



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(11/21/2019)
Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	New Business

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S.A. Resolution #21 Creation of the Diversity Innovation Fund

ABSTRACT: This resolution reestablishes the Student Assembly Diversity Innovation Fund.

Sponsors: Cat Huang '21, Colin Benedict '21

Whereas, Cornell University highly recommends that colleges and units sustain diversity councils consisting of students, faculty, staff, and external partners to focus on advancing their diversity and inclusion initiatives and priorities

Whereas, Cornell University lists resources for these diversity councils on their official Diversity and Inclusion website;

Whereas, one of the resources listed is the Student Assembly Diversity Innovation Fund;

Whereas, the Student Assembly Diversity Innovation Fund was created in 2013 under the United Student Body initiative;

Whereas, the United Student Body 2015-2017 working document states that
“A \$ 5,000 grant sponsored by the office of the Vice President for Student and Academic Services will be used as an annual fund to sponsor any initiatives to promote on-campus diversity. Metrics for these will be determined by the USB Task Force at the beginning of the academic year.”

Whereas, the Student Assembly Diversity Innovation Fund has historically been established by the Student Assembly to support sustainable, high-impact projects aimed at serving diverse populations;

Whereas, past Student Assemblies ran the Student Assembly Innovation Fund and often allocated Student Assembly budget surplus to increase the Diversity Innovation Fund as seen in years 2015, 2016, and 2017.

Whereas, the Student Assembly Diversity Innovation Fund currently is not in operation;

Whereas, the current chair and past chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee recommend that this fund be reestablished through the Executive Committee;

Whereas, this funding process will act similarly to the Special Projects Funding;

Be it therefore resolved, that \$10,000 from the Student Assembly Special Projects Fund be allocated to a Diversity and Inclusion Committee Budget for the disbursement of the Diversity Innovation Fund;

Be it further resolved, that a public application be created and available on the Office of the



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45 Assemblies site, next to the current Student Assembly Special Projects Funding Request;

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47 **Be it further resolved**, that the following be inserted in the Student Assembly Standing Rules
48 Section 8, effective immediately

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50 D. Diversity Innovation Funding:

51 A. Rule 16. The Diversity Innovation Fund may be used by any registered student
52 organization for purposes of an initiative that veritably promotes diversity and
53 inclusion at Cornell.

54 B. Rule 17. The Student Assembly Diversity and Inclusion committee may choose to
55 fund any project, program or service through the SA Diversity Innovation Fund that
56 it deems are demonstrably sustainable, high-impact projects aimed at serving diverse
57 populations.

58 C. Rule 18. The SA Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion and the Executive Vice
59 President together may approve any Diversity Innovation funding request up to \$500
60 without consultation with the Executive Committee. Amounts up to \$1,500 may also
61 be funded by a majority vote of the SA Executive Committee. Request must be
62 made public at a Student Assembly meeting in the form of an
63 “Announcement/Report” before being approved.

64 D. Rule 19: The Student Assembly can overturn a funding decision by a two-thirds
65 majority vote.

66 E. Rule 20: Organizations may not receive funding from both the Diversity Innovation
67 Fund and SA Special Projects for the same initiative.

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69 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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71 Cat Huang '21

72 *Executive Vice President, Student Assembly*

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74 Colin Benedict '21

75 *Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion, Student Assembly*

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77 *(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 6-0-0, 11/19/2019)*