidate for the office of President shall run in conjunction with a candidate for the Executive Vice President; the two candidates shall comprise a unitary and indivisible slate of candidates. Votes shall be cast for such a slate of candidates, not for the individual candidates.



Cornell University Student Assembly

34 The [President/Executive Vice President](#), and other Undesignated at Large representatives will be elected by a
35 single transferable voting system.

36 Voters may rank all [slates](#) on the ballot for the [President/Executive Vice President race](#). All
37 other representatives shall be elected by a plurality voting system. Voters will cast one vote per available seat,
38 (e.g. if three Arts and Sciences representatives are to be elected, the voter will vote for three candidates).

39 Voters may rank all candidates on the ballot for the Undesignated at Large representatives. All
40 other representatives shall be elected by a plurality voting system. Voters will cast one vote per available seat,
41 (e.g. if three Arts and Sciences representatives are to be elected, the voter will vote for three candidates).

42

43 **Election Rules:**

44 **B. Candidate Information**

45 **1. Eligibility and Requirements**

46 To be a candidate, a person must, prior to the petitioning deadline specified in the election calendar:

47 1. Be eligible to vote in the election for the seat and plan to remain seated so for the full term for
48 which they are seeking election¹.

49 2. Submit a completed candidate registration form and any associated materials required in that
50 form. You may not register for more than one position on the candidate registration form.

51 3. Submit petitions endorsed by the required number of people who are eligible to vote in the
52 election for that specific position, which is the lesser of 10% of those eligible to vote for that
53 specific position or:

54 a. [650 for President/Executive Vice President Combined Ticket](#)

55 b. 150 for all other at-large seats

56 c. 100 for Arts and Sciences seats

57 d. 25 for Transfer seat

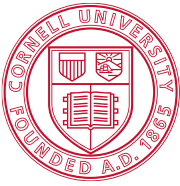
58 e. 75 for all other seats

59

60 **D. Restrictions on Ticketing and Slates**

61 **1. General Rules**

62 Candidates and supporters acting on their behalf may not:



Cornell University Student Assembly

1. Include any other candidate's name, a common "ticket" name, or a shared slogan and/or symbol on any promotional materials or within any form of electronic communication and/or media. *With the exception of the President/Executive Vice President slate.*

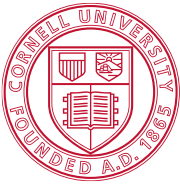
2. Share or pool campaign finances with any other candidates or supporters acting on their behalf. *With the exception of the President/Executive Vice President slate.*

3. Distribute any promotional materials, send any electronic communication, or utilize any other form of electronic media on behalf of any other candidate except if the candidate does so for another candidate in the President and/or Executive Vice President races.

4. Campaign with or on behalf of each other or engage in any coordination of campaigning activities except if the candidate does so for another candidate in the President or Executive Vice President races.

2. Special circumstance for the President and Executive Vice President elections

Candidates in any race, besides those running for the position of President of Executive Vice President, will be given the freedom to distribute promotional material, send electronic communications, campaign on behalf of, and speak for candidates in the President/Executive Vice President races. Candidates who choose to do so are considered supporters and are held accountable to all clauses in these rules that pertain to candidates and their supporters. **The President and Executive Vice President candidates are strictly prohibited from coordinating activities.** Candidates are strictly prohibited from performing the actions above for candidates not in the President/Executive Vice President races.



Originally Presented on:	02/13/2020
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #32

Support of the development and implementation of a Cornell Campus Circulator System

ABSTRACT: For the past eleven years, a Cornell Campus Circulator System of transportation has been under discussion as a way to improve access to many university functions and to address the continual challenges related to transportation and parking that Cornellians face every day. We propose that this project become a priority for Cornell and be realized within the period of the next five years.

