

# Cornell University Student Assembly

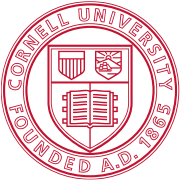
## Standing Rules Cornell University Student Assembly *For 2019-2020*

### Section 1: Preamble

- A. The Student Assembly's foremost interest in 2019-2020 shall be the undergraduate students of Cornell University. These Standing Rules shall serve as guidelines for specific rules and effective leadership from the Student Assembly that may not specifically be covered in the charter or bylaws, but will aid in the efficiency of a successful Assembly. These Standing Rules shall be adhered to by all Student Assembly members (elected and ex-officio), committee members, community members, and staff.
- B. These Standing Rules shall be utilized with the following prefaces:
- i. Rule 1: In the event of a conflict, the Charter, Bylaws, and Special Rules of Order shall supersede the Standing Rules.
  - ii. Rule 2: The Standing Rules shall be revised at the beginning of each semester by the President, the Executive Vice-President, and the Parliamentarian and submitted by the Executive Vice President and Parliamentarian to the Student Assembly for approval. The Standing Rules shall take effect upon a majority vote of approval by the voting membership of the Student Assembly. The Standing Rules can also be edited at any time by a majority vote of the membership of the SA.
  - iii. Rule 3: A motion to suspend the Standing Rules must be recognized by the Chair and approved by a two-thirds vote of Student Assembly members present.

### Section 2: Ethical Standards and Attendance Policy

- A. Ethical Conduct is expected of all members at all times, as members are representative of their constituencies. Any member found to be using the name of the SA outside of the bounds of the individual's described role on the SA, abusing the SA brand to acquire additional benefits or privileges, or any such similar matter shall be in violation of this ethics clause. The appropriate disciplinary action shall be determined by the Executive Board, the Dean of Students, and the Office of Assemblies.
- B. The Student Assembly is charged to "seek out and voice effectively the interests and concerns of the student body." To do this, attendance and participation, as outlined below is imperative for efficiency within the Assembly:
- i. Rule 1: Attendance is required at all regularly scheduled meetings for all voting and ex-officio members who serve in a liaison capacity. Absences will not be recorded for ex-officio organizational liaison members, i.e. Tri-Council and Residential Student Congress, if the absence is a result of a conflicting obligation related to their respective organization. Attendance requirements for all operational ex-officio members shall be at the discretion of the executive committee. Absences for shared government liaisons will not be under the discretion of the executive committee. Regularly scheduled meetings are held Thursdays, from 4:45 until 6:30 p.m., while undergraduate colleges are in session. Informal meetings are considered official meetings when held in lieu of regular Thursday meetings or when deemed official by a unanimous vote of the executive committee.
  - ii. Rule 2: Attendance at all organizational and specially-scheduled meetings is required, when the Executive Committee provides SA members at least 24 72 hours' prior notice of the meeting. Such meetings shall be considered "regularly scheduled meetings," for the purpose of accruing absences. Ex-officio members will be excused from these meetings unless notified otherwise by the Executive Committee.



