Cornell University
Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly
Agenda of the Thursday, November 17, 2016 Meeting
4:45pm-6:30pm in Memorial Room WSH

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

II. Approval of the Meeting Minutes
    a. Minutes of the November 10th Meeting

III. Open Microphone

IV. Announcements & Reports
    a. President Berger
    b. Rep Reichel
    c. VP PR Liu
    d. VP Finance Li
    e. Rep Iglesias
    f. Rep Selig
    g. Rep Kasher
    h. Rep Issur
    i. Rep Montejo
    j. Rep Devatha
    k. EVP Indimine
    l. VP McBride

V. Initiatives
    a. "Three Part Plan to Increasing Freshman Involvement through Online Media Channels" -Freshman Rep Viswanathan

VI. Conversation with Michelle Horvath, Judicial Administrator - 5:00pm

VII. Business of the Day
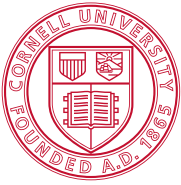   a. Resolution 17: Endorsing "The Ithaca Plan: A Public Health and Safety Approach to Drugs and Drug Policy"
      i. Appendix: The Ithaca Plan

Originally Presented on:	(11/3/16)
Type of Action:	TYPE: Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

Cornell University
Student Assembly

S.A. Resolution #17
Endorsing "The Ithaca Plan: A Public Health and Safety Approach to Drugs and
Drug Policy"

ABSTRACT: This resolution endorses the City of Ithaca's Plan to combat drug use in the
community by increasing access to resources and the Student Assembly recommends the University
administration to take part in the execution of this plan.

Sponsored by: Matt Indimine '18

Whereas, the University community recognized the critical need to address issues of campus
safety, in the wake of separate stabbing incident on or near campus this semester, at least one of
which involved the sale of drugs;

Whereas, the University administration has expressed support for strengthening our
relationships with partner law enforcement agencies in the City of Ithaca and surrounding
communities, as one important means to bolster campus safety;

Whereas, in April 2014, City of Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick convened the Municipal Drug
Policy Community and charged this group with recommending policies and practices we could
adopt to improve our local response to drug use and related policies;

Whereas, in February 2016, the Municipal Drug Policy Community, comprised of experts and
leaders from the various sectors that respond to drug use in our community, released its report
outlining a coordinated drug strategy which is rooted in public health and safety; and

Whereas, the Campus Welfare Committee of the University Assembly formally considered the
finding and recommendation of the Municipal Drug Policy Community on October 25, 2016,
and was the consensus of the group to endorse these findings and recommendations; therefore

Be it resolved, that the Student Assembly formally endorses the goals and recommendation
outlined in the Executive Summary of "The Ithaca Plan: A Public Health and Safety Approach to
Drugs and Drug Policy," namely;

- *Governance and Leadership*
  Create a mayoral-level office tasked to reduce the morbidity, mortality, cost, and
  inequities associated with illicit drugs and our current responses to them.
- *Education*
  Key stakeholders and all Ithacans should have access to evidence-based practices and
  education around drugs, preventing problematic use, reducing harms associated with
  drug use, and helping oneself or others who have a drug use problem.
- *Recovery-Orientated Treatment, Harm Reduction, and Ancillary Services*

43   *Create a recovery-oriented treatment continuum that offers access to timely,*
44   *individualized, and evidence-based, effective care, through services that are people-*
45   *centered and able to meet the needs of individuals no matter their current relationship to*
46   *drug use or recovery.*
47   • ***Community and Economic Development***
48   *Support and expand existing efforts to improve youth and family development, economic*
49   *opportunity, and public health of communities, targeting vulnerable communities as*
50   *immediate beneficiaries and ensuring that all Ithacans have the same access to resources*
51   *and investments.*
52   • ***Public Safety***
53   *Redirect law enforcement and community resources from criminalization to increasing*
54   *access to services. Encourage a shared responsibility for community health and safety*
55   *that extends beyond the Ithaca Police Department.*

56 **Resolved**, that the University administration should partner with the City of Ithaca to support the
57 implementation of the recommendations outlined in the Ithaca Plan; and

58 **Be if Finally Resolved**, that the University administration and the City of Ithaca should present a
59 status update on progress made toward achieving the goals of The Ithaca Plan to the Student
60 Assembly by October 2017, and on an annual basis every October thereafter until the goals
61 outlined above have been achieved.

