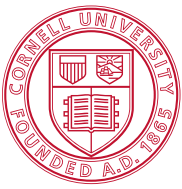


Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly
Agenda of the Thursday, February 25, 2016 Meeting
4:45pm-6:30pm in the Willard Straight Hall Memorial Room

- I. Call to Order & Roll Call**
- II. Oath of Office**
- III. Open Microphone**
- IV. Approval of the Meeting Minutes**
 - a. Minutes of the February 18th Meeting
- V. Announcements and Reports**
 - a. Director of Elections Henderson - Elections
 - b. Freshman Representative Kasher - Student Assembly Infrastructure Fund Committee Update
- VI. Initiatives**
 - a. SA Composition Survey - Minority Liaison at-Large Representative Chaudhary and Freshman Representative Liu
 - b. Big Red Change Website
- VII. Business of the Day**
 - a. Resolution 36: Attendance Policy
- VIII. New Business**
 - a. Resolution 41: Increasing Sustainability of Lighting Within the Memorial Room
 - b. Resolution 42: Calling for Implementation of Open Syllabi
 - c. Resolution 43: Elections Committee Vacancies
- IX. Executive Session**



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

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

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7 Sponsored by: Matthew Stefanko '16

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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:

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19 **Section 5: Absentees**

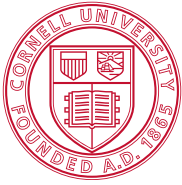
20 Any voting members who are absent for three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings or for six
21 regularly scheduled meetings cumulatively during their term will have their position vacated. The
22 Executive Committee may avert such a vacancy by a ~~unanimous~~ two-thirds vote of all voting members
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.**

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31 Respectfully Submitted,

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

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

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



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	2/25/2016
Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #41

Increasing Sustainability of Lighting Within the Memorial Room

ABSTRACT: This resolution requests that the Dean of Students Office and Facilities Management replace the current light bulbs in the Memorial Room with LED light bulbs.

Sponsored by: Gabe Kaufman '18

Whereas, Article II of the Charter of the Student Assembly states that the Student Assembly has “the authority and the responsibility to examine any matters which involve the interests or concern the welfare of the student community and to make proposals concerning those issues to the appropriate officers or decision-making bodies of the University;” and

Whereas, Article III, § 1 of the Student Assembly Charter states that “The SA will have legislative authority over the policies of the Department of Campus Life and The Office of the Dean of Students;” and

Whereas, Willard Straight Hall is overseen and managed by the Dean of Students Office; and

Whereas, Cornell’s Energy Conservation Initiative utilizes a seven year billed or ten year marginal payback period for evaluating environmental retrofits; and

Whereas, incandescent light bulbs utilize, on average, over six times the electricity of a modern LED light bulb depending on wattage; and

Whereas, falling costs for LED light bulbs has increased their economic viability; and

Whereas, conservatively estimating an electricity cost of 9¢ per kilowatt hour, \$10 per bulb cost, & six hours of daily runtime provides a payback period of roughly one year for a sixty watt replacement, far below the mandated University payback period; and

Whereas, Cornell would likely be able to secure LED light bulbs at a significant discount from the above estimate via bulk purchasing; and

Whereas, utilizing 2700k dimmable LED light bulbs would maintain the “ambiance” of the Memorial Room while utilizing considerably less energy; and

Whereas, the Student Assembly has expressed interest in making Cornell more environmentally friendly by reducing wasteful emissions; therefore

Be it Resolved, the Student Assembly requests that the Dean of Students Office and Facilities Management replace the current light bulbs in the Memorial Room with LED light bulbs; and

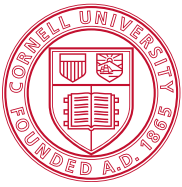
Be it Finally Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President, Acting President, Associate Vice President for Energy & Sustainability, The Dean of Students, & Vice President of Infrastructure Properties and Planning.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gabe Kaufman '18 | *Undesignated at Large, Student Assembly*

Matthew Battaglia '16 | *Ex-Officio Member, Student Assembly*

(Reviewed by: Environmental Policy and Planning Committee, 2/22/16, 16-0-2)



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	2/25/2016
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #42 Calling for Implementation of Open Syllabi

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4 ABSTRACT: This resolution recommends that professors upload a copy or draft of their syllabi
5 online before the pre-enroll period.

