

Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Agenda of the Thursday, March 12th, 2020 Meeting
4:45-6:30pm in the Memorial Room of Willard Straight Hall

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

II. Approval of the Minutes

- a. [3/5/20 Meeting](#)

III. Announcements & Presentations

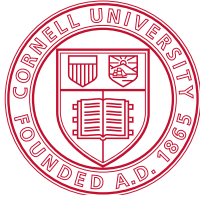
- a. VPF Adeghe – Special Projects Funding
 - i. [S.A Resolution #53: Approving Special Projects Request for SASSY](#)
 - ii. [S.A Resolution #54: Approving Special Projects Request for Women’s Club Volleyball](#)

IV. Open Microphone

V. New Business

- a. [S.A Resolution #55: Approving Special Projects Request for Union Days](#)
- b. [S.A Resolution #56: Support of the Divestment from Fossil Fuels](#)
- c. [S.A. Resolution #57: Election Cancellation and Fall Election Restructuring](#)
- d. [S.A. Resolution #58: Amending the Standing Rules to Allow Votes Out of New Business](#)

VI. Adjournment



Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, March 5th, 2020 Meeting
4:46-6:02pm in the Memorial Room of Willard Straight Hall

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. J. Anderson called the meeting to order at 4:46 pm.
- b. Roll Call:
 - i. Present: M. Adeghe, S. Ali, J. Anderson, M. Baker, U. Chukwukere, J. Clancy, O. Egharevba, J. Feit, M. Haddad, C. Huang, J. Kroll, Y. Li, I. Pavlov, T. Reuning, L. Smith, N. Watson, B. Weintraub, K. Wondimu, S. Xu, J. Youngblood, Y. Yuan
 - ii. Absent: C. Benedict (excused), N. Matolka (excused), P. Solovyeva (excused), V. Xu
 - iii. Arrived After Roll Call: A. Cass (excused), G. Martin (excused), S. Sun (excused)

II. Announcements

- a. J. Anderson said that everyone should wash their hands and use hand sanitizer above 60% alcohol content if needed. He added that everyone should stop touching their face, and that if he can break that habit, so can everyone else.
- b. B. Weintraub said that anyone who feels like they are getting sick and have more respiratory symptoms than usual should go to Cornell Health, and that anyone who has any indication that they are sick with more than a cold should also go to Cornell Health.
- c. C. Huang said that C. Benedict is approving \$400 for Mortarboard.
- d. J. Kroll and I. Pavlov began setting up for a presentation.
- e. O. Egharevba said that the working group's first meeting will be tomorrow from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm in a location that is yet to be determined but will be put on the Slack.
 - i. B. Weintraub asked who is in the group and what its purpose is.
 - ii. O. Egharevba said that the agenda for tomorrow will be to evaluate the current structure of the SA at this time, and use that to see where it goes. He added that he does not have a list of names for who is in it, but that members off the top of his head are J. Feit, N. Watson, and J. Youngblood.
- f. J. Anderson said that there will be a sprint meeting on Sunday.
- g. Lydia Zheng said that the candidate elections that are uncontested are the College of Arts and Sciences Representative; the College of Art, Architecture, and Planning Representative; the College of Human Ecology Representative; the LGBTQIA+ Students Liaison At-Large; the Minority Students Liaison At-Large; and the Undergraduate Representative to the University Assembly. She added that they still

need to fill one seat for both the Minority Students Liaison and the Undergraduate Representative to the UA.

- i. M. Haddad asked if those seats would therefore be filled next year.
- ii. L. Zheng said that the precedent has been to wait until the fall, but that it could technically be done at the end of this current election cycle.

III. New Business/Business of the Day I

- a. Resolution 45: Approving Special Projects Request for Student Assembly/Amending the Student Assembly Budget
 - i. B. Weintraub moved to amend the agenda such that Resolution 45 would be presented now while J. Kroll and I. Pavlov continued to set up – amended.
 - ii. M. Adeghe moved to amend the title of the resolution such that it would represent the budget.
 1. J. Anderson said that the title could be “Amending the Student Assembly Budget”.
 - iii. Motion to amend Resolution 45 such that the title would become “Amending the Student Assembly Budget” – amended.
 - iv. M. Adeghe presented the resolution.
 - v. Motion to vote on Resolution 45 – approved 20-0-1.
 1. Despite the resolution having been counted as New Business, there was an agreement that the resolution would have automatically been counted as moving into Business of the Day if it passed with more than a two-thirds majority.

IV. Presentation

- a. Divestment
 - i. J. Kroll and I. Pavlov presented on fossil fuel divestment.

V. Open Microphone

- a. No speakers at the open microphone.

VI. New Business/Business of the Day II

- a. Resolution 46: In support of Joining Today’s Students Coalition
 - i. J. Anderson presented the resolution.
 - ii. There was a motion to suspend the rules of debate such that a motion to vote can also be an implicit motion to move to Business of the Day if it reaches a two-thirds majority – approved.
 - iii. Motion to vote on Resolution 46 – approved 19-0-2.
- b. Resolution 47: Guaranteeing Centralized Housing for All Transfer Students
 - i. C. Huang and N. Watson presented the resolution.
 - ii. A. Cass said that they have the impression that it’s pretty standard that other universities tend to guarantee transfers housing, and that it seems like the university is admitting more people than they can house, and asked if the administration has said anything about that. They added that it seems like a weird and unsustainable policy to have.
 - iii. N. Watson said that they have been admitting fewer transfers and freshmen in recent years to account for the lack of beds, and that they are also looking at the expansion project to give housing to everyone who wants it and thereby increase enrollment.

