

# Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	12/10/2020
Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	New Business

## S.A. Resolution #22

### Creating an ad-hoc Taskforce on Harassment, Bias, and Discrimination

ABSTRACT: This resolution creates an ad-hoc Taskforce that will be an extension of the Student Assembly but housed within the Office of the Student Advocate. The charge of this taskforce is twofold: 1. To support students and provide resources for students experiencing harassment, bias, and discrimination and 2. To gather feedback and concerns from the Student Assembly and the student body on how current policies for reporting harassment and bias can be improved and propose those recommendations to the Student Assembly and Cornell administration.

**Sponsored by: Cat Huang '21, Anuli Ononye '22, Noah Watson '23**

**Whereas**, Cornell currently provides options for reporting bias, discrimination and harassment through the Bias Reporting website under Cornell's department for Diversity and Inclusion;

**Whereas**, the current existing administrative reporting structure on reporting bias, discrimination, and harassment does not fully address the needs of students nor ensure that perpetrators of bias, discrimination, and harassment are held accountable;

**Whereas**, the current administrative reporting structure fails to address online harassment on non-Cornell affiliated or controlled platforms, as well as anonymous online harassment;

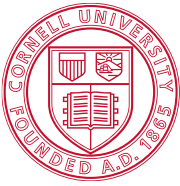
**Whereas**, online harassment and targeted attacks on multiple platforms are not new, but have been exacerbated by the move to fully virtual instruction due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

**Whereas**, students have expressed a need for support in navigating their options for reporting bias, discrimination and harassment, and assistance in documentation of these issues;

**Whereas**, to ensure neutrality and impartiality in the discovery process of the taskforce, the taskforce will largely be led and supported by staff from the Office of the Student Advocate as many members within the Student Assembly have reported that they have experienced harassment and the taskforce wishes to avoid any conflict of interests in leadership when conducting its review process;

**Be it therefore resolved**, the Student Assembly will create an ad-hoc taskforce that is housed within and led by staff from the Student Assembly and the Office of the Student Advocate. This taskforce will be comprised of two co-chairs and six members. The two co-chairs will be the President of the Student Assembly and the Director of the Office of the Student Advocate. Two of the members will be members from the general student community, two members will be Student Assembly members, and two members will be staff members/caseworkers from the Office of the Student Advocate;

**Be it further resolved**, this ad-hoc taskforce will be known as the Taskforce on Bias, Harassment, and Discrimination.



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**Be it further resolved,** the charge of this ad-hoc committee will be to support students experiencing bias, harassment, and discrimination as well as collect and solicit feedback on how current policy addressing bias, harassment, and discrimination can be improved;

**Be it further resolved,** this ad-hoc committee will function for the remainder of this academic year, developing policy proposals and recommendations that consults all stakeholders: students, faculty, and the administration, including but not limited to the Bias and Response Team (BART) and the Office of the Judicial Administrator (OJA);

**Be it finally resolved,** the proposals and recommendations will be presented to the Student Assembly throughout the semester in the form of verbal or written reports, and the final recommendations will be presented to the Student Assembly in the form of a resolution by the end of the academic year.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Cat Huang '21

*President, Student Assembly*

Anuli Ononye '22

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Noah Watson '23

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*(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 6-0-1, 12/06/2020)*