



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(03/18/2021)
Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	New Business

1 S.A. Resolution #33
2 Winter/Summer Term Financial Aid
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4 ABSTRACT: This resolution recommends that Cornell grant-based aid is expanded to include both
5 summer and winter session enrollment. Currently, grant-based financial aid is only available for
6 fall/spring terms. In the summer/winter terms, students only have aid in the form of work or loans.
7 This resolution would benefit low income students, especially in light of COVID-19, who may have
8 had to drop courses in light of personal hardships, and students who may be behind on credits
9 necessary to graduate on time. We are requesting this adjustment to the financial aid policy be
10 permanently implemented.
11

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13 **Sponsored by: Amanda Rabin '21, Sonu Kapoor '21, Lucy Contreras '21, Andreas Psahos '24,**
14 **Erik Kirakosyan '23, Julia Zimmerman '22, Rachel Rosenthal '22, Annette Gleiberman '22**
15 **Noah Watson '22, Mardiya Shardow '23, Morgan Baker '23, Kate Santacruz '22, Claire**
16 **Templeman '24, Raquel Zohar '23, Andrea Miramontes Serrano '24, and Lucas Zumpano '22**
17

18 **Whereas,** Ezra Cornell's founding vision of a university where "any person can find instruction in
19 any study" is not realized as many students cannot afford the cost of attendance in winter and
20 summer sessions; and
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22 **Whereas,** the university's financial aid website states, "our goal: remove financial barriers and allow
23 students the opportunity invest in a Cornell education," which is not applicable year-round; and
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25 **Whereas,** 44% of all undergraduate students in the 2016-2017 academic year received Cornell grant-
26 based financial aid; and
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28 **Whereas,** low-income students who ordinarily qualify for grant-based financial aid are not eligible
29 for winter or summer session aid, resulting in

- 30 • higher course credit loads during the academic year,
- 31 • students having less time to dedicate per class resulting in lower grades
- 32 • interference with other types of aid such as federal work study due to time restrictions,
- 33 • difficulty graduating on time,
- 34 • added academic stress that may jeopardize overall mental health; and
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36 **Whereas,** winter and summer class can lighten the fall/spring workload, reduce stress, and act as a
37 resume booster, making students more competitive candidates in the job recruiting and graduate
38 school application process, and thus increasing the value of a Cornell degree; and
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40 **Whereas**, low-income students are at an academic disadvantage compared to their more affluent
41 counterparts who can afford to take courses during the summer and winter session; and
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43 **Whereas**, Cornell can be a leader and example by providing financial aid for winter and summer
44 classes and holding up the values of equity. A few peer institutions have implemented grant-based
45 financial aid for winter/summer sessions:

- 46 • Yale provides up to 50% of tuition for summer/winter terms
- 47 • Emory provides up to 75% of grants/aid for summer/winter terms; and

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49 **Whereas**, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has drastically limited opportunities for Cornell
50 students, disproportionately impacting those who need financial aid; and
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52 **Whereas**, many students enroll in courses at local community colleges or use transfer credits given
53 the more affordable cost of tuition, which in turn can create discontinuities in academic tracks; and
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55 **Whereas**, reducing the cost of tuition through Cornell grant-based aid would make summer/winter
56 classes more accessible to students. This could potentially increase the net revenue from winter and
57 summer term and prevent the waste of resources from under enrollment; and
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59 **Be it therefore resolved**, that Cornell University should provide need-based financial aid to
60 students proportional to the amount of aid they receive during typical semesters; and
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62 **Be it further resolved**, that students who are able to take summer or winter classes can reduce
63 fall/spring course loads; and
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65 **Be it finally resolved**, that students who were forced to drop courses due to unforeseen
66 circumstances including COVID-19 may enroll in summer/winter courses to avoid falling behind or
67 having to take excess courses above their respective college credit limits; and
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69 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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71 Amanda Rabin '21
72 *Academic Policy Committee Chair, Student Assembly*

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74 Sonu Kapoor '21
75 *College of Engineering Representative, Student Assembly*

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77 Lucy Contreras '21
78 *First Generation Student Representative At-Large, Student Assembly*

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80	Annette Gleiberman '22
81	<i>College of Engineering Representative, Student Assembly</i>
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83	Noah Watson '22
84	<i>Executive Vice President, Student Assembly</i>
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86	Mardiya Shardow '23
87	<i>Dyson School of Business Representative, Student Assembly</i>
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89	Morgan Baker '23
90	<i>Vice President of External Affairs, Student Assembly</i>
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92	Kate Santacruz '22
93	<i>Transfer Representative, Student Assembly</i>
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95	Claire Templeman '24
96	<i>Freshman Representative, Student Assembly</i>
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98	Raquel Zohar '23
99	<i>Students with Disabilities Representative, Student Assembly</i>
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101	Andrea Miramontes Serrano '24
102	<i>Freshman Representative, Student Assembly</i>
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104	Lucas Zumpano '22
105	<i>School of Industrial & Labor Relations Representative, Student Assembly</i>
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107	<i>(Reviewed by: Academic Policy Committee, 7-0-4, 03/07/2021)</i>