- iv. C. Huang said that the reason that Cornell has the guaranteed transfer program for state schools is the lack of housing, and that they don't have room for these students.
- v. T. Reuning said that he had a conversation with the Director of Undergraduate Admissions last semester, and that they said that they're planning on increasing freshman enrollment even though it works against the idea of having enough beds.
- vi. M. Adeghe said that she knows that these things can take a very long time, and asked when the presenters foresee this going into effect.
- vii. C. Huang said that she's only gotten to this now after a year and a half due to all the roadblocks involved, and that they have a meeting with VP Ryan Lombardi tomorrow. She added that the resolution says this will go into effect in 2021, and that they will then have the housing thereafter.
- viii. O. Egharevba said that the housing market in Ithaca is crazy, and that this is a very good resolution.
- ix. I. Pavlov said that T. Reuning's comment had reminded her about how the Campus Master Plan has a quota on the number of students, and that the administration likes to say that it's not official. She asked if the presenters could push to have that quota met until students are guaranteed housing.
 - x. C. Huang asked I. Pavlov to clarify.
 - xi. I. Pavlov said that she thinks that there is a cap of 15,000 students.
 - xii. Discussion continued in this regard.
- xiii. J. Feit said that he is fully supporting this resolution, but that he isn't certain that the administration won't just cut transfer admissions upon receiving it rather than increasing housing.
- xiv. C. Huang said that that is an important thing to keep in mind, and that they will be discussing that with VP Lombardi tomorrow, and then the new VP of Enrollment following that.
- xv. M. Haddad said that she wanted to share her experience as a transfer student, and that while she is an international student, she did transfer in from an American university, but that international transfers can be left stranded off-campus. She added that everyone should vote for this resolution.
- xvi. There was a motion to vote.
 1. N. Watson moved to have the vote done by roll-call – approved 17-3-1.
- xvii. Motion to vote on Resolution 46 – approved 23-0-0.
 1. M. Adeghe: for
 2. S. Ali: for
 3. J. Anderson: for
 4. M. Baker: for
 5. A. Cass: for
 6. U. Chukwukere: for
 7. J. Clancy: for
 8. O. Egharevba: for
 9. J. Feit: for
 10. M. Haddad: for
 11. C. Huang: for
 12. J. Kroll: for

13. Y. Li: for
14. G. Martin: for
15. I. Pavlov: for
16. T. Reuning: for
17. L. Smith: for
18. N. Watson: for
19. B. Weintraub: for
20. K. Wondimu: for
21. S. Xu: for
22. J. Youngblood: for
23. Y. Yuan: for

- c. Resolution 48: Calling for the Extension of Cornell Health Services to Students Forcibly Withdrawn from the University for Non-Disciplinary Matters
 - i. Liel Sterling presented the resolution.
 - ii. B. Weintraub asked if the presenters had spoken to the administration and if they seem on board with it, or if they just have the idea and this resolution is the beginning steps.
 - iii. L. Sterling said that it's more the latter, and that she hasn't spoken with anyone in the administration about it.
 - iv. Motion to vote on Resolution 48 – **approved** 21-0-1.
- d. Resolution 49: Amendment to S.A. Resolution 7 (Establishing the Office of Student Assembly Bylaws): Creation of the Director of International Student Affairs
 - i. G. Martin said that there needs to be a discharge petition in order for this resolution to come to the floor.
 - ii. There was a motion for a discharge petition for the next four resolutions – **approved** 21-0-1.
 - iii. G. Martin said that this just needed to be done because Exec didn't meet this week, and that it's nothing to write home about.
 - iv. U. Chukwukere presented the resolution.
 - v. Y. Li said that he does find a problem in this resolution in that it's opposed by the relevant body in the administration.
 - vi. M. Haddad said that as an international student who has sought out the Office of Global Learning multiple times, it was a bunch of people who did not understand her situation telling her what to do. She added that her CPT was wrong, and that if she had left the country with the wrong CPT, she wouldn't have been able to get back into the country, and that this was not acceptable. She also said that if she had the Office of the Student Advocate, they would have gone and fought the office with her and retrieved her right. She added that the office is overworked and she gets that, but sometimes people need a student who gets it.
 - vii. Discussion continued in this regard.
 - viii. L. Sterling said that she wants to clarify a misconception, and that the Office of the Student Advocate are in no way trying to replace the Office of Global Learning, and that it's just providing a connection. She added that it's easier sometimes to get a response so that if something could happen like it did with M. Haddad, she wouldn't be doing it on her own.
 - ix. T. Reuning said that his understanding of the Student Advocate is for when the administration is failing someone so that they can have a student on their

side, such that there is no conflict of interest between helping the student and being an employee of the university. He added that this would not be replacing any preexisting office.

- x. Y. Li said that he just saw this resolution today, and that he was thinking about possibly tabling it and speaking with the Office of Global Learning first. He moved to table the resolution.
- xi. U. Chukwukere said that in hearing M. Haddad's experience, he doesn't think that tabling it is necessary, and that he doesn't want to table it.
- xii. Motion to table, **failed** 7-12-3.
- xiii. There was a motion to vote on the resolution.
 - 1. Y. Yuan dissented.
 - 2. Vote to vote – **approved** 20-3-1.
- xiv. Motion to vote on Resolution 49 – **approved** 19-1-3.
- e. Resolution 50: Requesting the Establishment of the Cornell University Police Department Oversight Committee
 - i. U. Chukwukere presented the resolution.
 - ii. A. Cass said that this is a very good idea, and that they were wondering if the presenters could speak to the experiences of people who have tried to use the existing channels.
 - iii. G. Martin said that it's important to preface this by saying that not every interaction with CUPD has been negative, but that police institutions are inherently racist. He added that they have heard about certain marijuana-related instances, as well as students being called certain things by police.
 - iv. I. Pavlov said that she would like to hear more about the structure of the reports. She added that the committee meets two times a year and whenever grievances come in, and asked whether it would ever meet with the police chief or if the process would be electronic.
 - v. U. Chukwukere said that it could be both, and that he wanted it to be such that the chief of police is there at the meetings, probably as an ex-officio member, and that in situations where it's not necessary for them to be in the room, it would be possible.
 - vi. J. Feit said that he thinks that this is a fantastic resolution, and asked if this resolution would have to be passed through the Employee Assembly and Faculty Senate as well, since it would be seating employees and faculty members.
 - vii. U. Chukwukere said that the steps following the passing of the resolution would be to coordinate with those two bodies and the Graduate & Professional Student Assembly to get people on this body.
 - viii. J. Feit asked if U. Chukwukere knows the numbers regarding diversity on CUPD.
 - ix. U. Chukwukere replied in the negative and said that he was having a lot of trouble even getting access to those reports online. He added that this committee would make that more transparent and available to them.
 - x. J. Clancy asked if this would differ from similar bodies had at other universities.
 - xi. G. Martin said that Brown University has the best example of a body, and that they don't have employees or faculty sitting on the body, and that they do have a quota of seats for students representing their Black Students

United. He added that they are trying to bring more people to the table, but that it is largely the same.