Sponsored by: Jakob Youngblood '20

Whereas, the need for a Campus Circulator was identified in the 2008 Campus Master Plan as essential to the efficiency and productivity of Cornell campus which depends on how well Cornell students, faculty, employees, and alumni, as well as guests and visitors can move about the campus; and

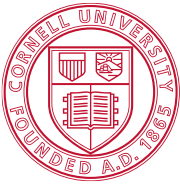
Whereas, the 2013 Cornell Climate Action Plan calls for the reduction of fossil-fuel consumption of the Cornell Fleet through alternative-fueled vehicle purchasing and the increased use of mass transportation, leading to the fulfillment of the Carbon Neutrality 2035 goal approved by the Board of Trustees; and

Whereas, the 2015 Game Farm Road Athletic Complex Facilities Master Plan requires the improvement and expansion of Cornell's current transportation system to make that complex more accessible to student athletes, coaches, and staff in a timely and safe fashion throughout the day; and

Whereas, the need for a Campus Circulator was identified in Cornell's 2018 Parking Optimization Study, as a way to reduce the reliance on TCAT large bus traffic through the center of campus; to provide more frequent transit to more locations across campus; to increase connectivity and reduce the confusion inherent in current transit options; to reduce the anxiety and challenges around current parking proximity to destination; to reduce the amount of car traffic on campus; and to increase the use of existing available perimeter parking options; and encourage the use of sustainable intra-campus mobility options when on campus; and

Whereas, only students in their first year at Cornell have free access to TCAT and there is an opportunity to provide and encourage the use of barrier free, sustainable, mass transportation for all students; and

Whereas, pedestrian and bike safety are a priority and this is another step towards Vision Zero by reducing car traffic, parking hunting, and bus traffic on campus; and



Cornell University Student Assembly

Whereas, it is important to continue to protect Cornell's natural landscapes, green spaces, and maintain our campus aesthetics (which are among the most beautiful in the world) for all future Cornellians; and

Whereas, efficient mass-transit supports the One Cornell vision, including the ease of access and utilization of the Martin Y. Tang Welcome Center, and allowing students, faculty, guests, and staff to move across campus easily to cross collaborate more often between schools and disciplines and to attend meetings and campus events more frequently; and

Whereas, TCAT is committed to working with Cornell to improve their service and pilot new sustainable initiatives to better meet Cornell's needs and goals; and

Whereas, our 2019 Drafted Core Values statement outlines Changing Lives through Engagement by applying knowledge that we and others create for the benefit of society and engagement with our community, state, and the broader world; as well as our Respect for the Natural Environment and the need to live and work for a sustainable environment.

Be it therefore resolved, that the Cornell Administration support, prioritize, and assign ownership to the development of an innovative and sustainable Campus Circulator System;

Be it further resolved that the Cornell Administration secure funding, develop a pilot system, and implement and fully realize such a Campus Circulator System over the period of the next 5 years.

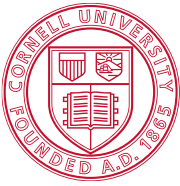
Be it finally resolved, a copy of this resolution be presented to Martha Pollack, President; Mary Opperman, Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer; Joel Malina, Vice President for University Relations

Respectfully Submitted,

Jakob Youngblood

Environmental Policy and Planning Committee Chair, College of Engineering Representative, Student Assembly

(Reviewed by: Environmental Policy and Planning Committee, 8-0-0, 02/10/2020)



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References:

Section 4.30 4.31 of

https://masterplan.cornell.edu/doc/cmp_part_1/transportation_circulation/transportation_circulation.pdf

Page 8, 11, 38 of

https://fcs.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/imce/site_contributor/Dept_University_Architect_and_Campus_Planning/documents/Campus_Planning/Game%20Farm%20Road%20Athletic%20Complex%20Facilities%20Master%20Plan.pdf

Cornell HR Workforce Report, Page 14

https://apps.hr.cornell.edu/hr_professional_docs/for_employees/Workforcereport_FY2018.pdf

Page 58,59 https://sustainablecampus.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/2019-01/Cornell%20University%20CAP%20Roadmap%20-%202013_0.pdf

Page 10,12 of the Transportation Parking Optimization Presentation

Core Values: <https://president.cornell.edu/initiatives/university-core-values/>



Cornell University
Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	2/13/20
Type of Action:	Internal Policy
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #33

Changing The Name of the “LGBTQ+ Liaison At-Large” Position to “LGBTQIA+ Liaison At-Large”

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this resolution is to amend the Student Assembly bylaws to ensure that more marginalized communities are fairly and accurately represented.