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63 **Respectfully Submitted,**
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65 Matt Indimine '18
66 *EVP, Student Assembly*
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68 Joseph Anderson '20
69 *Member, Health & Wellness Committee*
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71 *(Reviewed by: SA Health & Wellness Committee, 23-0-1, 11/26/16)*

Executive Summary

This report grows out of a recognition that the city of Ithaca, despite being a national leader in many ways, could do better in its response to drug use. As in many other parts of the country, interaction of policies and available services in Ithaca needs re-imagining to respond to past approaches that have failed. This report presents insights, findings, and recommendations that have emerged from a yearlong process of consultations with community members and stakeholders, policymakers, elected officials, experts, and service providers to inform Ithaca's drug policies. Improving public health and safety are its guiding framework. As such, Ithaca stands poised to lead the nation in creating the first comprehensive municipal drug policy plan rooted in public health and harm reduction principles and grounded in the experiences and needs of the community.

The drug policies and services currently in place in the city of Ithaca reflect the broader policy dissonance of a shifting and bifurcated approach to drug use in New York state and nationally. While new practices are adopted to reduce the negative health and social consequences of drug use, older practices criminalizing drug use remain. The policy conflicts underlying these approaches are not new, but they create serious problems and inefficiencies when it comes to how drug use

is addressed. Too often, our past approaches have failed to recognize that fundamentally, the community prevalence of health problems, such as problem drug use, and social problems, such as participation in the illegal drug economy, reflect deeper issues related to social and economic opportunity and racial inequality.

Over the past two decades, changes to drug policies and practices have been implemented in Ithaca with positive results. From the start of his tenure, Mayor Myrick recognized the need to build on these successes and develop an overall strategy to address the realities of drug use in our town.

In April 2014, Mayor Myrick convened a group of community experts and leaders, representing the various sectors involved with responding to drug use. This group came to be called the Municipal Drug Policy Community (MDPC). The MDPC was charged to identify and describe the drug-related problems we experience in Ithaca and to recommend policies and practices we could adopt to improve our local response to drug use and related policies. MDPC formed four teams to explore these questions: Prevention, Treatment, Harm Reduction, and Law Enforcement – four domains or "pillars" which reflect the ways our societal response to drug

use has been structured. The teams met several times to develop recommendations for new and reformed policies and practices, including reviews of the findings from community engagement activities designed to inform the process – a community convening with 200 Ithacans, eight focus groups involving nearly 100 participants, and dozens of one-on-one meetings with key stakeholders.

Summary of Findings:

Prevention

Finding 1: General programming for a substantial portion of young people is lacking and available programming is often inaccessible.

Finding 2: The drug trade is a symptom of widespread unemployment of young people and adults in Ithaca.

Finding 3: Geographic isolation, racism, and poverty contribute to hopelessness, which increases the likelihood of problematic drug use.

Finding 4: Drug education and prevention efforts should focus on both adults and young people and include information and skills about delaying the onset of use, preventing problem drug use, and reducing illness and death.

Finding 5: There is a lack of general awareness about drugs, how to navigate systems of care, and how to prevent drug-related deaths.

Treatment

Finding 1: Abstinence-based treatment programs predominate in Ithaca, and more varied treatment modalities are needed.

Finding 2: There are gaps in treatment accessibility due to limited capacity and affordability.

Finding 3: The lack of a detox center is putting an exorbitant amount of pressure on Cayuga Medical Center and costing hundreds of thousands of dollars to the tax payer.

Finding 4: Treatment programs may benefit from more cultural competency and sensitivity training.

Finding 5: Ithaca needs more medication assisted treatment options, including but not limited to, providing methadone in town and increasing the number of buprenorphine prescribers.

Finding 6: For some people, ancillary services such as mental health counseling, job training, and housing are necessary supportive services in addition to, or instead of, formal drug treatment.

Harm Reduction

Finding 1: More comprehensive training is needed on how to provide services to people at different points on the substance use continuum.

Finding 2: Harm Reduction is not widely understood, and few Ithacans know of the existing – and effective – local harm reduction programs already in operation.

Finding 3: Harm Reduction services need to be expanded.

Law Enforcement

Finding 1: Law Enforcement and community members alike do not believe that law enforcement personnel are best situated to deal with drug use.

Finding 2: Perceived experiences of racial profiling, difference in treatment, and racial disparities in arrests rates have created a perception that law enforcement targets communities of color and are less willing to connect them to services than white Ithacans.

Finding 3: Community opinion about drug courts is mixed. People like that drug courts connect those in need to resources, but most thought it would be more effective to make such resources available outside of the criminal justice system.

Finding 4: People fear calling law enforcement to help with drug-related issues because of the collateral consequences it can trigger.

Finding 5: While most community members and criminal justice system personnel recognize the good in diversion programs and treatment, more education about relapse and recovery are needed.

Recommendations were made across five categories and are summarized below.

Governance and Leadership

Goal: Create a mayoral-level office tasked to reduce the morbidity, mortality, cost, and inequities associated with illicit drugs and our current responses to them.

