



# Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(09/02/2021)
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

1 S.A. Resolution #15  
2 Urging Cornell to Immediately Release Financial Aid  
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4 ABSTRACT: This resolution calls for Cornell’s Office of Financial Aid to immediately release all  
5 financial aid to students.  
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7 **Sponsored by: Joseph Mullen ’24, Valeria Valencia ’23, Claudia León ’23, Adele Williams ’24,**  
8 **Deepak Ilango ’22, Duncan Cady ’23, Nicole Overton ’23**

9 **Whereas**, Cornell’s Office of Financial Aid announced that “the Office of Financial Aid and  
10 Student Employment is working diligently to notify students who are still awaiting the results of  
11 their 2021-22 financial aid application. This includes collaborating with the Bursar’s Office to make  
12 sure impacted students are not held responsible for August finance charges. We acknowledge the  
13 additional stress this is causing and appreciate your patience”,

14 **Whereas**, many students “have yet to be notified about their financial aid awards, while the Bursar  
15 office asks for the school year’s first tuition payment”,

16 **Whereas**, students were classified as “missing students” — “meaning that due to late fees on a  
17 Bursar bill” they were “temporarily withdrawn from the University and barred from class  
18 add/drop”,

19 **Whereas**, a petition with about 50 signatures as of Aug. 18 was sent to the Office of Financial Aid  
20 and administration, expressing frustrations with the financial aid office,

21 **Whereas**, said petition called for Cornell to:

- 22 1. Issue a formal address to the student body regarding the issue with Financial Aid
- 23 2. Take immediate measures to expedite the delivery of financial aid packages
- 24 3. Establish an inquiry into the issues that are facing the Financial Aid department with a  
25 completion date of the end of the calendar year
- 26 4. Release the inquiry report to the general Cornell population upon completion

27 **Whereas**, these delays are frequent and widespread, and previously occurred halfway into the fall  
28 2020 semester,

29 **Whereas**, students have correctly asserted that “Financial aid is an integral part of the University  
30 and should be working properly,”

31 **Be it therefore resolved**, the Student Assembly formally calls upon Cornell to implement the  
32 following:

- 33 1. Accept the demands of the student petition as listed above:



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- 34 a. Issue a formal address to the student body regarding the issue with Financial Aid  
35 b. Take immediate measures to expedite the delivery of financial aid packages  
36 c. Establish an inquiry into the issues that are facing the Financial Aid department with  
37 a completion date of the end of the calendar year  
38 d. Release the inquiry report to the general Cornell population upon completion
- 39 2. Release the complete financial aid packages (without reductions), with immediate haste,  
40 3. Compile the submitted comments regarding financial aid and make them publicly viewable  
41 so the community is better informed,  
42 4. Issue a formal explanation to the entire community surrounding this situation,  
43 5. Withdraw all charges erroneously billed to students,  
44 6. Undertake efforts to prevent this crisis from ever occurring again.

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46 Joseph Mullen '24  
47 *Vice President of Internal Operations*

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49 Claudia León '23  
50 *Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion*

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52 Adele Williams '24  
53 *CALS Representative*

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55 Valeria Valencia '23  
56 *First Gen Representative*

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58 Deepak Ilango '22  
59 *Undesignated Representative*

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61 Duncan Cady '23  
62 *Students With Disabilities Representative At-Large*

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64 Nicole Overton '23  
65 *School of Industrial & Labor Relations Representative*

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67 *(Reviewed by: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, PASSED, 08/31/2021)*