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- 39 iii. Rule 3: All voting members must remain an active member of at least one committee as per the standards established  
40 by the chair of their respective committee. Failure to remain an active member of at least one committee can result in  
41 vacancy of a seat at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- 42 iv. Rule 4: Any member who fails to attend a required meeting or event shall be considered absent. Any late arrival  
43 beyond the first 15 minutes of the meeting will result in a half-absence *if there is no notification at least 24 hours in*  
44 *advance to the Vice President of Internal Operations*. Any early departure will result in a half-absence *if there is no*  
45 *notification at least 24 hours in advance to the Vice President of Internal operations*. The Executive Committee  
46 reserves the right to decide what constitutes an early departure.
- 47 v. Rule 5: Any member who arrives late to a required meeting or event but within the first 15 minutes after Roll-Call will  
48 receive a quarter-absence.
- 49 vi. Rule 6: At the discretion of the Vice President of Internal Operations, unavoidable academic conflicts including  
50 prelims, final presentations, and field trips but not including office hours, review sessions or professor visits that are in  
51 direct conflict with a required Student Assembly meeting will not be counted towards the three cumulative regularly  
52 scheduled meetings if they are reported *at least 24 hours 2 weeks* before the meeting conflict. Academic conflicts that  
53 cannot be reasonably predicted *at least 24 hours 2 weeks* before the meeting conflict can be excused by a majority  
54 vote of the executive committee.
- 55 vii. Rule 7: At the discretion of the Vice President of Internal Operations, unavoidable conflicts as a result of job  
56 interviews and scholarship interviews that are in direct conflict with a required Student Assembly meeting will not be  
57 counted towards the three cumulative regularly scheduled meetings if they are reported as soon as the conflict arises.
- 58 viii. Rule 8: At the discretion of the Vice President of Internal Operations, unavoidable conflicts as a result of religious  
59 obligations that are in direct conflict with a required Student Assembly meeting will not be counted towards the three  
60 cumulative regularly scheduled meetings if they are reported *at least 24 hours 3 weeks* before the meeting conflict.
- 61 ix. Rule 9: The Vice President of Internal Operations can request documentation for proof of absence.
- 62 x. Rule 10: Any college or constituency who lacks representation as a result of a seat being vacated or unclaimed shall be  
63 filled by the runner-up in the most recent election for that seat. If the seat remains vacant, an interim representative  
64 shall be appointed by the President, and confirmed by a majority of SA Members. The interim representative shall  
65 have full voting privileges associated with membership on the SA. The interim representative post shall be terminated  
66 immediately upon the declaration of a permanent replacement via an election. The interim position will remain in  
67 effect for the remainder of semester if the position becomes vacant following the first 3 weeks of the semester.
- 68 xi. Rule 12: All candidates who are elected to the Student Assembly during Spring Elections are required to attend all  
69 Organizational Meetings and the last two SA meetings during the Spring Semester. Absences at these meetings will  
70 count toward the member's term total.
- 71 xii. Rule 13: All elected members of the Student Assembly will adhere to the Cornell University Student Assembly Oath  
72 of Office, which states:
- 73 *In the view of the trust the Cornell Community has vested in me, as well as my personal sense of honor, I \_\_\_\_\_,*  
74 *do solemnly affirm to fulfill my responsibilities as a student-elected representative. I will engage in open and honest debate in*  
75 *a process where I am guided by truth and fairness. I will never purposely misrepresent facts in an effort to achieve my goals. If*  
76 *a conflict of interest arises, I will relinquish my right to participate in the decision making process. I will seek out and voice*  
77 *effectively the interests and concerns of the student body, address the issues of my fellow students, and strive to improve the*  
78 *quality of life at Cornell for all students.*

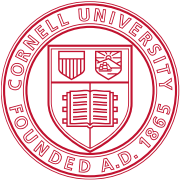
### 79 Section 3: Agenda-Setting Policies and Procedures

- 80 A. Rule 1: The agenda for any informal meetings shall not contain voting on legislation unless these meetings are  
81 held in lieu of regular Thursday meetings or to meet a deadline.



