



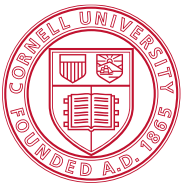
**Cornell University**  
Student Assembly

## **Cornell University Student Assembly**

Agenda of the Thursday, October 20, 2016 Meeting

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

- I. Call to Order & Roll Call**
- II. Approval of the Meeting Minutes**
  - a. Minutes of the October 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting
- III. Open Microphone**
- IV. Announcements and Reports**
  - a. VP McBride
  - b. President Berger
  - c. EVP Indimine
  - d. Rep Reichel
  - e. VP PR Liu
- V. Senior Leader Climate Action Group Report**  
**Discussion: 4:50pm**
- VI. Business of the Day**
  - a. Resolution 11: Charging an Ad-Hoc Committee with Investigating the Student Assembly Membership Reform
  - b. Resolution 12: Empowering All Students in the Restructuring of the SA
- VII. New Business**
  - a. Resolution 13: Amending Article III Section 3 and other Sections of the SA Charter
    - i. Appendix: Charter
  - b. Resolution 14: Thanking and Celebrating President Emeritus Frank H.T. Rhodes
- VIII. Executive Session- until 9pm**



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                   • Four community members.  
51                   • Two members who have not run in an election or applied to a committee.

52  
53   **Be it finally resolved,** that the Assembly will appoint a slate of community members proposed by the  
54 Vice President for Internal Operations and the chair of the committee after two forums, and will appoint  
55 Assembly members through normal procedures in executive session.

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57   **Respectfully Submitted,**

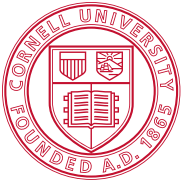
58  
59   Gabe Kaufman '18

60   *Ex-Officio Member, Student Assembly*

61  
62   Akhilesh Issur '17

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

64  
65   *(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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3  
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

8  
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;

12  
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;

25  
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;

28  
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 31<sup>st</sup> at noon. All proposals shall be made publically available  
35 and shared with the undergraduate student body by **November 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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;

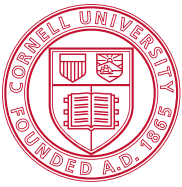
52  
53 **Be it further resolved,** that if the restructuring process is completed by the first week in February that  
54 the Student Assembly update its internal documents and election rules to echo the will of the student  
55 body and to implement the new structure for the Spring 2017 election;

56  
57 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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

61  
62 Nicholas Karavolias '18  
63 *Member of First in Class Advocacy Team*

64  
65 *(Reviewed by: SA Member Signatures, 10/11/16)*



# Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	10/20/2016
Type of Action:	Internal Policy: Charter Change
Status/Result:	New Business

## S.A. Resolution #13

### Amending Article III Section 3 and Other Sections of the Student Assembly Charter

ABSTRACT: This Charter Change Resolution makes changes to the “Reporting of Student Assembly Actions” section and other minor changes at the request of Interim University President Rawlings.

Sponsored by: Dale Barbaria '19

Whereas, Interim President Rawlings rejected sections of the most recently passed version of the Student Assembly Charter, which included amendments to improve consistency across governing documents and efficiency of the Student Assembly;

Whereas, the Student Assembly Charter requires that all amendments to the document are “subject to the approval of the President.”

Whereas, Interim President Rawlings has identified that all references in the Student Assembly Charter to the “Vice President for Student and Academic Services,” must be updated to refer to the “Vice President for Student and Campus Life;”

Whereas, amendments proposed to the section on “Reporting of Student Assembly Actions” in Article III Section 3 Subsection A contained wording which Interim President Rawlings did not approve;

Whereas, Interim President Rawlings also suggested adding the word “University” when referring to the President of the University to reduce ambiguity;

Be it therefore resolved, that ‘Article III Section I: Legislative Authority over Policies – Subsection B’ now will be amended to read:

- A. Should a request be refused, the SA by simple majority vote may request the information be given to the Vice President for ~~Student and Academic Services~~ Student and Campus Life who shall forward it to the SA. The Vice President for ~~Student and Academic Services~~ Student and Campus Life shall act unless otherwise directed by the President of the University, pursuant to Article 3, Section 6.

Be it further resolved, that ‘Article III Section 3: Reporting of Student Assembly Actions – Subsection B: Reporting to Other Bodies’ will be amended to read:

- A. Reporting to Other Bodies – The SA will report in writing its actions to the GPSA, Employee Assembly, and the Faculty Senate, in conjunction with reporting of the actions to the President of the University. The actions will be reported following each meeting by a SA member designated by the SA.

