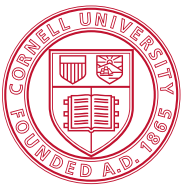


# Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly  
*Agenda of the Thursday, February 18 Meeting*  
4:45-6:30pm in Willard Straight Hall Memorial Room

- I. **Call to Order & Roll Call**
- II. **Q&A with VP Ryan Lombardi, 4:45-5:15pm**
- III. **Open Microphone**
- IV. **Approval of the Meeting Minutes**
  - a. [\*Minutes of the February 11 Meeting\*](#)
- V. **Announcements and Reports**
  - a. Director of Elections Henderson – Special Election
  - b. Freshman Representative Kasher – Student Assembly Infrastructure
- VI. **Initiatives**
  - a. *Quarter System Review Committee*
  - b. *Big Red Change Petition Website*
- VII. **New Business**
  - a. [\*Resolution 39\*](#): Committing to Carbon Neutrality by 2035



# Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	02/04/16
Type of Action:	Charter Change
Status/Result:	New Business

1 S.A. Resolution #36  
2 Attendance Policy

3  
4 ABSTRACT: This resolution amends the attendance policy in the Student Assembly Charter.

5  
6  
7 Sponsored by: Matthew Stefanko '16

8  
9 Whereas, the current policy on absences grants the Executive Committee of the Student Assembly the  
10 ability to avert a vacancy by a unanimous vote;

11  
12 Whereas, given the political nature of the body, a unanimous vote allows any member of the Executive  
13 Committee to vacate a representative for political reasons such as an upcoming election or  
14 differing viewpoint;

15  
16 Be it therefore resolved, that Article IV Section 5 of the Student Assembly charter be amended as  
17 follows:

18  
19 **Section 5: Absentees**

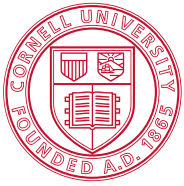
20 Any voting members who are absent for three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings or for six  
21 regularly scheduled meetings cumulatively during their term will have their position vacated. The  
22 Executive Committee may avert such a vacancy by a ~~unanimous~~ **two-thirds** vote of all voting members  
23 of the Executive Committee. The vote would be conducted by secret ballot. The Executive Committee  
24 should consider the reasoning for past absences, the likelihood of future absences, and the  
25 representative's supplemental actions to represent their respective constituency in making their decision.  
26 The same action must be taken if the Executive Committee wishes to avert a vacancy whenever the three  
27 consecutive absences or the six cumulative absences mark is exceeded. **The Director of Elections will**  
28 **serve as Chair for these meetings.**

29  
30  
31 Respectfully Submitted,

32  
33 Matthew Stefanko '16  
34 *Vice President of Finance, Student Assembly*

35  
36 Jordan Berger '17  
37 *Parliamentarian, Student Assembly*

38  
39  
40 *(Reviewed by: EXEC, 2/2/2016)*



# Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	2/18/2016
Type of Action:	Sense of the Body
Status/Result:	New Business

## S.A. Resolution #39

### Committing to Carbon Neutrality by 2035

1  
2  
3  
4 ABSTRACT: This resolution seeks to uphold Cornell University’s commitment to carbon neutrality by a firm  
5 deadline of 2035, adherence to a clear timeline, and dedication to transparent, shared decision-making in  
6 reaching this goal.

7  
8 Sponsored by: Emma Johnston '16  
9

10 **Whereas**, greenhouse gas emissions contribute directly to anthropogenic climate change, which threatens  
11 human societies, economies, and global ecosystems,  
12

13 **Whereas**, 190 nations agreed to the urgency of the global climate crisis, establishing that by the year 2100,  
14 global temperatures should be at 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels so as to avoid the most devastating,  
15 irreversible effects of climate change,  
16

17 **Whereas**, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that global CO2 emissions must reach zero  
18 as early as 2045 to keep warming below 2°C with high probability and bring temperatures back to 1.5°C by  
19 2100  
20