Sponsored by: Uche Chukwukere '21, Gavin Martin '20, Tomás Reuning '21

Whereas, The Cornell Student Assembly should be constantly striving to be a more diverse and inclusive governing body that constantly makes necessary changes to its governing documents that reflect the necessary efforts that are being made;

Whereas, The position of LGBTQ Liaison At-Large was created to represent the interests of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer communities as it pertains to Cornell's campus;

Whereas, It is important to recognize the history and path-paving future of the LGBTQIA+ community and the impacts that they have had on our society and on Cornell's campus. The term LGBTQ+ is an initialism that has been in mainstream existence since 1996¹ and has been used as a way to highlight and include the different groups and members of the LGBTQIA+ community and continue the path for increased representation amongst this group;

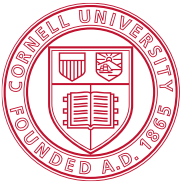
Whereas, Lesbian refers to homosexual womxn in relation to their sexual identity and behavior or used as a descriptor for womxn homosexuality or same-sex attraction;

Whereas, Gay refers to homosexual men in relation to their sexual identity and behavior or used as a descriptor for men homosexuality or same-sex attraction;

Whereas, Queer is an umbrella terms coined for gender and sexual minorities that are not heterosexual or cisgender and is used to describe a non-normative and sexual and gender identities and politics;

Whereas, In an effort to attempt to be more inclusive of other gender and sexual minorities we must recognize the increasing movement to use LGBTQIA+ as an umbrella term to refer to the LGBTQIA+ community and support the initialism bestowed upon this community;

Whereas, LGBTQIA+ is an umbrella term to represent Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, Genderqueer, Pansexual, Questioning, Two-Spirit, and etc. individuals;



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Whereas, Intersex refers to someone whose combination of chromosomes, gonads, hormones, internal sex organs, gonads, and/or genitals differs from one of the two expected patterns;

Whereas, Asexual refers to person who is not sexually attracted to anyone or does not have a sexual orientation;

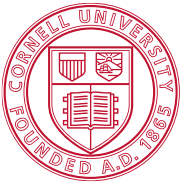
Whereas, “A” does not stand for “Ally” as it has conventionally co-opted as for the acronym. It is important to recognize that allies do not have the same experiences as individuals who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, Genderqueer, Pansexual, Questioning, Two-Spirit, and etc;

Whereas, It is important that we increase the autonomy of all individuals who are a part of this community and show unwavering support and allyship by taking part in analyzing the inclusivity of the seats that exist on the Cornell Student Assembly;

Be it further resolved, The position of LGBTQ+ Representative At-Large should be changed to “LGBTQIA+ Representative At-Large”;

Be it finally resolved, Amending Article IV: Membership , Section 1: Composition, General Composition –

The SA will consist of 28 voting members who are registered undergraduate students at Cornell University. Up to two additional votes shall be allocated to the entire community of undergraduates as a whole present at a Student Assembly meeting on motions that express the opinion of the assembly. Such community votes shall be allowed only as provided by the Assembly in its bylaws. Eleven voting members of the SA will be elected by and from the student populations of the colleges and schools, one from each: the College of Architecture, Art and Planning; the School of Hotel Administration; the College of Human Ecology; and the School of Industrial and Labor Relations. Two each shall be elected from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Engineering; and three shall be elected from the College of Arts and Sciences. In addition, twelve voting members will be elected at-large by and from the University undergraduate student population as a whole; two at-large seats are to be reserved for candidates seeking the offices of President and Executive Vice President of the Student Assembly and must be explicitly designated as such; two at-large seats are to be reserved for non-constituent, undesignated at-large group candidates who do not run for President or Executive Vice President; two at-large seats are to be reserved for candidates seeking to represent minority students; one at-large seat is to be reserved for candidates seeking to represent international students; one at-large seat is to be reserved for candidates seeking to represent women’s issues in relation to the broader Cornell community; one at-large seat is to be reserved for candidates seeking to represent First Generation College students; and one at-large seat is to be reserved for candidates seeking to represent the **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Asexual, Genderqueer, Pansexual, Questioning, Two-Spirit, and etc** community. The two remaining non-constituent, undesignated at-large seats are to be contested by



