

Cornell University Student Assembly

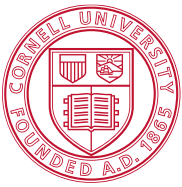
Cornell University Student Assembly

Agenda of the Thursday, October 13, 2016 Meeting

4:45pm-6:30pm in WSH Memorial Room

If you are in need of special accommodations, contact Office of the Assemblies at (607) 255-3715 or Student Disability Services at (607) 254-4545 prior to the meeting.

- I. Call to Order & Roll Call**
- II. Approval of the Meeting Minutes**
 - a. Minutes of the October 6th Meeting
- III. Open Microphone**
- IV. Announcements and Reports**
 - a. VP McBride
 - b. President Berger
- V. Initiatives**
 - a. Ivy League Veterans Council- Rep Cox
- VI. Forum on Campus Safety & Undergraduate Curriculum with President Rawlings & VP Lombardi – 5:30pm**
- VII. Business of the Day**
 - a. Resolution 11: Charging an Ad-Hoc Committee with Investigating Student Assembly Membership Reform
- VIII. New Business**
 - a. Resolution 12: Empowering All Students in the Restructuring of Student Assembly
- IX. Executive Session**



Originally Presented on:	(9/29/16)
Type of Action:	Investigation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #11

Charging an Ad-Hoc Committee with Investigating Student Assembly Membership Reform

ABSTRACT: This resolution charges an ad-hoc committee with the responsibility of studying and investigating the SA’s current membership and operational structure and issuing a formal set of recommendations to the SA on how to improve representation.

Sponsored by: Gabe Kaufman '18, Akhilesh Issur '17

Whereas, the Student Assembly desires to evaluate its internal procedures and membership structure to better represent an increasingly diverse student body; and

Whereas, any changes to the fundamental structure of representative institutions should be made with serious, careful, and open public deliberation; and

Whereas, the Student Assembly wants to encourage dialogue across all student constituencies about the structure of the SA; and

Whereas, the Student Assembly wants to begin the aforementioned membership and operational self-evaluation process as soon as possible; and

Whereas, both prior experience with the SA and a new perspective on the SA are extremely valuable in studying our representative structure; and

Be it therefore resolved, that an ad-hoc investigatory committee titled “The Student Assembly Investigative Committee on Membership Reform” (hereafter: SAICMR) be established effective immediately; and

Be it further resolved, that SAICMR will be charged with the sole responsibility of compiling a set of unbiased recommendations to be presented to the Assembly by the final SA meeting of the current session of the Assembly on how the Student Assembly can better represent students; and

Be it further resolved, that all SAICMR meetings will be held at least once every month, will be accessible and open to the public, and will have an agenda and appended documentation forwarded to all SAICMR and Assembly members at least 24 hours before the date when committee meetings are held; and

Be it further resolved, that the nine members of SAICMR will be representative of the whole Assembly, will be undergraduate students, and will be defined as follows:

SAICMR Chair: Voting member elected by the Student Assembly

SAICMR Members:

- One voting member belonging to the executive committee.
- Two voting members not belonging to the executive committee.

- 47 • Two underclassmen voting members not belonging to the executive committee
48 • One non-elected Student Assembly committee member.

49 **Non-SA Members:**

- 50 • One former voting member of the Assembly who is no longer serving.
51 • One candidate who ran in the Fall or Spring 2016 Student Assembly Election but was
52 not seated.
53 • Two members who have not run in an election or applied to a committee.
54 • Two additional community members.

55
56 **Be it finally resolved,** that the Assembly will appoint a slate of community members proposed by the
57 Vice President for Internal Operations and the chair of the committee after two forums, and will appoint
58 Assembly members through normal procedures in executive session.

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60 **Respectfully Submitted,**

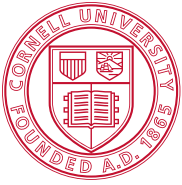
61
62 Gabe Kaufman '18

63 *Ex-Officio Member, Student Assembly*

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65 Akhilesh Issur '17

66 *International Student Liaison At-Large, Student Assembly*

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68 *(Reviewed by: SA Signature Petition, Date: valid upon the receipt of the signatures of a majority of SA members)*



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(10/13/16)
Type of Action:	TYPE: Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #12

Empowering All Students in the Restructuring of Student Assembly

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4 ABSTRACT: This resolution seeks to empower all students in the restructuring of the Student
5 Assembly.

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7 Sponsored by: Paola Muñoz '17, Nicholas Karavolias '18

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9 **Whereas**, the Student Assembly does not represent all students. This was affirmed by the 2015-2016
10 Student Assembly in their discussions surrounding the creation of the First Generation Student
11 Representative. This resolution was adopted unanimously by the previous assembly;

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13 **Whereas**, there are significant barriers for students to gaining membership on the Student Assembly and
14 these barriers need to be removed. Some of these barriers include elitist language, access to
15 accommodation, and more;

16
17 **Whereas**, non-members of the Student Assembly are left out of many discussions and decisions that
18 impact the student experience, as a result of ineffective outreach;

19
20 **Whereas**, Student Assembly members have a responsibility to represent their constituencies; however,
21 they rarely inform or consult members of their constituencies before voting on resolutions on the floor
22 of the Student Assembly;

23
24 **Whereas**, all students are stakeholders in the representative structure of the Student Assembly;

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26 **Be it therefore resolved**, this resolution empowers and encourages each and every member of the
27 Student Assembly to convene open working groups to discuss restructuring the Student Assembly;

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29 **Be it further resolved**, the Student Assembly empowers and encourages all undergraduate students to
30 participate in the restructuring process and to conduct discussions and convene working groups on the
31 restructuring of the Student Assembly;

32
33 **Be it further resolved**, that all undergraduate students may send recommendations to
34 studentassembly@cornell.edu by October 31st at noon. All proposals shall be made publically available
35 and shared with the undergraduate student body by **November 1st at noon**. Additionally, a form shall be
36 made available for all students to provide comments electronically if they are unable to attend the forum;

37
38 **Be it further resolved**, that all ideas and proposals be discussed at an open forum held on **Wednesday**
39 **November 2nd from 5:30-7:30pm**. The Student Assembly President shall moderate the forum and shall
40 prioritize non-Student Assembly members on the speakers list. At the end of the forum, all participants
41 shall be given a voice and a vote in what the next step forward is. Additionally, notes from the forum
42 shall be made publically available to all members of the student body;

43
44 **Be it further resolved**, that all Student Assembly members shall be required to attend this forum and
45 the attendance policy be in effect;

46 **Be it further resolved,** that an independent organization such as Cornell Institutional Research and
47 Planning assist in compiling the opinions of the student body toward the structure of the Student
48 Assembly;

49
50 **Be it further resolved,** that the final decision about restructuring should provide a mechanism for all
51 students who choose to participate to have an equal voice and vote;

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53 **Be it further resolved,** that if the restructuring process is completed by the first week in February that
54 the Student Assembly update its internal documents and election rules to echo the will of the student
55 body and to implement the new structure for the Spring 2017 election;

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57 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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59 Paola Muñoz '17
60 *President, First in Class*

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62 Nicholas Karavolias '18
63 *Member of First in Class Advocacy Team*

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65 *(Reviewed by: SA Member Signatures, 10/11/16)*