- xii. S. Sun asked what the presenters' plan is to make sure people are aware of these resources.
- xiii. U. Chukwukere said that it's really just about connecting to a lot of different student organizations, and that he is already in direct communications with BSU and other ALANA organizations. He added that they're definitely going to push this to make sure it gets out there and is a very well-known thing.
- xiv. T. Reuning said that he thinks that it is something that they can also make RAs aware of and let their residents know about the resources.
- xv. L. Smith asked if there is a vision for relations with people external to the Cornell community, such as Ithaca PD, and what that vision is if there is one.
- xvi. G. Martin said that he had brought up earlier that students sometimes have run-ins with Ithaca PD, and that a lot of the negative reputation that CUPD has is in part because of that, and that this would ameliorate that. He added that Ithaca PD would not be on the body.
- xvii. L. Smith asked if this means there will not be communication with them.
- xviii. G. Martin said that that is not the current plan, but that it can be arranged should there be a dire need for communications.
- xix. J. Anderson said that there is also an Ithaca Community Police Board that can also be reached out to.
- xx. J. Feit said that T. Reuning brought up a good point regarding different residential buildings, and asked if there would be any way to ensure that RAs get a seat on this committee. He also said to disregard his thought if necessary since he is not a member of a group that has been historically oppressed or targeted by police, and said that he is curious as to whether or not it would be beneficial to have an officer on the committee.
- xxi. U. Chukwukere said that he would prefer not to have an officer on the committee, but that they could be ex-officio, and that the outgoing JA sits on CJC as ex-officio, and she therefore does not vote on anything. He asked what J. Feit's other question was.
- xxii. J. Feit repeated his question.
- xxiii. U. Chukwukere said that they can amend that so that it is explicit.
- xxiv. G. Martin said that they could also have the people who chair the committee prioritize those applications.
- xxv. B. Weintraub asked if they could get someone from RSC on the committee.
- xxvi. S. Sun asked how the presenters would feel about making this body a branch of the Office of the Student Advocate, such that they could go to that office and then direct them to other resources if necessary, but have this office under the umbrella if it is necessary.
- xxvii. U. Chukwukere said that he can see that, and that he thinks that is part of why he wanted to have at least one of the undergraduate students on the committee being from that office, such that it will be represented.
- xxviii. S. Sun said that if they want people to find out about the committee faster, it might be easier for them to find out about it if it is part of an existing body.
- xxix. T. Reuning said that he thinks that the issue is that it's not really the role of the Student Advocate, and that it is meant to point people toward resources or help them get them, rather than being an investigative board. He added

that having that link is the point of having the Office representative on the body.

- xxx. B. Weintraub said that they do need to be careful regarding the Office of the Student Advocate, in that they don't want to give them the idea that they can tell them anything, and that they are not a lawyer. He added that they want to make sure that people don't think that, and avoid getting students into legal trouble.
- xxxi. There was a motion to vote on Resolution 50 – approved 20-0-1.
- f. Resolution 51: Requesting the Establishment of the Policy 6.4 (Prohibited Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual and Related Misconduct) Cornell Title IX Oversight and Advisory Board
 - i. U. Chukwukere and M. Haddad presented the resolution.
 - ii. S. Sun asked if this would be within the Title IX office or if it would be a separate entity.
 - iii. U. Chukwukere said that it would be completely separate.
 - iv. There was a motion to vote on Resolution 51 – approved 20-0-1.

VII. Adjournment

- a. J. Anderson adjourned the meeting at 6:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Hannan
Clerk of the Assembly



Cornell University
Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	3/09/2020
Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	New Business

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S.A. Resolution #53

Special Projects Funding for Students Against the Sexual Solicitation of Youth

ABSTRACT: This resolution approves \$1,315 of Special Projects funding to Student Against the Sexual Solicitation of Youth.

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 \$1,315 in Special Projects Funding to SASSY for their educational summit;

Be it therefore resolved, the Student Assembly necessitates that this funding be used to cover costs related to putting on the summit;

Be it finally resolved, the Student Assembly encourages students to attend the summit on March 21st.

Respectfully Submitted,

Moriah Adeghe '21
Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

(Reviewed by: Appropriations Committee, 8-0-2, 3/09/2020)



Cornell University
Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	3/09/2020
Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	New Business

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S.A. Resolution #54
Special Projects Funding for Women’s Club Volleyball

ABSTRACT: This resolution approves \$1,000 of Special Projects funding to the Women’s Club Volleyball at Cornell.

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 \$1,000 in Special Projects Funding to the Women’s Club Volleyball at Cornell for their tournament;

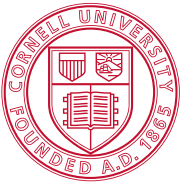
Be it therefore resolved, the Student Assembly necessitates that this funding be used to cover the cost of paying for travel and hotel accommodations for the tournament;

Be it finally resolved, in the event that the tournament is cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the refundable funds will be returned to the Student Assembly.

Respectfully Submitted,

Moriah Adeghe ‘21
Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

(Reviewed by: Appropriations Committee, 8-1-1, 3/09/2020)



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Originally Presented on:	03/02/2020
Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	New Business

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S.A. Resolution #55
Approving Special Projects Request for Union Days

ABSTRACT: This resolution approves \$2,700 of Special Projects funding to Union Days to bring in a speaker for their annual conference.

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 \$2,700 in Special Projects Funding to Union Days for bringing in a speaker for their event.