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- B. Rule 2: The Executive Vice President will place under Business of the Day any item that has been previously discussed. Additionally, appropriation requests and committee assignments are to appear under Business of the Day. All other items shall be introduced as New Business, unless otherwise authorized by a majority vote of the Executive Board or a majority vote of the Student Assembly.
- C. Rule 3: New Business shall be an opportunity for SA and community members to ask questions of and make suggestions to the author of a piece of legislation. Comments may not be argumentative in nature and questions must seek factual answers.
- D. Rule 4 Business of the Day shall be an opportunity for discussion and debate on the legislation.
- E. Rule 5: Prior to introduction as New Business, all resolutions shall be reviewed and approved by an appropriate SA committee no more than 30 days before the EVP sends the agenda to the general public. The Executive Vice President or the Vice President of Internal Operations will determine which committee will review a resolution. A resolution cannot be introduced to the SA without approval by an appropriate SA committee except under extenuating circumstances in which the Executive Board determines that a resolution should be brought to the floor without a committee review. Approval by a committee requires a majority vote of the committee members present at the committee meeting. A representative of the committee that reviewed the resolution is permitted to give a brief summary of the committee's thoughts or concerns on the resolution when it is presented a regularly scheduled Student Assembly meeting.
- F. Rule 6. In order for a resolution to be moved to Business of the Day, a Resolution must have been discussed at a prior meeting or be moved to Business of the Day by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote of members present.
- G. Rule 7: If the Residential Student Congress needs to pass a formal legislative resolution concerning residential life at Cornell, the Residential Student Congress has the authority to pass resolutions that will be introduced as New Business on the Student Assembly agenda. These resolutions must explicitly pertain to residential life. Any resolutions presented by the Residential Student Congress must have been voted on and approved by a majority vote of the general body members of the Residential Student Congress and the Residential Student Congress liaison to the Student Assembly, who must be the sponsor of the resolution. The resolution must be sent to the Student Assembly EVP at least one week before the Student Assembly meeting where the resolution will appear on the agenda. All resolutions appearing on the SA agenda through this method, without having been passed by an SA committee, will require a vote of two-thirds of SA members present to be passed.
- H. Rule 8: At its weekly meeting, the Executive Committee will discuss the agenda for Student Assembly meetings. Items for the agenda must be submitted to the Executive Vice President of the Student Assembly in the proper format, as designated by the Executive Vice President.
- I. Rule 9: The Office of the Assemblies must post the agenda to the Student Assembly website no later than noon on the day of the meeting.
- J. Rule 10: The Vice President of External Affairs and the sponsors of the resolution must ensure that all parties, including but not limited to any specific Cornell student, administrator, faculty member, or staff member, involved or impacted by particular legislative actions are notified and invited to attend the meeting at which the action shall be heard. Additionally, any registered student organization must be notified if the proposed legislation affects their funding or guidelines. The aforementioned need not consent to the legislation, but it is highly encouraged that the aforementioned attend the meeting. In the event that the author of said legislation is uncomfortable contacting all interested parties, they may request that the Vice President of External Affairs does so on their behalf.
- K. Rule 11: A short descriptive abstract of approximately 25 words will be submitted by sponsors of resolutions before committee approval.
- L. Rule 12: Student Assembly Initiatives should be presented as reports to the Student Assembly with an opportunity for questions from Student Assembly Members and Community Members. A summary of the initiative reports will be reported over the Actions Listserv bi-weekly. The following procedures will be followed for initiative reports:



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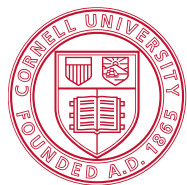
- 128 i. The Chair announces the initiative and the sponsors have two minutes to present their initiative  
129 ii. A moderated Q&A will follow the presentation, the questions can be argumentative in nature as Student  
130 Assembly Representatives and community members shall be empowered to express their approval or disapproval  
131 iii. The Chair shall be empowered to determine to end the time when the allocated time has expired, conversation  
132 has become redundant, or the speaker's list has been exhausted  
133 iv. The Executive Vice President shall be empowered to make the determination as to what will be presented as an  
134 initiative  
135 M. Rule 13: Following the Referenda protocol in Article III §8 of the Student Assembly Charter, the Executive  
136 Vice President will present an update on pro and con statements during the Promotional Period. The  
137 Executive Vice President will give this presentation at the first regularly scheduled SA meeting after the  
138 Office of the Assemblies posts the community statements anonymously to the Assemblies website.  
139 N. Rule 14: Every voting member of the Student Assembly shall submit their weekly report for the previous  
140 week to the Executive Vice President at least 72 hours in advance of the next regularly scheduled meeting to  
141 be included with the meeting minutes for the previous Student Assembly meeting. Failure to provide a bi-  
142 weekly report will result in a quarter absence unless the representative provided a reasonable excuse to the  
143 Executive Vice President.

