

Cornell University Student Assembly

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| Originally Presented on: | 4/15/2021 |
| Type of Action: | Recommendation |
| Status/Result: | New Business |

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S.A. Resolution #43 Demanding Cornell Implement a University-Wide Slip Day System

ABSTRACT: This resolution calls on Administration to create an academic policy that grants each student 10 slip days to be used at their discretion in each enrolled course per semester.

Sponsored by: Noah Watson '22, Moriah Adeghe '21, Catherine Huang '21, Tomás Reuning '21, Uchenna Chukwukere '21, Selam Woldai '23, Anuli Ononye '22, Laila Abd Elmagid '21

Whereas, the COVID-19 Pandemic has become an unprecedented source of stress and hardship for each student on campus;

Whereas, in response to the health hazards posed by COVID-19, Cornell University has implemented new policies that increase the burden for students, such as surveillance testing and the Daily Check, while simultaneously limiting social interaction and decreasing the number of scheduled breaks;

Whereas, these increased expectations and decreased social interactions, combined with the reality of living in the midst of a pandemic, have only compounded the already-high stress academic environment at Cornell;

Whereas, the only non-penalizing way for students to get a break from their coursework is by asking their professors for an extension, which are often only granted for university-approved excuses;

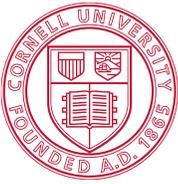
Whereas, university-approved excuses do not account for the innumerable valid excuses students may have for needing an extension, including but not limited to mental health concerns;

Whereas, requiring students to unload their trauma and explain their situation to gain empathy from their instructors when asking for an extension is not only unreasonable, but can be even more traumatizing;

Whereas, despite reasonable excuses, some professors still refuse to grant extensions on assignments;

Whereas, Cornell has committed to prioritizing student's mental health and wellbeing, taking additional steps such as extending the course drop date this semester and providing additional resources for students mourning and grieving during the 2020-21 academic year;

Whereas, symptoms of mental health crises are not easily detectable and recognized through distanced learning;



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44 **Whereas**, Cornell EARS (Empathy, Assistance, and Referral Service) recently announced and will
45 no longer be providing peer counseling to the Cornell community;

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47 **Whereas**, Cornell's Mental Health Review Final Report (March 2020) calls for the “increase [of]
48 help-seeking behavior and identifying people in need of care” in order to improve students’
49 wellbeing on campus;

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51 **Whereas**, students, especially in a remote learning environment, should be the arbiters of when they
52 need time off from school;

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54 **Whereas**, slip days grant students a no-questions-asked extension on assignments of their choosing,
55 to be used at their discretion, and can therefore be considered a help-seeking behavior;

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57 **Whereas**, many courses in the Information Science department already have a slip day system;

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59 **Be it therefore resolved**, Cornell University implement a university-wide academic policy that
60 mandates every academic course provide each of its students 10 slip days, to be used at the student’s
61 discretion on any assignment;

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64 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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66 Noah Watson ‘23
67 *Executive Vice President, Student Assembly*

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69 Moriah Adeghe ‘21
70 *Former Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly*

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72 Catherine Huang ‘21
73 *Presidwent, Student Asssemnly*

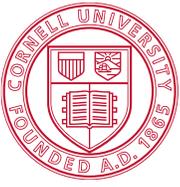
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75 Tomás Reuning ‘21
76 *LGBTQIA+ Representative At-Large, Student Assembly*

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78 Uchenna Chukwukere ‘21
79 *Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly*

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81 Selam Woldai ‘23
82 *Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion, Student Assembly*

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84 Anuli Ononye ‘22
85 *Student Advocate*

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87 Laila Abd Elmagid ‘21



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88 *Vice President of Internal Operations, Student Assembly*
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90 *(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 5-0-1, 04/15/2021)*