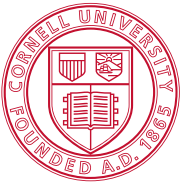
Be it therefore resolved, the Student Assembly approves the \$2,700 Special Projects disbursement to Union Days for their project;

Be it finally resolved, the Student Assembly necessitates that this funding be used to cover the cost of the speaker.

Respectfully Submitted,

Moriah Adeghe '21
Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

(Reviewed by: Appropriations Committee, 9-0-2, 3/02/2020)



Originally Presented on:	03/12/2020
Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	New Business

1 S.A. Resolution #56
2 Support of the Divestment from Fossil Fuels
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4 ABSTRACT: Resolution to divest Cornell University’s endowment from all investments in coal, oil,
5 and natural gas.
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7 **Sponsored by:** Julian Kroll ‘20, Indigo Pavlov ‘22
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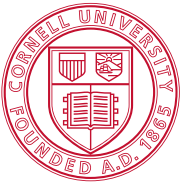
9 Whereas, many reputable financial publications have suggested that the fossil fuel industry is in the
10 preliminary stages of a significant market decline, while renewable industries such as wind and solar
11 energy promise sustainable, meaningful growth.
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13 Whereas, in August 2019, the [Financial Times](#) reported that “Climate Change has been framed as an
14 ethical issue for years now, with mixed success. But now the calls for socially responsible investing
15 to save the planet are increasingly being reinforced by cold economic logic. Mainstream institutional
16 investors are recognising that climate change is not just a threat to the health of the planet, but also a
17 threat to the wealth of their clients”.
18

19 Whereas, the Financial Times reported on October 1, 2019 that “Investors who bet on a shift from
20 fossil fuels to clean energy are being richly rewarded as solar and wind stocks outperform oil and gas
21 shares by a widening margin this year”.
22

23 Whereas, Bloomberg’s New Energy Outlook ([NEO](#)) 2019 reported that solar and wind power have
24 become the most cost effective way to create new energy sources. This report also suggests that
25 wind and solar operations will be able to produce power at lower cost— without subsidy— than
26 existing coal and gas plants across the world by 2030. Since 2010, the cost of solar energy has fallen
27 by 85% and the cost of wind powered energy has dropped by roughly 50%.
28

29 Whereas, Deloitte’s [2019 Renewable Energy Industry Outlook](#) report states that some of the market
30 and industry phenomena that “drove growth in 2018 were declining costs of wind and solar
31 generation, advances in battery storage technology, and grid operators’ growing expertise and
32 expanding toolset for integrating intermittent renewable power into the grid. And, perhaps most
33 significant, was robust demand from most market segments. Utilities demonstrated strong
34 “voluntary demand,” as opposed to the demand driven by policy mandates we’ve seen in the past”.
35 In regards to specific drivers of renewable growth, the Deloitte report states that, “while the current
36 US administration is not focused on decarbonization, states, cities, communities, and businesses
37 with increasingly ambitious sustainability goals are driving renewable growth. Market developments
38 such as the entry of smaller corporations into the corporate procurement market, renewed interest
39 from oil and gas players, and greater involvement of asset management companies offer new
40 opportunities for renewable growth”.
41



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42 Whereas, a portfolio manager of the Investec Global Environment fund stated that
43 “Decarbonisation is the largest investment the world has ever had to make in peacetime and the
44 yield curve is giving us an extremely attractive environment in which to make that investment”.

45
46 Whereas, the global financial community is increasingly averse to oil investments. In late September,
47 for example, the French oil and gas company Total announced an intention to accelerate dividend
48 growth in years to come. Despite this effort to spur interest in Total’s stock, the company’s shares
49 have nonetheless remained stagnant since the announcement.

50
51 Whereas, in both 2017 and 2018, renewable stocks outperformed gas and oil shares.

52
53 Whereas, a significant body of market analysts have indicated that as renewable energies become
54 more cost effective, the infrastructure of renewable energy becomes more robust, and industrial
55 actors become more interested in sustainability and more averse to fossil fuels, it is more financially
56 prudent to invest in renewable energies than in the fossil fuel industry.

57
58 Whereas, as stated in the 2015 fossil fuel divestment resolution, “there is overwhelming evidence
59 that the use of fossil fuels is disrupting the Earth’s climate system and acidifying its oceans, and that
60 such disruptions will significantly challenge the subsistence of human civilization”;

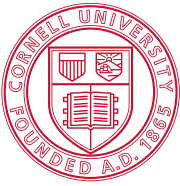
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62 Whereas, the metabolism of fossil fuels emits carbon dioxide (CO₂) and nitrous oxide (NO) into the
63 global atmosphere. A particle of CO₂ spends between 20 and 200 years in the atmosphere. A
64 particle of nitrous oxide has an atmospheric lifetime of 110 years.

65
66 Whereas, the presence of greenhouse gases carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, methane, hydrogen gas,
67 and chlorofluorocarbons raise the specific heat capacity of atmospheric gas, trapping solar rays as
68 they are reflected off of the earth’s surface.

69
70 Whereas, “Human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming
71 above pre-industrial levels, with a *likely* range of 0.8°C to 1.2°C. Global Warming is likely to reach
72 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate” - IPCC 2019 Climate
73 change report

74
75 Whereas, “Warming from anthropogenic emissions from the pre-industrial period to the present will
76 persist for centuries to millennia and will continue to cause further long-term changes in the climate
77 system, such as sea level rise, with associated impacts, but these emissions alone are *unlikely* to cause
78 global warming of 1.5°C”. - IPCC 2019

79
80 Whereas, carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide remain in the atmosphere for decades to
81 centuries after their original emission and trigger positive reinforcement cycles which both release
82 additional greenhouse gasses and slow their reabsorption or decomposition.



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83 Whereas, climate change's impacts on natural and human systems have already been documented.
84 The nature of future climate-related risks depend on the trajectory of warming and extent of human
85 preparedness.

86
87 Whereas, the effects of global warming vary geographically, disproportionately impacting people of
88 greater geographic vulnerability who lack robust economic and/or social resources.