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88 candidates running for President and Executive Vice President and by non-constituent,
89 undesignated at-large group candidates not running for President or Executive Vice
90 President. Five seats shall be elected by and from new students entering in the fall.
91 Should there be no candidate running for a given seat, the seat shall be considered vacant.
92

93 And, that henceforth, the previously named “*LGBTQ+ Liaison At-Large*” shall be renamed the
94 “*LGBTQIA+ Liaison At-Large*”—as to be referred to in texts (such as public statements, posts,
95 or liaisons with organizations) and all current and future iterations of the Cornell Student
96 Assembly’s Governing documents—
97

98 **Respectfully Submitted,**
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100
101 Uche Chukwukere ‘21
102 *Undesignated Representative At-Large, Student Assembly*
103 *Former LGBTQ+ Liaison At-Large, Student Assembly*
104

105 Gavin Martin ‘20
106 *Vice President for Research & Accountability, Student Assembly*
107 *College of Arts and Sciences Representative, Student Assembly*
108

109 Tomás Reuning ‘21
110 *LGBTQ+ Liaison At-Large, Student Assembly*
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114 *(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, x-x-x,)*



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	2/13/20
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #34

In Determining University Weather-Related Operating Status: Requesting Equitable Student Representation in the Recommended use of University Policy No. 8.2- Inclement Weather—as a Necessity to Maintain the Nature of Shared Governance and Overall Safety of Students

ABSTRACT: This resolution requests equitable representation of the Student Assembly on both the Incident Leadership Team and Incident Management Team when determining recommendations pertaining to weather-related operating status to the President on University Policy 8.2- Inclement Weather.

Sponsored by Gavin Martin '20, Uche Chukwukere '21

Whereas, in accordance to University Policy No. 8.2, “Cornell University may change its operating status during and surrounding periods of inclement weather. At such times, the university has a prescribed method for evaluation and communication of these changes to university staff, faculty, and students. Academic and administrative units are expected to abide by any decision made by central administration regarding operating status”;¹

Whereas, the decision to change the operational status of the University is made by the “President or designee” which is “based on a recommendation from the Incident Leadership Team”;²

Whereas, the Incident Leadership team is composed of the, “Executive Vice President; Vice Presidents for University Relations, Human Resources, Student and Campus Life, and Infrastructure, Properties and Planning; Senior Vice Provost; Dean of Faculty; University Counsel; President’s Chief of Staff; Cornell Police Chief; and Associate Vice President Environmental Health & Safety”;³

Whereas, “The Incident Leadership Team receives information from the weather Incident Management Team”;⁴

Whereas, “The weather Incident Management Team, composed of representatives from Facilities Management, Grounds Department, Transportation, Cornell Police, University Relations, and the Office of Emergency Management, evaluates expected weather conditions and the ability to maintain campus in a safe and passable condition”;⁵

Whereas, neither the Incident Management Team, nor the Incident Leadership Team have student representation;

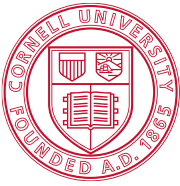
¹ <https://www.dfa.cornell.edu/policy/policies/inclement-weather>

² <https://emergency.cornell.edu/wxfq/#decision>

³ <https://emergency.cornell.edu/wxfq/#decision>

⁴ <https://emergency.cornell.edu/wxfq/>

⁵ <https://emergency.cornell.edu/wxfq/>



Cornell University Student Assembly

Whereas, the University categorized the usage of weather-related shutdowns as “rare”, citing 6 weather-related cancelations in the past 27-years: “In **1993** Cornell closed on March 12... and reopened on Tuesday March 14. In **1997** Cornell closed ...on January 5 and reopened the following morning. In **2007** Cornell closed... February 14 and reopened ...following morning. In **2017** because of Winter Storm Stella, Cornell shut down... Tuesday March 14 and remained closed until Wednesday March 15. ...The university was closed ...on Friday, March 2, **2018**”;⁶⁷⁸⁹

Whereas, “After the 2007 closure there was a petition signed by 1400 students, staff, and faculty asking for a review of the shutdown process. This produced a report and a set of improvements”;¹⁰¹¹