### 144 Section 4: Abstentions and Proxy Voting

- 145 A. Rule 1: As per the Cornell University Student Assembly Oath of Office, members shall abstain from voting if  
146 a conflict of interest arises.  
147 B. Rule 2: SA members may abstain from voting at regularly scheduled or special meetings of the Assembly.  
148 However, if the total number of abstentions is greater than the total number of votes in favor of a resolution or  
149 motion, the resolution or motion fails.  
150 C. Rule 3: The tendering of proxy votes shall occur in accordance with the Special Rules or Order, but shall  
151 require that an excused absence be noted by the Vice President of Internal Operations.  
152 D. Rule 4: All members of the Appropriations Committee and the Student Assembly shall abstain from voting if  
153 they have a conflict of interest. A member shall be deemed to have a conflict of interest if they hold an executive  
154 board position in the organization. Additionally, a member shall be considered to have a conflict of interest if they  
155 have requested funding or financial co-sponsorship from the organization in the previous 3 months or intend to  
156 request in the next 3 months.  
157 E. Rule 5: The previous rule shall not apply to the Student Assembly's determination of the Student Assembly's  
158 Byline Funding Allocation; however, all representatives shall hold the Student Assembly to the same or higher  
159 standards as all other applicants.

### 160 Section 5: Committee Leadership and Oversight

- 161 A. The committees of the Student Assembly are essential to the functioning of the shared governance system.  
162 Leaders of the Assembly committees are elected to effectively run the Assembly. As a result, members in such a  
163 position are charged with these obligations and are required to adhere by as such:  
164 i. Rule 1: In accordance with Rules 5–8 and Articles 3 and 7 of the Student Assembly Charter, the SA Vice President of  
165 Internal Operations has the obligation to be in constant contact with the SA clerk, all committee chairs, and all bodies  
166 in which the SA sends representation to keep an accurate log of attendance. The SA Vice President of Internal  
167 Operations shall report any pressing matters regarding attendance, such as members in jeopardy of exceeding the  
168 allowed number of absences, to the Executive Committee at their weekly meeting.



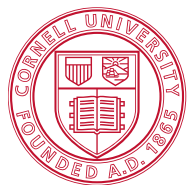
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- 169 ii. Rule 2: Each SA member must be a voting member of at least one SA committee, the University Assembly, or a UA  
170 committee. The Chair of each committee shall inform the SA VP of Internal Operations of any SA members who are  
171 in jeopardy of violating the committee's attendance policy. Additionally, the committee chair shall inform the VP of  
172 Internal Operations if an SA member has violated the committee's attendance policy and has been removed from the  
173 committee.
- 174 iii. Rule 3: The President, Executive Vice President, and Vice President of Internal Operations will be ex-officio  
175 members of every committee, except the Elections Committee, and taskforce associated with the Student Assembly  
176 and whose activities are delineated in the SA charter.
- 177 iv. Rule 4: Committee chairs will report updates as necessary regarding upcoming committee meeting dates and times at  
178 regularly scheduled meetings, as well as post committee agendas and minutes to the SA website, as appropriate.
- 179 v. Rule 5: All SA Committee members must be a member of their respective committee listservs. Meeting dates, times,  
180 and agendas shall be sent to all committee members 24 hours prior to the meeting via the appropriate committee  
181 listserv. By a two-thirds vote of committee members present, the committee may amend their agenda.
- 182 vi. Rule 6: Each committee chair is responsible for reaching out to relevant student organizations in order to solicit  
183 feedback on ideas and collaborate with student groups on initiatives that the committee is working on.