89
90 Whereas, the gradual increase of global mean temperatures will correspond to more extreme weather
91 events, more frequent and intense precipitation in several regions, increased frequency of droughts
92 in some regions, marine ice sheet loss, sea level rise, and risks related to sea level rise.

93
94 Whereas, Cornell's Board of Trustees issued a statement in 2016 detailing the circumstances under
95 which they would initiate divestment proceedings. The criteria are as follows:

- 96 1. A company's actions or inactions are "morally reprehensible," **Additionally, either...**
- 97 2. The divestiture will likely have a meaningful impact toward correcting the specified harm
98 and will not result in disproportionate offsetting societal consequences; **or**
- 99 3. The company contributes to harm so grave that it would be inconsistent with the goals and
100 principles of the university

101 Whereas, the operations of the fossil fuel industry are **morally reprehensible**

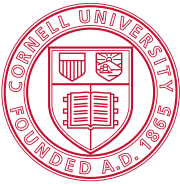
102
103 Whereas, the body of research supporting the fossil fuel industry's moral reprehensibility has grown
104 significantly since the Board of Trustees' 2016 negative fossil fuel divestment decision.

105
106 Whereas, the [U.S. EPA](#) states on their website that "Climate change is very likely to affect food
107 security at the global, regional, and local level. Climate change can disrupt food availability, reduce
108 access to food, and affect food quality. For example, projected increases in temperatures, changes in
109 precipitation patterns, changes in extreme weather events, and reductions in water availability may all
110 result in reduced agricultural productivity. Increases in the frequency and severity of extreme
111 weather events can also interrupt food delivery, and resulting spikes in food prices after extreme
112 events are expected to be more frequent in the future. Increasing temperatures can contribute to
113 spoilage and contamination".

114
115 Whereas, fluctuations in temperature, sea level, precipitation, and the frequency and severity of
116 extreme events will compromise the infrastructure and economy of energy production, delivery, and
117 consumption in the United States.

118
119 Whereas, global warming will increase demand for electricity through elevated cooling activity in
120 warmer months, while elevated global average temperatures will reduce the efficiency of fossil fuel,
121 nuclear power plants, and other production facilities that use water as a coolant.

122



Cornell University Student Assembly

123 Whereas, as efficiency of energy production decreases as a result of decreased factor productivity of
124 water-based coolants, and demand for energy increases in warm months as global average
125 temperatures increase, it is likely that energy shortages will occur. People of lower socioeconomic
126 status who lack the buying power to purchase energy at elevated prices will be most egregiously
127 affected. This will lower quality of life, raise barriers to socioeconomic mobility, and create medical
128 risk, among other negative effects.

129
130 Whereas, climate change will cause a reduction in energy production efficiency that will hinder the
131 infrastructure of fresh water transportation. Simultaneously, climate change will reduce many
132 regions' access to fresh water resources by drought. Thus, climate change will create regionally
133 specific elevated demand for fresh water in addition to a weakened freshwater transportation
134 infrastructure that will be less capable of meeting this demand.

135
136 Whereas, Climate Change leads to increased salinity in oceans through disruption of otherwise stable
137 patterns of evaporation and precipitation. This disrupts ocean current patterns and reduces
138 freshwater resources. When coastal regions are inundated with this increasingly saline ocean water,
139 the soil is overly salinated and less conducive to agricultural productivity.

140
141 Whereas, "Of 105,000 species studied, 6% of insects, 8% of plants, and 4% of vertebrates are
142 projected to lose over half of their climatically determined geographic range for a 1.5°C, increase in
143 global temperatures, compared with 18% of insects, 16% of plants, and 8% of vertebrates for a
144 more extreme global warming of 2°C."

145
146 Whereas, many ecosystems are delicate, interconnected, and dynamic. The loss of a relatively small
147 portion of flora or fauna will catalyze significant disruptions.

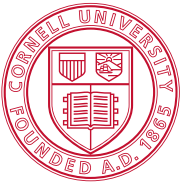
148
149 Whereas, if their emissions of greenhouse gases are not drastically reduced, the fossil fuel industry
150 will play a significant role in precipitating an anthropogenic mass extinction that will threaten human
151 subsistence.

152
153 Whereas, phenomena caused by global warming will displace populations located on islands, coasts,
154 and peninsula.

155
156 Whereas, the United Nations issued a statement in 2011 urging the island nation of the Maldives to
157 prepare for displacement resulting from rising sea levels, salinization, coastal erosion, declining
158 access to fresh water, and more frequent storms and flooding.

159
160 Whereas, it has been estimated that many islands will become uninhabitable within decades due to
161 the destruction or compromise of freshwater resources and an increased frequency of flooding.

162
163 Whereas, migration away from these islands— such as the Maldives, the Marshall Islands, and other
164 small Pacific Island nations, as well as coastal regions like the Louisiana coast or southern Florida—
165 will occur as this land becomes uninhabitable.



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166 Whereas, the creation of new refugee populations could incite conflict through the disruption of
167 existing global geopolitical dynamics.

168 Whereas, negative externalities produced by the fossil fuel industry have been shown to
169 disproportionately impact marginalized communities— particularly communities of color with lower
170 average socioeconomic status.

171 Whereas, Black Americans are three times more likely to die from exposure to air pollution and
172 twice as likely to lack access to potable water.

173 Whereas, a study by Lelieveld et al. published by the National Academy of Sciences of the United
174 States of America asserts that “fossil-fuel-related emissions account for about 65% of the excess
175 mortality rate attributable to air pollution”.

176 Whereas, 68% of Black Americans live within 30 miles of a coal-fired power plant.

177 Whereas, the NAACP published a report in April 2019 entitled *Fossil Fuel Foolery*, detailing the tactics
178 employed by the fossil fuel industry to manipulate and disempower communities of color. These
179 strategies generally involve manipulation of information and public perception. The manner in
180 which the fossil fuel industry treats communities of color is particularly relevant because these
181 communities tend to bear disproportionate amounts of the negative externalities produced through
182 fossil fuel enterprise.

183 Whereas, 35% of sites of fossil fuel extraction lie either directly on or near Indigenous land.

184 Whereas, fossil fuel projects have consistently violated indigenous human rights and caused
185 significant long-term damage on indigenous traditional territories. These actions must be
186 contextualized by a history of antagonism and colonialism that has weakened indigenous
187 communities.