6
7 Sponsored by: Gabe Kaufman '18, Jung Won Kim '18
8

9 **Whereas**, according to Article II of the Student Assembly Charter, the Student Assembly has “the
10 authority and the responsibility to examine any matters which involve the interests or concern the
11 welfare of the student community;” and
12

13 **Whereas**, maintaining Cornell’s academic excellence is the primary interest and concern of Cornell
14 students, professors, and the University Administration; and
15

16 **Whereas**, “SA Resolution 29 (AY 2014-2015) Calling for Implementation of Open Course Evaluations”
17 was returned by President Skorton because of (a) the variance in practice by the different colleges and (b)
18 the fact that student evaluations of professors/classes are only one element of successful teaching; and
19

20 **Whereas**, “UA Resolution 7 (AY 2014-2015) Calling for Implementation of Open Course Evaluations”
21 was accepted by President Skorton with the following statement in his acknowledgment: “The deans
22 seemed favorably impressed, especially with the notion of open syllabi, and somewhat sympathetic to
23 creating an open course evaluation system on a common platform.
24

25 **Whereas**, after consultation with professors and deans in the individual colleges, the main concern with
26 an open course evaluation system is that students would choose classes based off of misleading
27 information unrepresentative of the quality of the course; and
28

29 **Whereas**, the core purpose of implementing an open course evaluation system is simply to give students
30 more information about courses before they enroll; and
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32 **Whereas**, the Student Assembly acknowledges the difficulties of creating an open course evaluation
33 system but still affirms the goals of UA Resolution 7 and SA Resolution 29: to give students more
34 information before they enroll in courses; and
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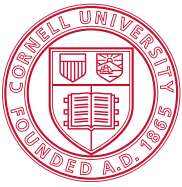
36 **Whereas**, one of the most important pieces of information students can obtain before enrolling in
37 courses is a copy of the syllabus; and
38

39 **Whereas**, syllabi contain information presented by the professors themselves, and usually contain
40 information on expected exam dates, workload, and required books and textbooks; and
41

42 **Whereas**, all classes at Cornell have syllabi;
43

44 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Student Assembly recommends that where practical and appropriate,
45 professors upload a digital copy of the syllabus to the information section of the official Class Roster
46 Website: (classes.cornell.edu) before pre-enroll period begins.

47
48 **Be it therefore resolved**, that to protect the privacy of the university and the faculty members, the
49 syllabi should be uploaded in a location only accessible to Cornell students and faculty.
50
51 **Be it finally resolved**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Provost, the Dean of Faculty,
52 the deans of each of the colleges, and the chairs of each academic department.
53
54 Respectfully Submitted,
55
56 Alexis Pollito '18
57 *Member, Academic Policy Committee*
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59 Varun Devatha '19
60 *Freshmen Representative, Student Assembly*
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62 Justin Selig '17
63 *Engineering Representative, Student Assembly*
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65 Dale Barbaria '19
66 *Engineering Representative, Student Assembly*
67
68 Gabe Kaufman '18
69 *Chair, Academic Policy Committee*
70
71 Jung Won Kim '18
72 *Arts and Science Representative, Student Assembly*
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74 *(Reviewed by: Academic Policy Committee, 2/23/2016)*



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	2/25/16
Type of Action:	Internal Policy
Status/Result:	New Business

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S.A. Resolution #43 Elections Committee Vacancies

ABSTRACT: Per the Student Assembly Bylaws, vacancies of the Elections Committee must be filled by the Staffing Committee and confirmed by the Student Assembly.

Sponsored by: Matt Henderson '16

Whereas, the Student Assembly Elections Committee is charged with coordinating and implementing the regularly scheduled and special elections of the SA;

Whereas, there are Spring 2016 elections for 24 representative positions on the Student Assembly and the University Assembly;

Whereas, the Elections Committee consists of ten voting members, of whom less than half may also be voting members of the SA;

Whereas, two members of the 2015-2016 Elections Committee resigned;

Whereas, the SA must confirm members who fill vacancies after the initial slate has been approved;

Be it therefore resolved, that the following Cornell students become members of the Student Assembly Elections Committee;

1. Maha Ghandour
2. Connor Riser

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Henderson '16

Director of Elections, Student Assembly

(Reviewed by: Staffing Committee, 02/23/16)