21 **Whereas**, in 2007, President Skorton was one of the first university presidents to sign on to the American  
22 College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment, thus positioning Cornell as a leader in climate  
23 action amongst institutions of higher education,  
24

25 **Whereas**, over 200 colleges and universities – including Colby College (2013), Duke University (2024), the  
26 University of California system (2025), University of Florida (2025) – have committed to achieving carbon  
27 neutrality within 20 years,  
28

29 **Whereas**, Cornell faculty, students, and staff collaboratively developed the Climate Action Plan (CAP) in  
30 2009 to comprehensively outline Cornell University’s commitment, duty, and strategy for offsetting net  
31 campus carbon emissions as a “living laboratory” to the world,  
32

33 **Whereas**, in 2014, President Emeritus Skorton “formally recognize[d] the need to accelerate [Cornell’s]  
34 efforts by embracing the goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2035 [...], motivated by a resolution, passed by  
35 the Faculty Senate on December 11, 2013, that called, in part, for an accelerated timetable for achieving  
36 carbon neutrality,”  
37

38 **Whereas**, in the 2013-2014 academic year, the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, University  
39 Assembly, Faculty Senate, and Student Assembly affirmed the speedup of the Climate Action Plan from 2050  
40 to 2035 with resounding support from their constituents,  
41

42 **Whereas**, at the 2015 President’s Sustainable Campus Committee summit, President Garrett emphasized that  
43 “meeting the energy, environmental, economic and social needs of the present – without compromising the  
44 ability of future generations to do the same – is one of the critical challenges of our time, not only for New  
45 York and the country, but for the world,”  
46

47 **Whereas**, President Garrett said that she and campus leaders “agree that moving toward greater sustainability  
48 is a priority,” emphasizing the necessity of Cornell’s campus to act as a living laboratory for sustainability,  
49

50 **Whereas**, Cornell, a land-grant university for New York State, bears the responsibility of public engagement:  
51 to search for knowledge-based solutions to societal and world problems and to lead this pursuit towards  
52 public good through example,  
53

54 **Be it therefore resolved**, that Cornell embrace the vision and active engagement needed to reach carbon  
55 neutrality and build upon our ongoing efforts to make our campus more sustainable through our traditions of  
56 collaboration in education and research across our colleges, schools and administrative units,  
57

58 **Be it therefore resolved**, that Cornell intensifies its commitment to carbon neutrality through our on-going  
59 development of new approaches, applications, and technologies that will be valuable on our own campus and  
60 globally,  
61

62 **Be it therefore resolved**, Cornell will need to manage our resources, financial and human, in creative ways  
63 that accomplish our climate goals within our larger missions of education, discovery, innovation and public  
64 engagement, and, if we are to succeed, all of us – students, faculty and staff – will need to contribute to this  
65 effort,  
66

67 **Be it further resolved**, students, faculty, and staff be given continuous access and opportunity to engage in  
68 decisions regarding 2035 carbon neutrality,  
69

70 **Be it further resolved**, Cornell abide by the original timeline, or establish an alternative timeline for Cornell  
71 to reach carbon neutrality by 2035,  
72

73 **Be it further resolved**, that Cornell utilize its world-renowned research resources, including the Atkinson  
74 Center for a Sustainable Future (the first research institution in America that unites three pillars of  
75 sustainability—energy, the environment, and economic development—in one center), in order to achieve  
76 climate action on our campus,  
77

78 **Be it finally resolved**, that Cornell will be carbon neutral by 2035 as an explicit commitment to its mission  
79 of enhancing the lives and livelihoods of students, the people of New York, and others around the world.  
80

81 Respectfully Submitted,  
82

83 Emily Dong '18  
84 *Environmental Committee Chair, Student Assembly*  
85

86 Elizabeth Chi '18  
87 *KyotoNow*  
88

89 Emma Johnston '16  
90 *Executive Vice President, Student Assembly*  
91

92 *(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 2/16/2016)*