188 Whereas, Cornell University occupies the territory of the Cayuga Nation.

189 Whereas, for instance, the process of oil extraction and tar sands developments in Canada has
190 created massive waste pools that can be seen from space in the center of Dene people’s territory,
191 fracturing and destroying their land.

192 Whereas, the direct and robust contribution of the fossil fuel industry to climate change, a
193 phenomena which has been proven beyond a reasonable doubt to threaten the production and
194 transportation of food, energy, and freshwater, is morally reprehensible. As these resources become
195 more scarce, populations across the world will inevitably lose access to them.

196
197 Whereas, the direct and robust contribution of the fossil fuel industry to climate change, a
198 phenomena that threatens to cause an anthropogenic mass extinction, is morally reprehensible. The



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199 impact of collapsing global ecosystems on human subsistence is not negligible; human agricultural
200 processes are often interwoven with local flora and fauna.

201
202 Whereas, the direct and robust contribution of the fossil fuel industry to climate change, a
203 phenomena that threatens to displace populations and create a new generation of environmental
204 refugees, is morally reprehensible. The effects of these imminent disruptions to volatile global
205 geopolitical dynamics are unpredictable.

206
207 Whereas, the overwhelming amount of human death, suffering, and disruption that climate change
208 threatens to cause is inherently morally reprehensible. The disproportionate impact of climate
209 change upon indigenous communities, communities lacking robust socioeconomic resources, and
210 communities of color bears similarities to an apartheid state, in which operates a system of
211 segregation and violence based on color, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status.

212
213 Whereas, the process of fossil fuel divestment has a meaningful impact towards correcting the fossil
214 fuel industry's emissions of carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide through diminishing their external
215 funding, stock value, and legitimacy in the global marketplace.

216
217 Whereas, a 2017 study written by Ekwurzel et al. showed that 90 fossil fuel companies account for
218 two thirds of all carbon dioxide and methane emissions produced in the industrial era. Destabilizing
219 the fossil fuel industry is a prudent route to a sustainable and just future.

220
221 Whereas, Cornell University's divestment from the fossil fuel industry would follow the UC system's
222 recent decision to divest from fossil fuels, and would set a precedent for the rest of the Ivy League
223 and other peer institutions. As more institutions choose to divest from the fossil fuel industry, the
224 symbolic and material objectives of fossil fuel divestment are more fully realized.

225
226 Whereas, if successful, the global drive for fossil fuel divestment will incentivize fossil fuel
227 companies to transition into reliance on renewable technologies.

228
229 Whereas, divestment from fossil fuels legitimizes contemporary climate science. This is particularly
230 important in today's context, given the Trump Administration's consistent denial and repression of
231 climate science. The Trump administration's institutionalized climate change denial has manifested
232 itself in the following ways, among others:

233
234 1. **Altering economic models of climate change by deliberately miscalculating the social**
235 **cost of carbon:** The Trump EPA's 'social cost of carbon' is calculated as the social cost of
236 one ton of carbon to the U.S. economy and environment, as opposed to the previous model
237 which calculated the impact of one ton of carbon upon the global environment and
238 economy. As a result, the social cost of one ton of carbon sank from \$50 to between \$1 and
239 \$7. As this data is factored into the formation and implementation of environmental policy,
240 greater amounts of carbon dioxide pollution will be permitted. Additionally, a social cost of



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241 carbon based solely on domestic carbon impact is surely inaccurate given our interconnected
242 global economy, which will encounter higher transportation and energy costs due to
243 greenhouses gases like carbon dioxide.

244 **2. Removing mention of human-made climate change from research conducted by**

245 **National Park Service Scientists:** The release of Maria Caffrey’s 2013 research on the
246 impact of climate change on 118 coastal parks in the U.S. was delayed until 2017. When the
247 report was released, all mention of human-made climate change was removed. The scientist
248 who published the report was subsequently demoted and dismissed. Documentation of the
249 agency’s actions was made available through the Freedom of Information Act.

250 **3. Direct quotes from the president of the United States endorsing conspiracy theories**

251 **and misinformation in regards to climate science:** In 2012, Donald Trump tweeted that
252 climate change was a hoax invented by the Chinese government in order to weaken
253 American industry. There is no evidence supporting this claim. On April 2nd, 2019, Donald
254 Trump stated in a speech that noise from wind turbines causes cancer. There is no evidence
255 supporting this claim. During an especially cold November weekend in 2018, Donald Trump
256 tweeted “Whatever happened to Global Warming”. This act reflects a deep
257 misunderstanding of the nature of climate change.

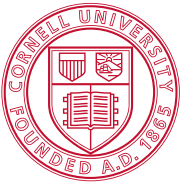
258
259 Whereas, Cornell University’s divestment from fossil fuels will not result in disproportionate
260 offsetting societal consequences. While a degree of structural unemployment may be experienced as
261 primacy in the energy market shifts from fossil fuels to renewable technologies, this negative impact
262 is certainly not disproportionate to the social value generated by the mitigation of climate change.

263
264 Whereas, divestment from the fossil fuel industry will have a meaningful impact toward correcting
265 the specified harm of climate change through delegitimizing the fossil fuel industry, stigmatizing
266 their enterprises to potential investors and consumers, and empowering climate science, which
267 clearly indicates that the fossil fuel industry’s operations are unsustainable and unjust.

268
269 Whereas, A 2019 report from Truzaar Dordi and Olaf Weber asserts that “divestment
270 announcements decrease the share price of the fossil fuel companies,” based on “several robustness
271 tests using alternate expected returns models and statistical tests ... to ensure the accuracy of the
272 result.” As share prices reflect the performance of the firm, this will incentivize fossil fuel companies
273 to shift away from business as usual.

274
275 Whereas, the divestment from the fossil fuel industry will have a meaningful impact towards
276 correcting the specified harm of climate change by catalyzing our transition to a livable, just, and
277 sustainable future powered by renewable energy. It will contribute to this transition by creating an
278 economic incentive for fossil fuel companies to transition into reliance on renewable and just
279 technologies and by disincentivizing the fossil fuel industry’s stagnation.