### 184 Section 6: General Meeting Procedures

- 185 A. To "voice effectively" these interests which were mentioned above, strict rules must be adhered to when  
186 conducting business as an assembly. These rules focus on the efficiency and organization of the tasks at hand:
- 187 i. Rule 1: Speakers will be recognized at the discretion of the Chair and placed on a speaker's list maintained by the  
188 Chair. Each speaker shall have a maximum of two minutes to speak, with the option to yield the balance of his, her, or  
189 their time to another single individual at the meeting, including the Chair. It is at the Chair's discretion to place  
190 additional limitations on speaking time.
- 191 ii. Rule 2: All speakers shall address their remarks to the Chair.
- 192 iii. Rule 3: The Chair shall keep time at any point when such is required.
- 193 iv. Rule 4: Except for points of order, information, and questions of privilege, no person shall be recognized by the Chair  
194 twice before all other members (voting, community, and ex-officio) have had the opportunity to speak.
- 195 v. Rule 5: The Chair will recognize the members of the community who wish to speak on the question. The Chair will  
196 have discretion as to when community members are recognized. Each speaker will limit his, her, or their comments  
197 to no more than two minutes. If multiple speakers wish to address the Student Assembly, equal opportunity will be  
198 given to those in favor of and those opposed to the question, in such order, to speak.
- 199 vi. Rule 6: The Chair may call the question, without it requiring a second or vote, when he or she deems that debate has  
200 exceeded its time limit or when discussion becomes repetitive.
- 201 vii. Rule 7: When the vote of the Chair may decide the outcome of a decision (i.e. to make or break a tie), he or she shall  
202 be empowered to cast a vote, but shall do so only after all other voting members of the Student Assembly have  
203 registered their votes.
- 204 viii. Rule 8: A voting Student Assembly member may appeal the decision of the Chair when he or she disagrees with the  
205 Chair's interpretation or application of the Standing Rules, Bylaws, or the Charter. The motion shall require a simple  
206 majority to pass.
- 207 ix. Rule 9: Any voting SA member may attempt to overrule a decision by the Executive Committee by submitting their  
208 challenge in the format of a resolution at the next regularly scheduled meeting. A 2/3 majority of the voting  
209 membership must be reached to overrule the Executive Committee at any time.
- 210 x. Rule 10: The Parliamentarian shall administer a short examination on parliamentary procedure to all voting members  
211 of the SA within four meetings of a representative taking the oath of office. This examination will cover content from  
212 Robert's Rules of Order and the most recent version of the SA Charter, Bylaws, and Standing Rules. Any member





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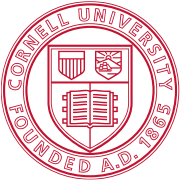
- 213 who does not pass (a grade of 70% or higher) will be required to attend an additional review workshop and retake the  
214 exam.
- 215 xi. Rule 11: Student Assembly members shall be permitted to withdraw a motion after it has been seconded and before a  
216 vote has been taken on it.
- 217 xii. Rule 12: Ex-officio members as defined in the by-laws shall be permitted to make motions to amend.
- 218 xiii. Rule 13: Ex-officio members as defined in the bylaws shall also be permitted to sponsor resolutions, without a voting  
219 SA member, if the content relates directly to their position.
- 220 xiv. Rule 14: By a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote of SA members present, Robert's Rules of Order can be suspended.
- 221 xv. Rule 15: Discussion can be closed by a 60% vote of SA members present.
- 222 xvi. Rule 16: All meeting attendees are expected to be respectful to other meeting attendees and to maintain proper  
223 meeting decorum.