Whereas, it is evident that in light of recent events, including both the 2020 University shutdown on February 7th and the 2018 University shutdown on March 2nd, once again another review process must take place, predicated on the necessity of student representation as decision makers of campus activities;

Whereas, this past Friday, February 7th, 2020—there were several reports of students getting hurt on the way to class, before the campus wide email had been sent at 10:03am;

Whereas, the Cornell campus has structural accessibility issues that are exacerbated by extreme weather conditions;

Whereas, considering the comparative populations of Cornell’s faculty, employees, graduate students, and administration officials—the Student body itself outnumbers each of these respective groups;

Whereas, the safety of students should circumvent each and every factor that the administration, Incident Leadership Team, and Incident Management Team uses when evaluating weather-related shutdown concerns and University Policy 8.2;

Whereas, in conversations that pertain to the safety of the student body, students should be represented, by students;

Whereas, extreme weather conditions create unsafe conditions for ALL students; especially students housed on West Campus, students who live farther from campus (often correlated with socio-economic class), and students with disabilities;

Whereas, “Shared governance enables members of the community to have access to information, involvement in matters of concern to them, and the authority to examine these issues and make recommendations to the appropriate administrative officers and the President”;¹²

Be it therefore resolved, that a representative from the Student Assembly shall be appointed to the Incident Leadership Team;

⁶ <https://ithacavoice.com/2017/03/snowstorm-close-cornell-remembering-blizzard-93/>

⁷ <http://news.cornell.edu/stories/2007/02/cornell-committee-review-bad-weather-policy>

⁸ <http://cornellsun.com/2017/03/14/winter-storm-stella-closes-cornell-campus/>

⁹ <https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2018/03/ithaca-escapes-brunt-brutal-march-2-coastal-storm>

¹⁰ <http://news.cornell.edu/stories/2007/02/cornell-committee-review-bad-weather-policy>

¹¹ <https://cpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.cornell.edu/dist/3/6798/files/2017/05/2007-Report-1m1x7bn.pdf>

¹² <https://assembly.cornell.edu/shared-governance-cornell>



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81 **Be it finally resolved,** that a representative from the Student Assembly shall be appointed to the Incident
82 Management Team.

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84

85 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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87 Gavin Martin '20

88 *Vice President of Research & Accountability, Student Assembly*

89 *College of Arts & Sciences Representative, Student Assembly*

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91 Uche Chukwukere '21

92 *Undesignated Representative At-Large, Student Assembly*

93



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(2/13/2020)
Type of Action:	Internal Policy
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #35 Support for the Ithaca Tenants' Union

ABSTRACT: This resolution supports the creation of the Ithaca Tenants' Union.

Sponsored by: Joe Anderson '20, Liel Sterling '21, Aadi Kulkarni '22

Whereas, a large portion of the study body lives in off-campus living;

Whereas, many times these students experience issues with their landlords;

Whereas, these landlords sometimes take advantage of students not fully knowing their rights;

Whereas, the Ithaca Tenants' Union was formed to create collective tenant power and inform tenants of their rights;

Be it therefore resolved, that the Cornell Student Assembly supports the Ithaca Tenants' Union and their goals;

Be it further resolved, that the Cornell Student Assembly will post the attached statement on our social media;

Be it finally resolved, that the Cornell Student Assembly shall work to forge partnerships with the Ithaca Tenants' Union, the Office of Off-Campus Living, Office of the Student Advocate, Office of Student Government Relations and the City and Local Affairs Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Anderson '20
President, Student Assembly

Liel Sterling '21
Student Advocate, Office of the Student Advocate
Lead Organizer, Ithaca Tenants' Union

Aadi Kulkarni '22
Director, Office of Student Government Relations

(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 5-0-0, 2/11/2020)



Cornell University
Student Assembly

February 13, 2020

The presence of Cornell University has driven up the cost of housing in Ithaca because of the necessity of short-term leases for students who rotate in and out of housing during their time at Cornell. This cycle allows landlords to lower the standard of living and raises the cost of housing for students and local residents.

