

## Resolution 24: Dissolving the City and Local Affairs Committee

**Abstract:** This resolution dissolves the City and Local Affairs Committee in recognition of the absorption of the committees duties by the Office of Student Government Relations.

**Sponsored by:** Lucas Smith '22

**Reviewed by:** Executive Committee,

**Type of Action:** Recommendation

**Originally Presented:** 09/23/2021

**Current Status:** New Business

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**Whereas,** the Student Assembly City and Local Affairs Committee was established in 2015 to address the divide between students and local community members, colloquially known as the 'town and gown';

**Whereas,** the City and Local Affairs Committee served a vital role in increasing student awareness and engagement within the City of Ithaca, Town of Ithaca, and Tompkins County;

**Whereas,** the Office of Student Government Relations was formed in Spring 2020 to address the need for advocacy on behalf of students at the local, state, and federal level;

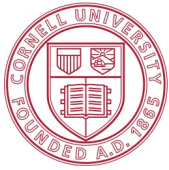
**Whereas,** the creation of the Local Relations division within the Office of Student Government Relations has created an inherent overlap of responsibility with the City and Local Affairs Committee;

**Whereas,** this overlap in responsibility has been managed by a shared co-chair of the City and Local Affairs Committee and Director of Local Relations for the Office of Student Government Relations while a transition plan was considered;

**Whereas,** continuing to maintain two distinct internal organizations which may be overseen by two separate individuals unnecessarily complicates the community advocacy efforts of the Student Assembly;

**Whereas,** the Office of Student Government Relations has been operating as an external committee and shown to be an effective advocacy mechanism on behalf of students;

**Be it therefore resolved,** that "Section 5: Vice President for External Affairs" of "Article III: Officer Duties" lines 144-145 be amended as follows:



## Cornell University Student Assembly

30 4. Oversee the ~~City and Local Affairs Committee and the~~ Technology Committee by  
31 assisting and advising the committee chair and attending meetings as necessary;

32 **Be it further resolved**, that “Section 2: Review Committees” of “Article VI: Committees” lines  
33 350-354 be amended as follows:

34 ~~M. City and Local Affairs Committee—This committee will advocate on behalf of~~  
35 ~~students’ interest at the city and county government levels. In addition to its advocaey~~  
36 ~~work, the committee will organize events that foster a sense of engagement in the Ithaca~~  
37 ~~community for Cornell students. The chair position can be held by any member of the~~  
38 ~~Cornell undergraduate student population and the committee will be under the~~  
39 ~~supervision of the Vice President of External Operations.~~

40 **Be it further resolved**, that all applicants to the City and Local Affairs Committee in Fall 2021  
41 will be considered for recruitment by the Office of the Student Government Relations at the  
42 discretion of the Director of the Office of Student Government Relations.

43  
44 Respectfully Submitted,

45 Lucas Smith ‘22

46 *Undesignated At-Large Representative, Student Assembly*