### 224 Section 7: Outreach Guidelines & Member Responsibilities

- 225 A. Rule 1: All voting representatives shall host at least one forum or outreach activity with individuals from their  
226 respective constituencies and report all outcomes to the SA at the next regularly-scheduled meeting following such an  
227 activity. The four undesignated at-large representatives shall plan at least one Cornell Caring Community, Lift Your  
228 Spirits, or large-scale outreach event per semester.
- 229 B. Rule 2: All elected members must fulfill two assigned outreach requirements per two-week time frame. Such  
230 events will be designated by the Vice President of External Affairs. If the member does not document their outreach  
231 as specified by the VP of External Affairs, the member will be credited with one whole absence. Any conflicts in  
232 schedules or other special circumstances as references in Section 1, Rule 6 of this document must be brought to the  
233 attention of the VP of External Affairs.
- 234 C. Rule 3: All voting representatives may communicate regularly with their constituents through e-mail mailing  
235 lists and listservs, which may be maintained by their respective college dean's office, the Department of Campus Life,  
236 the Office of the Dean of Students, or the Office of the Assemblies.
- 237 D. Rule 4: Any Student Assembly member, including the Vice President for External Affairs, must submit a  
238 mass message (e-mail, advertisement, press release, etc.) to the Executive Board for approval. The Executive Board  
239 may approve a message by a majority vote and the vote may be conducted by email. The correspondence must be  
240 saved.
- 241 E. Rule 5: The Vice President for External Affairs and the President will give final approval for the Student  
242 Assembly newsletter. No amendments or additions to the newsletter will be distributed without the approval of both  
243 officers.
- 244 F. Rule 6: The Executive Vice President must monitor and respond to any inquiries on the SA website. Such  
245 inquiries can be forwarded to the appropriate Assembly member in order to ensure the most accurate answers.
- 246 G. Rule 7: All ex-officio members acting in liaison positions should report relevant information to the Student  
247 Assembly about their respective organization and report relevant actions of the assembly to their respective  
248 organization as they see fit.

### 249 Section 8: Spending Guidelines

- 250 A. Category Spending:
- 251 i. Rule 1: In order for a disbursement of budgeted funds to be made, either the SA President or the Vice President for  
252 Finance must approve it. The Vice President for Finance is responsible for classifying the expenditure into a budget  
253 category.



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- 254 ii. Rule 2: The Student Assembly budget must be reviewed and approved by the SA by the conclusion of the second  
255 meeting of the academic year.
- 256 iii. Rule 3: Any reallocation of funds between categories of the budget or spending of the budget surplus must be  
257 confirmed by a majority vote of the Appropriations Committee followed by a majority vote of the Student Assembly,  
258 at large.
- 259 iv. Rule 4: The Vice President for Finance will maintain a record of all expenses of their committee. At the end of each  
260 semester, he or she will make public the amount left in the committee's account.
- 261 B. Special Projects Funding:
- 262 i. Rule 5: The Student Assembly may choose to fund any project, program or service through SA Special Projects that it  
263 deems to improve the quality of undergraduate student life or to further the goals of the SA. Special Projects funding  
264 is a type of category spending.
- 265 ii. Rule 6: Special Projects funding may be requested by any of the following, but not limited to:
- 266 i. Any Cornell registered student organization
- 267 ii. SA committee chairs that seek funding for expenditures that exceed their committee's budgeted allocation
- 268 iii. Rule 7: The SA President and Vice President for Finance together may approve any special projects funding  
269 request up to \$400 without consultation with the [Appropriations Executive](#) Committee. Amounts up to \$400  
270 may also be funded by a majority vote of the [Appropriations Executive](#) Committee. Request must be made  
271 public at a Student Assembly meeting in the form of an "Announcement/Report" before being approved.  
272 Any SA voting member can motion for the request to be sent to the [Appropriations Executive](#) Committee if  
273 they feel necessary.
- 274 iv. Rule 8: The [Appropriations Executive](#) Committee shall decide upon special projects requests over \$400 and  
275 under \$1500 by a majority vote. The SA, at large, may reverse an [Appropriations Executive](#) Committee  
276 decision to fund amounts over \$400 by a two-thirds vote. The request should be presented to the Student  
277 Assembly in the form of a resolution.
- 278 v. Rule 9: Requests \$1500 and over shall be decided upon by a majority vote of the [Appropriations Executive](#)  
279 Committee and confirmed by a majority vote of the Student Assembly, at large. The SA, at large, is only  
280 required to confirm requests of \$1500 or greater. The request should be presented to the Student Assembly in  
281 the form of a resolution.
- 282 vi. Rule 10: The Vice President for Finance shall present a written or oral report to the SA at large, each time a  
283 special projects disbursement is made.  
284