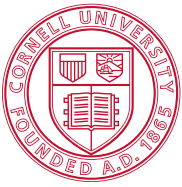


Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly
Agenda of the Thursday, September 17, 2015 Meeting
4:45pm-6:30pm in Willard Straight Hall Memorial Room

- I. Call to Order & Roll Call**
- II. Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - a. Minutes of the September 10, 2015 Meeting
- III. Open Microphone**
- IV. Announcements and Reports**
 - a. Director of Elections Henderson - Elections Update
 - b. VP Diversity and Inclusion Chaudhary - Towards New Destinations
 - c. UA Representative Indimine - Health Initiatives Funding Council & JA Search
 - d. SA President Batista - Exams schedule
 - e. SA Clerk Biedenweg - Attendance
 - f. EVP Johnston - Random Hacks of Kindness, Committee Recruitment
- V. Business of the Day**
 - a. [Resolution 8](#): Affirming Learning Style Diversity in Introductory Science Course
 - b. [Byline Report](#): International Students Union
 - c. [Byline Report](#): CU-Emergency Medical Services
- VI. New Business**
 - a. [Resolution 9](#): Extending the Quarter System Review Committee
 - b. [Resolution 10](#): Changes to the ALANA Constitution | [Proposed Changes](#)
- VII. Executive Session**



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	9/10/2015
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #8

Affirming Learning Style Diversity in Introductory Science Course

ABSTRACT: This resolution calls for the removal of a penalty incentivizing students enrolled in particular courses to sign up for unofficial study groups.

Sponsored by: Gabriel Kaufman '18, Mitch McBride '17, Robert Dunbar '18, and Luke Bushner '18

Whereas, Cornell is committed to maintaining a high quality academic environment by promoting only the best principles of education,

Whereas, The College of Arts and Sciences has a particular interest in upholding the principles of a liberal arts education built on a diversity of academic disciplines studied from a variety of different viewpoints in an assortment of different ways,

Whereas, All students necessarily learn in different ways,

Whereas, thousands of students in specific courses, (BIOG 1440: Introduction to Biology: Comparative Physiology, BIOMG 1350: Introductory Biology: Cell and Comparative Biology, and CHEM 2070: General Chemistry I) are offered the “extra credit” equivalent to approximately a full letter grade worth of points if they attend weekly study groups,

Whereas, the students in those courses are effectively required to attend these study groups (in addition to lectures and discussions) because “extra credit” added to a raw score before being curved is the practical equivalent of penalizing students for not attending the study groups, as the grades are determined based on the raw score’s distance from the mean, and not on the raw score itself,

Whereas, because the final grades are reported on transcripts with median scores, students applying to graduate programs and jobs are often assessed based on their final grades relative to the median, thus effectively eliminating any real benefit to the students from “extra credit,”

Whereas, these study groups are in addition to the required lectures and discussions, off of which credit determinations are based, these students are required to be in class without receiving more credit, as the “extra credit incentive” is used to bypass course hour limits,

Whereas, The Student Assembly encourages different educational learning styles and not penalizing students for preferring to learn independently,

Whereas, The College of Arts and Science’s Educational Policy Committee (hereafter referred to as CAS-EPC) has historically fulfilled the role of aligning their broad pedagogic principles with the actual practice of teaching in the College of Arts and Sciences,

Be it therefore resolved, the Student Assembly encourages the College of Arts and Sciences and the CAS-EPC to make these study group sessions merely optional by removing the “*extra credit*” (which amounts to a de facto requirement) to attend the study group sessions in the aforementioned classes.

47 Respectfully Submitted,
48
49 **Gabriel Kaufman '18**
50 *Chair, Academic Policy Committee*
51
52 **Mitch McBride '17**
53 *Vice President for Internal Operations*
54 *Arts and Science Representative*
55
56 **Luke Bushner '18**
57 *Arts and Science Representative*
58
59 **Robert Dunbar '18**
60 *Arts and Science Representative*
61
62 **Reed Geisler '17**
63 *Community Member*
64
65 *(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 9/8/2015)*
66



Cornell University
Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	09/16/15
Type of Action:	Byline Report
Status/Result:	Business of the Day

Organization	International Students Union
2014-2016 Allocation	\$2.34
2016-2018 Request	\$3.34
Appropriations Recommendation	\$3.10

Rationale of the Committee

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding the International Students Union \$3.10 for the 2016-2018 By-Line Funding Cycle. The Committee was very impressed with the new proposal for ISU and believes the organization is moving in the right direction by both advocating for international students and providing member organizations significant money for cosponsorship. Some committee members were concerned that the \$1.00 increase was developed arbitrarily and did not believe it represented a clear need for an increase at that level. Given the new direction of ISU, the Committee felt that ISU should be rewarded for their clear growth and commitment to the Cornell community while also maintaining the possibility for future expansion. Members also believed that ISU’s commitment to spending the majority of their allocation on other organizations shows a commendable commitment to the development of the international community. Moving forward, the Committee would like to see ISU do a better job of collecting and reporting information related to attendance and cost of cosponsored events. Additionally, they urge further interaction with groups like the Greek system to encourage collaboration and understanding between communities that may traditionally not interact.

Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

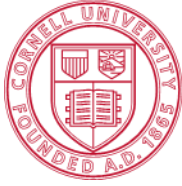
Amount	Vote
\$3.34	2-9-1
\$3.10	10-1-1

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Stefanko
Vice President for Finance

Appeal

No appeal.



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	09/16/15
Type of Action:	Byline Report
Status/Result:	Business of the Day

Organization	Cornell University Emergency Medical Services
2014-2016 Allocation	\$3.90
2016-2018 Request	\$3.50
Appropriations Recommendation	\$3.24

Rationale of the Committee

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding Cornell University Emergency Medical Services \$3.24 for the 2016-2018 By-Line Funding Cycle. Despite the fact that the Committee deeply values the contributions made to the safety and wellbeing of campus by CU-EMS, they were concerned at the level of surplus maintained by the organization. For this reason, the Committee recommends temporarily decreasing their allocation in an attempt to spend down this surplus while maintaining the excellent service of the organization. They believe that a small, short-term decrease in funding will not impact service even in years where spending needs to be significantly high. The Committee encourages CU-EMS to utilize their surplus within the next cycle so that community outreach and other programming is maintained. The Committee also encourages CU-EMS to better understand the useful life of their products and budget and purchase new equipment accordingly.

Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

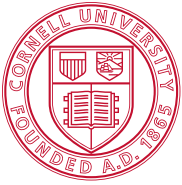
Amount	Vote
\$3.50	1-9-4
\$3.24	10-0-3

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Stefanko
Vice President for Finance

Appeal

No appeal.



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	9/17/2015
Type of Action:	Investigation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #9

Extending the Quarter System Review Committee

1
2
3
4 ABSTRACT: The Quarter System Committee is asking for an extension to present its findings since
5 the committee was staffed in mid-April.

6
7
8 **Sponsored by: Diana Li '17, Spencer Nord '17**
9

10 **Whereas**, Resolution 25 was passed by the Student Assembly last academic year related to a student led
11 investigation of the Quarter System,
12

13 **Whereas**, the investigative committee was unable to be staffed until mid-April of 2015,
14

15 **Whereas**, the investigative committee was tasked with formulating a report to be presented to the
16 Student Assembly before the last day of classes of the Spring semester,
17

18 **Whereas**, the investigative committee has compiled the following: Gannett Health survey, met with
19 Cayuga's Watchers, CUEMS, CUPD, Residential Student Congress,
20

21 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the investigation be extended until December 2015 where by the last
22 Student Assembly meeting of the semester, the co-chairs be required to give a report of the
23 committee's findings,
24

25 **Be it further resolved**, that Diana Li and Kendall Grant chair this committee,
26

27 **Be it finally resolved**, that this committee maintain the same composition as was called for by
28 Resolution 25: that the committee will include at least one SA representative, maintain even
29 representation among Greek and non-Greek students, and be co- chaired by a member of
30 the Student Assembly and a member of the Greek Tri- Council and maintain at least one
31 freshman and at least one member of each Tri-Council body, which includes the IFC,
32 PanHellenic Council, and the MGLC. Committee membership will be approved by a
33 majority vote of the Staffing Committee,
34

35 Respectfully Submitted,
36

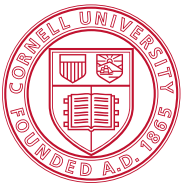
37 **Diana Li '17**

38 *Undesignated At-Large Representative, Student Assembly*
39

40 **Spencer Nord '16**

41 *Community Member*
42

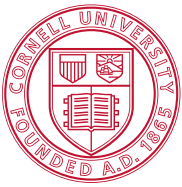
43 *(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 5-0-0, 9/15/15)*



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(09/16/15)
Type of Action:	Byline Report
Status/Result:	New Business

1 S.A. Resolution #10
2 **2015-2016 Amendments to the ALANA Constitution**
3
4 ABSTRACT: This resolution affirms changes that were made to the ALANA Constitution that
5 better aligns this document with their current activity.
6
7 **Sponsored by: Matthew Stefanko '16**
8
9 **Whereas**, ALANA has requested to change their charter,
10
11 **Whereas**, amendments to constitutions of by-line funded organizations must be approved by the
12 Student Assembly,
13
14 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Student Assembly approve the attached changes;
15
16 **Be it finally resolved**, that ALANA amendments take effect immediately.
17
18 **Respectfully submitted**,
19
20 **Matthew Stefanko '16**
21 *Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly*
22
23 *Approved by Appropriations Committee, 9/14/2015*



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(09/16/15)
Type of Action:	Byline Report
Status/Result:	New Business

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20 **Matthew Stefanko '16**
21 *Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly*
22
23 *Approved by Appropriations Committee, 9/14/2015*