280



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281 Whereas, divestment from the fossil fuel industry will have a meaningful impact toward correcting
282 the specified harm of climate change by reinvesting funds into sustainable and just technologies,
283 enabling them to develop and implement industrial processes that will render fossil fuels obsolete.
284

285 Whereas, Cornell University's investment in fossil fuels is dissonant with its Climate Action Plan,
286 which advocates a "low-carbon future" and carbon neutrality on campus by 2035.
287

288 Whereas, Cornell University is the leading Ivy League in sustainability rankings and regards itself as
289 "a global leader in sustainability and climate change research."
290

291 Whereas, to enthusiastically foster research and teaching aimed to elucidate the global threat of
292 climate change while remaining significantly invested in the fossil fuel industry is irresponsible.
293

294 Whereas, Cornell University must be cognizant of its direct contribution to climate change, a
295 phenomena that existentially threatens the society that it prepares students to enter.

296 Whereas, at Cornell, "academic integrity is expected not only in formal coursework situations, but in
297 all University relationships and interactions connected to the educational process, including the use
298 of University resources." (University code of conduct)

299 Whereas some of the largest fossil fuel companies (including ExxonMobil, Shell, ConocoPhillips,
300 Chevron, BP, and Peabody) withheld scientific findings asserting the existence of climate change in
301 1977 and have since continued to fabricate uncertainty about climate science.

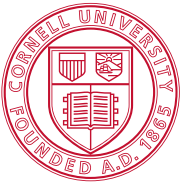
302 Whereas, ExxonMobil has spent \$30 million supporting think tanks that produce biased reports
303 fabricating uncertainty about climate science.

304 Whereas, if Cornell University would not tolerate academic dishonesty in a Cornell researcher or
305 undergraduate, Cornell must not tolerate self-interested dishonesty in the companies that it invests
306 in.

307 Whereas, the direct and robust contribution of the fossil fuel industry to climate change, a
308 phenomena that poses an existential threat to the world that Cornell University prepares its students
309 to enter, is inconsistent with the goals and principles of the university.

310 Whereas, the direct and robust contribution of the fossil fuel industry to climate change is
311 inconsistent with Cornell's commitment to sustainability and climate change research. The fossil fuel
312 industry is both deeply unsustainable and has been shown to engage in frequent repression of
313 climate change research.

314 Whereas, the many cases in which the fossil fuel industry has suppressed climate change research
315 and contributed to the spread of misinformation concerning climate change is inconsistent with
316 Cornell University's Code of Academic Integrity.



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317 **Be it therefore resolved,** that Cornell divest from all investments in coal, oil, and natural gas in an
318 orderly manner and as rapidly as possible.

319

320

321 **Respectfully Submitted,**

322

323 Julian Kroll '20

324 *School of Arts and Sciences Representative, Student Assembly*

325

326 Indigo Pavlov '22

327 *Vice President of External Affairs, Womxn's Representative, Student Assembly*

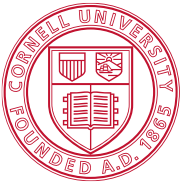
328

329 Catherine Huang '21

330 *Executive Vice President, Student Assembly*

331

332 *(Reviewed by: Environmental Committee, 8-1-0, 03/11/2020)*



Originally Presented on:	3/12/20
Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	New Business

1 S.A. Resolution #57
2 Election Cancellation and Fall Election Restructuring

3
4 ABSTRACT: A resolution in response to the University mandate concerning COVID-9 as it relates to
5 Student Assembly elections: restructuring the elections process and cancellation.

6
7 **Sponsored by: Elections Committee & Executive Committee**

8
9 **Whereas**, on March 10th, 2020, President Martha E. Pollack announced the University mandate for
10 students to stay home after Spring Break in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic (as classified by
11 World Health Organization [WHO]); ¹²

12
13 **Whereas**, candidates have signed onto a letter, suspending campaigns in light of the administration’s
14 mandate citing, “Any student who has chosen to run for any student assembly position should be well
15 aware of the fact that we, as candidates, are *choosing* to serve the student body. Serving the student body,
16 in this instance, means using our platforms to spread resources about how to help each other. Any
17 candidate who chooses to continue campaigning is doing a disservice to the students that they are
18 supposed to represent.”

19
20 **Whereas**, in response to this, the Elections Committee voted in a 6- 0-3 decision to adopt the following
21 rules and regulations for the Fall election;

22
23 **Whereas**, in response to this letter, the Executive Committee, including the current: President, Executive
24 Vice President, Vice President of Finance, Vice President of External Affairs, Vice President of Internal
25 Affairs, Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion, and Vice President of Research and Accountability—
26 voted in a unanimous decision to unequivocally support the Elections Committee in its decision;

27
28 **Therefore be it resolved**, the Elections Committee in conjunction with the Student Assembly formally
29 cancel the Spring 2020 elections, to be suspended and postponed until the Fall 2020 semester;

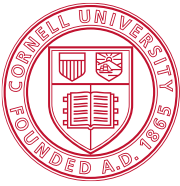
30
31 **Be it further resolved**, the SA will keep its Executive Committee as the interim body charged with
32 authority to engage with the university administration during these unprecedented times, and for the period
33 of June 1, 2020 until the next Student Assembly elections take place and their respective successors are
34 seated;

35
36 **Be it further resolved**, the Student Assembly Bylaws be amended as follows:
37 2.3 “Officers shall serve for a term of one year or until their successor is elected and is administered
38 the oath of office. Following the next regular or special Student Assembly elections.”

39
40 **Be it further resolved**, this Bylaw amendment is temporary, and meant to ensure continued representation
41 of the undergraduate student body with the university administration during the period of time affected by
42 the university’s response to the COVID-19.

43

¹ <https://statements.cornell.edu/2020/20200310-coronavirus-update.cfm>
² <https://www.thedailybeast.com/world-health-organization-declares-coronavirus-a-global-pandemic>



Cornell University Student Assembly

44 **Be it further resolved**, the following measures will be incorporated into the Interim Election Rules leading
45 up to the elections in the Fall of 2020.

