S.A. Resolution #23

Providing Financial Support for visiting students from the Universidad de Puerto Rico

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| Originally Presented on:  | (11/30/2017) |
| Type of Action:  | Legislation |
| Status/Result:  | New Business |

ABSTRACT: This resolution would allocate part of the Student Assembly surplus towards providing support for visiting students from the Universidad de Puerto Rico.

**Sponsored by: Omar Din ’19, Marco Peralta-Ochoa ‘21**

**Whereas**, Puerto Rico was recently hit by Hurricane Maria, and a recent report estimates that 60 percent of the people are still without electricity, and many also lack running and potable water, and;

**Whereas**, Cornell University was founded as an institution where any person can find instruction in any study, and;

**Whereas**, Cornell University will be hosting up to 58 students from the Universidad de Puerto Rico starting in January of 2018 to ensure that they have continued access to higher education, and;

**Whereas**, Cornell University is providing the funding for these students’ tuition, room and board, and;

**Whereas**, These students still face considerable economic burden in order to pay for airfare, winter clothing, books, school supplies, and food, and;

**Whereas**, In response to this Cornell University has started a crowdsourcing campaign asking the community to donate towards helping financially support the visiting students before December 6th, and;

**Whereas,** The University has stated that “Our goal, based on current estimates, is to raise **at least** $40,000 to help meet student needs.” and;

**Whereas,** $40,000 divided among 58 students does not adequately cover the plethora of costs associated with moving to Ithaca, and purchasing the supplies necessary to perform at Cornell, and;

**Whereas,** After the University of Puerto Rico students complete their semester, winter clothing and textbooks can be donated and distributed to low income Cornell students, and;

**Whereas,** The Student Assembly is currently operating with a budget surplus of over $150,000, and;

**Whereas,** The Student Assembly passed resolution 40 on March 23, 2016 with the intent of allocating the surplus over various diversity and minority student support programs, and;

**Whereas,** The Student Assembly did not work to allocate or follow through on the funding decision it agreed on through passing that resolution.

**Be it therefore resolved**, that the Student Assembly recognizes and applauds the University’s work to provide opportunities for students from the University of Puerto Rico and stand with them and their families during this difficult time in their academic, professional and personal lives, and;

**Be it further resolved,** that the Student Assembly allocate $10,000 of its surplus to the School of Continuing Education’s University of Puerto Rico support fund, and;

**Be it further resolved**, that those funds are earmarked to only be allocated to, and limited to, the visiting students from the Universidad de Puerto Rico for the spring 2018 semester, and;

**Be it further resolved**, that the University be charged with the responsibility of distributing the money from the University of Puerto Rico students support fund, as fairly as possible, taking into consideration the actual needs and interests of the University of Puerto Rico students themselves, and

**Be it further resolved**, that the guidelines for granting the Student Assembly’s contribution to the aid be as follows:

"Allowable expenses include (but are not limited to): books, school supplies, food, winter clothing, and moving and travel expenses. Prohibited usage of the grant includes (but is not limited to): substitution for income and transfer of funds to other students."

**Be it finally resolved** that the School of Continuing Education will report back to the Student Assembly at the end of the spring semester regarding the number of students who have been served by the Student Assembly's contribution.

**Respectfully Submitted**,

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*Board Member, Muslim Educational & Cultural Association*

*Human Ecology Representative, Student Assembly*

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*Freshman Representative, La Asociación Latina*

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*2017-2018 Executive Board*

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*President emeritus, Cornell Welcomes Refugees*

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*Latino Living Center, Out of House Member*

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*(Reviewed by: Appropriations, 9-3-1, 11/27/2017)*