Be it further resolved, that ‘Article III Section 6: Presidential Information’ will be amended as follows:

46 The SA may request and obtain specific information from the President of the University regarding  
47 any subject which it deems of general student concern. If such a request is made, and said  
48 information is not furnished, the University President will report to the SA the reasons why said  
49 information cannot be furnished within two regularly scheduled SA meetings following the denial of  
50 the request. The SA will not request information falling into the following categories: salary or wage  
51 records of specific individuals, academic or financial records of specific individuals, medical or  
52 categorical (race, sex, age, etc.) records of specific individuals and information otherwise defined as  
53 confidential or restricted by law.  
54

55 Be it further resolved that ‘Article V: Amendments – Section 2: Presidential Approval’ be amended to read:  
56

57 Amendments to this Charter are subject to the approval of the President of the University. Should  
58 the University President disapprove the amendments affected by this section, the University  
59 President will present a detailed verbal or written report to the SA indicating the reasons for  
60 disapproval. The report will be presented within thirty (30) days of receipt of the proposed  
61 amendments by the University President.  
62

63 Be it further resolved that Appendix A: Guidelines for the Allocation of the Student Activity Fee – Section 4:  
64 Procedure – Subsection B. Preliminary Report by Appropriations Committee – Clause i will now state:  
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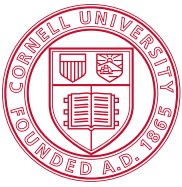
- 66 i. By the last day of classes in the academic year preceding a fee-setting year, the Vice President for  
67 Finance will report each request received and the total amount of requests received in dollars per  
68 student per year to the Assembly, the Vice President for Student and Campus Life, and the President  
69 of the University.  
70

71 Be it finally resolved, that Article III: Authority and Responsibility – Section 3: Reporting of Student  
72 Assembly Actions – Subsection A. Reporting to the President will be amended to include the  
73 following wording:  
74

- 75 A. Reporting to the President – All actions, excluding internal policy changes that do not affect the  
76 Student Assembly Charter, of the SA will be reported by the SA President to the University  
77 President. The SA will respond to any requests for information from the University President on its  
78 actions. The University President may also request reconsideration of legislation proposed by the SA.  
79 Such a request must be filed within thirty days of notification of the legislation. The SA will take  
80 action on such a request, and, if the legislation is upheld, the SA will inform the University President.  
81 If the legislation is upheld and if the University President still deems the action to be defective, the  
82 University President may veto the action of the SA. The University President will review all actions  
83 of the SA and provide a written response to all actions of the SA that have been reported to him or  
84 her and provide a written response to those actions within 30 days. The University President, when  
85 appropriate, may also designate a another member of the university administration his or her  
86 Cabinet, Senior Administration, Provost’s Office or Dean of Student’s Office to provide an  
87 additional written response to an action of the SA within 30 days when appropriate.  
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89  
90 Respectfully Submitted,  
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92 Dale Barbaria '19  
93 *Parliamentarian, Student Assembly*  
94  
95 *(Reviewed by: COMMITTEE NAME, VOTE, DATE)*





# Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	10/20/2016
Type of Action:	Sense-of-the-Body
Status/Result:	New Business

## S.A. Resolution #14

### Thanking and Celebrating President Emeritus Frank H. T. Rhodes

ABSTRACT: This resolution intends to recognize the work done by President Emeritus H. T. Rhodes for the Cornell community and to send President Emeritus Rhodes the regards of the current Student Assembly.

Sponsored by: Dale Barbaria '19

Whereas, President Emeritus Frank Harold Trevor Rhodes served as the ninth President of Cornell University for eighteen years from 1977 to 1995;

Whereas, Frank H. T. Rhodes served as President during the creation of the current shared governance system, allowing for the creation of the undergraduate Student Assembly;

Whereas, under the leadership of President Rhodes, minority enrollment at Cornell grew from eight percent in 1977 to twenty-eight percent in 1994;

Whereas, during the tenure of President Rhodes, the number of women and individuals who identify as minorities on the Cornell faculty more than doubled;

Whereas, President Rhodes led a \$1.5 billion capital campaign to strengthen support for financial aid, educational programs, and libraries;

Whereas, President Emeritus Rhodes has remained in Ithaca throughout the two decades following his presidency and continues to participate in University events, including Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>'s reopening of the Lindseth Climbing Center, which originally opened during his presidency;

Whereas, President Rhodes held great respect for Cornell University, and declared in his inaugural address that research universities like Cornell are "a national asset, whose well-being is of paramount importance to the nation's welfare, security, prosperity, and health ... the great reservoir on which the fulfillment of all our hopes and larger social aspirations must draw ... humankind's best hope against the stark alternatives of the future."

Whereas, On October 29, 2016, Frank H. T. Rhodes will celebrate his 90th Birthday;

Be it therefore resolved, that the Student Assembly, on behalf of the undergraduate student body of Cornell University, declares Saturday, October 29, 2016 a day to acknowledge and honor the past and present work of Frank H. T. Rhodes;

Be it further resolved, that the Student Assembly wishes President Emeritus Rhodes a happy birthday and sends their warmest regards;

Be it finally resolved, that the Clerk of the Student Assembly and the Office of the Assemblies prepare a copy of this resolution to be sent to President Emeritus Rhodes;

48	Respectfully Submitted,
49	
50	Dale Barbaria '19
51	<i>Parliamentarian, Student Assembly</i>
52	
53	Matt Indimine '18
54	<i>EVP, Student Assembly</i>
55	
56	Mitch McBride '17
57	<i>VP Internal Operations, Student Assembly</i>
58	
59	Diana Li '17
60	<i>VP Finance, Student Assembly</i>
61	
62	Julia Montejo '17
63	<i>VP Diversity &amp; Inclusion, Student Assembly</i>
64	
65	Dustin Liu '19
66	<i>VP Public Relations, Student Assembly</i>
67	
68	Varun Devatha '19
69	<i>VP Outreach, Student Assembly</i>
70	
71	Maha Ghandour '17
72	<i>Director of Elections, Student Assembly</i>
73	
74	
75	<i>(Reviewed by: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 6-0-0, 10/18/16)</i>