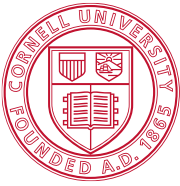
We, the members of Cornell's undergraduate Student Assembly, support the creation of the Ithaca Tenants Union to collectively better housing conditions and prices in Ithaca and to support local residents and students living off-campus by informing them of their rights. We also support the group of both students and Ithaca community members to organize and or engage in any form of collective action such as withholding rent against non-compliant landlords.

Currently, human life in Ithaca is being disrespected as residents are frequently being denied the right to heat, working water systems, locks on doors, and more. While the tenancy issue affects all students, we must acknowledge the socio-economic diversity of our student body and the lack of resources for residents unable to access help because of socio-economic limitations. Especially for these residents, a Tenants Union is necessary to serve as a resource to bring about justice and raise the standard of living. We must also recognize the essentiality of including local residents in the Union as they are the first to be negatively impacted by this institution. Most workers that work at Cornell do not live in the Ithaca area due to higher rent.

All people have a right to fair living standards, and while we hope that landlords will comply with the law without the Union having to act, we support the existence of the Union as a check on the abuses we see repeatedly occur. We uphold the principles of economic justice, dignity for all tenants, and housing justice.

In solidarity,

The Cornell Student Assembly



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(2/13/2020)
Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #36

Creating a Study Committee that would evaluate the ACT/SAT test requirement for
Cornell Admissions

ABSTRACT: This resolution recommends that Cornell University convene a study group of faculty, employees, and students to analyze the potential effects of making the ACT/SAT optional for admissions.

Sponsored by: Debbie Nyakaru '20, Joe Anderson '20

Whereas, the history of standardized testing dates back to the psychologist Carl Brigham, a key developer of the Scholastic Aptitude Test and prominent eugenicist¹

Whereas, the tests continue to reflect their biased history; for example, in the case of gender-based bias, where girls on average score higher than boys in math classes, but boys consistent score higher on the math sections of standardized tests²

Whereas, a report from the College Board shows that students from a lower socioeconomic status (SES) score consistently lower on standardized tests than students from higher SES³

Whereas, SAT and ACT scores are not accurate predictors of a student's success in college

Whereas, peer institutions have moved toward making the test requirement optional and other institutions have removed the requirement completely⁴

Whereas, when the University of Chicago removed the standardized test score requirement, along with other equity-based measures, they saw a 20 percent increase in the amount of first-generation, low-income students, a 56 percent increase in rural students, and 14 veterans (previously zero) commit to their schools⁵

Whereas, the University of California released a public report on whether the UC system should continue utilizing the SAT/ACT in their admissions decisions;

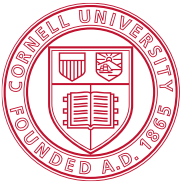
¹ <http://www.nea.org/home/73288.htm>

² <https://www.forbes.com/sites/kimelsesser/2019/12/11/lawsuit-claims-sat-and-act-are-biased-heres-what-research-says/#4a43ea73c429>

³ <https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/digitalServices/pdf/research/2013/TotalGroup-2013.pdf>

⁴ <https://news.uchicago.edu/story/test-scores-dont-stack-gpas-predicting-college-success>

⁵ <https://www.insidehighered.com/admissions/views/2019/07/22/university-chicago-test-optional-policies-are-worth-review-opinion>



Cornell University Student Assembly

Whereas, ultimately, and shockingly, the UC Study Group did not recommend dropping the SAT/ACT; however, they did note that standardized test scores may adversely affect underrepresented minority applicants;

Whereas, Cornell has a different student body and applicant pool to consider than the University of California system;

Whereas, the potential effects of having Cornell be test optional might be different than the effects on the University of California system;

Be it therefore resolved, that Cornell University create a study group of faculty, employees, and students to be convened and produce a recommendation and justification to the University;

Be it further resolved, that the report of the working group include other equity-based measures that would increase the diversity of incoming classes;

Be it finally resolved, that the report of the working group include a discussion of transfer students, veterans, and other non-traditional student demographic groups.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Nyakaru '20
Parliamentarian, Student Assembly

Joe Anderson '20
President, Student Assembly

(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 5-0-0, 2/11/2020)