

# Cornell University Student Assembly

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Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

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## S.A. Resolution #19 Preventing the Use of University Resources for Political Purposes

ABSTRACT: This resolution seeks to recommend that the administration discourage instructors from using university resources to encourage the attendance of events that endorse political positions.

**Sponsored by: Osai Egharevba '21**

**Whereas**, the Cornell University Student Assembly recognizes the pedagogical value of speakers and events, in those cases where they are directly germane to course material; and

**Whereas**, the Cornell University Student Assembly recognizes and supports the right of instructors to freely express their political views, the use of class time or course resources to encourage the attendance of events that endorse political positions is inappropriate and unethical; and

**Whereas**, University policy already states that “[political] activities must be done in a personal capacity, and not imply in any way that the university supports, opposes, or otherwise endorses any candidate for public office.” (University Policy 4.18 on political campaign activity); and

**Whereas**, for this resolution, “university resources” are defined as resources that are present to facilitate the course including, but not limited to: class time, email list-servs, discussion sections, and online platforms such as Blackboard; and

**Whereas**, the use of university resources by instructors to encourage students to attend political events intimidates students who do not share the same political views; and

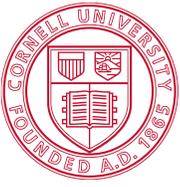
**Whereas**, instructors have a unique role in developing a student’s way of thinking and in grading; and

**Whereas**, the use of university resources to encourage students to attend events that endorse a political position or belief inherently elevates certain political positions over others, which is in violation of university policy.

**Be it therefore resolved**, that the Cornell University Student Assembly, recommend that the Board of Trustees, Faculty Senate, University Relations and President Martha Pollack prevent instructors from using university resources to encourage the attendance of political events.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Osai Egharevba '21  
*Freshman Representative, Student Assembly*



**Cornell University**  
**Student Assembly**

45 (Reviewed by: Academic Policy Committee, VOTE, 10/29/2017)