46
47 ***The below portion of this resolution will act as the election rules, regulations, and instructions come***
48 ***the Fall 2020 semester and written/innumerated powers:***

49
50 **Article I:** Director of Elections and Elections Committee

51
52 Section I: Collectively, the Student Assembly will nominate and appoint a Director of Elections by
53 the end of the academic year 2019-20;

54
55 Section II: The Director of Elections will select Election Committee Members;

56
57 *Sub-Section I:* The selection of the Elections Committee and powers withheld in the
58 Charter, Bylaws, Election Rules, and will be maintained as it is written;

59
60 Section III: The Election Committee will create and publish a tentative elections schedule for the
61 Fall 2020 semester before the end of the 2019-20 academic year;

62
63 Section IV: The Elections Committee will provisionally parse the Elections Rules as it relates to
64 dates and timing to ensure a timely, efficient, and stable election;

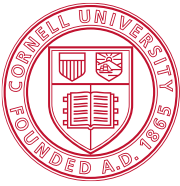
65
66 **Article II:** Current Candidates

67
68 Section I: In terms of those who are current candidates in competitive candidates who have
69 collected signatures—have been validated by the Office of the Assemblies—attended Student
70 Assembly meetings—and began campaigning races—

71
72 **Including and limited to:**

73
74 Candidates for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences seats
75 Candidates for the Dyson School of Business seat
76 Candidates for the College of Engineering seats
77 Candidates for the School of Hotel Administration seat
78 Candidates for the School of Industrial and Labor Relations seat
79 Candidates for the Undesignated Representative At-Large seats
80 Candidates for the First Generation Students Liaison At-Large seat
81 Candidates for the International Students Liaison At-Large seat
82 Candidates for the Womxn's Issues Liaison At-Large seat
83 College of Arts and Sciences seats
84 College of Architecture, Art & Planning seat
85 Candidates for the College of Human Ecology seat
86 Candidates for the LGBTQIA+ Liaison At-Large seat
87 Candidates for the Minority Students Liaison At-Large seats
88 Candidates for Undergraduate Representative to the University Assembly
89 Candidates for President
90 Candidates for Executive Vice President

91
92 Will be able to recommence their campaigns, personal and/or organizations.
93



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94 **Article III: Student Assembly Powers**

95
96 Section I: This body will have *NO* legislative power, cannot pass resolutions, public statements,
97 hold hearings, perform internal elections, convene/congregate in any fashion, or other actions that
98 are deemed unfitting.

99
100 Section II: If the body as a whole or individual members are found in violation of the above, Article
101 II, Section I the Director of Elections will have the power to remove members by a majority vote
102 of the Elections Committee.

103
104 **Article IV: Concurrent Elections**

105
106 Section I: For the vacant seats of (1) Minority Students Liaison At-Large seat; and (1)
107 Candidates for Undergraduate Representative to the University Assembly—elections will run
108 concurrent with the Fall elections, in which the petition period will open up along with the
109 mandated Fall elections with Freshman Representatives and the Transfer Representative.

110
111 **Article V: Referendum**

112
113 Section I: No referenda items will be allowed onto the Fall 2020 semester ballot;

114
115 **Article VI: Campaigning**

116
117 Section I: Effective immediately, after the passage of this resolution, all campaigning must cease—
118 with the exception of a message of gratitude to supporters, and a notification of suspending
119 campagins;

120
121 Section II: Any campaigning after the day of May 24th (until in accordance with the new Elections
122 calander) will result in being disqualified by the Elections Committee;

123
124 **Article VII: After the Fact**

125
126 Section I: Immediately following the close of elections in the Fall 2020 semester, this document
127 will no longer have citation power or purpose. Instead, any and all futher election and legislative
128 matters will be deferred back onto the the Cornell Student Assembly Charter, Bylaws, Standing
129 Rules, and Election Rules;

130
131 **Article VIII: Amendments**

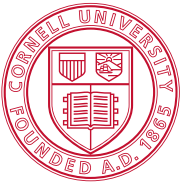
132
133 Section I: These Emergency Election Rules and Regulations will be closed to amendments, unless
134 by unanimous approval by the Elections Committee.

135
136 **Be it finally resolved,** The Cornell Student Assembly will release a public statement regarding the
137 cancelation of elections and the new restructuring of the Fall 2020 elections.

138
139 **Respectfully Submitted,**

140 The Elections Committee

141 The Executive Committee



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	03/12/2020
Type of Action:	Internal Policy
Status/Result:	New Business

1 S.A. Resolution #58
2 Amending the Standing Rules to Allow Votes Out of New Business
3

4 ABSTRACT: This resolution amends the Student Assembly Standing Rules to allow for voting on
5 resolutions without expressly needing to move legislation to Business of the Day.
6

7 **Sponsored by: Bryan Weintraub '21**
8

9 **Whereas**, many of the resolutions that the Assembly considers are voted on (and passed) on the day
10 that they are initially presented;
11

12 **Whereas**, these resolutions are frequently non-contentious in nature and require minimal discussion;
13

14 **Whereas**, parliamentary procedure can be cumbersome and the need to move legislation from
15 "New Business" to "Business of the Day" has no legitimate impact on the eventual passage
16 of the resolution;
17

18 **Be it therefore resolved**, the Student Assembly approve and adopt the attached Standing Rules
19 amendments;
20

21 Section 3: Agenda-Setting Policies and Procedures

22 F. Rule 6. In order for a resolution to be moved to Business of the Day, a Resolution must have
23 been discussed at a prior meeting or be moved to Business of the Day by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of
24 members present. **Furthermore, a resolution may be brought to a vote while in New
25 Business but will require a vote of two-thirds of SA members present to be passed.**

26
27 **Respectfully Submitted,**
28

29 Bryan Weintraub '21
30 *School of Hotel Administration Representative, Student Assembly*

31
32 *(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, X-X-X, 03/XX/2020)*
33