1. The mayor should open an Office of Drug Policy to orient the work of all city agencies towards reducing morbidity, mortality, crime and inequities stemming from drug use and our responses to it. This new approach recognizes that criminalizing people who use drugs has not been effective and anchors Ithaca's policies in principles of harm reduction, public health, and public safety. It also recognizes that city agencies often work at cross purposes and provides a structure for coordinating their work with the simple aim of improving the health and safety of communities, families and individuals across the city.

a. The mayor should appoint a director to: run the office; advise the mayor and city agencies; implement the MDPC recommendations for how the city can improve its drug policies; coordinate the activities of various city agencies and departments; be a liaison between city, county, state and federal agencies; and act as a spokesperson for the city on drug policy matters.

Education

Goal: Key stakeholders and all Ithacans should have access to evidence-based practices and education around drugs, preventing problematic use, reducing harms associated with drug use, and helping oneself or others who have a drug use problem.

1. The Office of Drug Policy would coordinate with existing Ithaca organizations that provide services to the community (like Southern Tier AIDS Program) to host a series of community education events every year around drugs, policies associated with drugs, and general health within the community. The Office would also coordinate training modules for service providers to ensure they are informed with the most up to date treatment options, strategies, and resources. Where possible, these training programs should include people who are directly impacted by drugs or drug policies, be evidence-based, and be grounded in a harm reduction approach.

Office of Drug Policy public education responsibilities include, but are not limited to:
a. General community awareness events (around drugs/drug policies).
b. Education events for parents and loved ones of those struggling with addiction (topics could include: recovery is not linear, medication assisted treatment, syringe exchanges, relapse is a part of recovery, Ithaca resources).
c. Narcan and overdose response trainings for the public.
d. Education for law enforcement, healthcare providers, service providers and users on harm reduction models. Examples include a train the trainer curriculum based on the Enough Abuse structure that can be run by STAP.

e. Cultural competency and sensitivity trainings for treatment and medical professionals working with people in treatment and medical settings.
f. Training healthcare providers around opioid prescribing and patient education, such as a standard concise information sheet distributed by all providers when opioids are prescribed that would also include treatment resources and information for the Ithaca addiction hotline.

Recovery-Oriented Treatment, Harm Reduction, and Ancillary Services

Goal: Create a recovery-oriented treatment continuum that offers access to timely, individualized, and evidence-based, effective care, through services that are people-centered and able to meet the needs of individuals no matter their current relationship to drug use or recovery.

1. Add an on demand centralized treatment resource system to the existing Ithaca 211 directory:
a. Conduct short screenings over the phone to assess appropriate service referral.
b. Provide referrals for treatment centers in Ithaca with up to date inpatient bed numbers.
c. Create a parent/loved one hotline (based on the Partnership for Drug Free.org)
d. Connect people to a treatment navigator (based on the Affordable Care Act navigator) to help persons or families in trouble navigate the treatment and referral process, including after care assistance.

2. Open a freestanding 24-hour crisis center in Ithaca – medication assisted and supervised outpatient detox, with case management services available on-site.

Activities:

a. Law Enforcement and laypersons can voluntarily bring an intoxicated individual for safety and respite.

b. This center will include short-term temporary beds for persons waiting for enrollment in treatment centers.

c. The center will also include a "chill out" space for people who are under the influence to help assuage the proliferation of public intoxication. This is not the same service as detox; the purpose of this space is not primarily to help someone withdraw but to even out, provide them with health education, and potentially connect them to harm reduction services.

d. The crisis center would also be appropriate for parents or loved ones to send their loved one in distress voluntarily, instead of a PINS or person in need of supervision process, which involves putting the person through the court system and often leads to intense strain on familial relationships, usually during crucial intervention windows. Services would include support groups (abstinence based and non-abstinence), on- site counseling, case management, and family support services.

3. The Tompkins County Department of Health should be encouraged to continue implementing an aggressive public education campaign about harm reduction practices to reduce risks from underage drinking, tobacco use, and other illicit substances.

4. Increasing awareness around the New York State 911 Good Samaritan laws can also help make adults and young people aware of the resources and the legal protections afforded victims and people who call for help.

5. The city should partner with the Tompkins County Health Department and local medical providers to offer low cost or free Hepatitis A & B vaccinations and Hepatitis C treatment to people who actively inject drugs.

6. Implement a Housing First, basic, non-contingent needs model for Ithaca to increase access to housing, nutrition and health care services without requiring abstinence or participation in treatment.

Activities:

a. Maintaining the safety of themselves and those around them should be the criteria to receive services, which should not be dictated by whether or not a person is using a substance.

b. This model should include but not be limited to sober living facilities, low threshold housing, and housing options for people with families.

7. The city should work with relevant agencies to integrate mental health care options into substance use services, with an emphasis on providing more robust service options for people with dual diagnoses.

8. Increase the availability of medication assisted treatment in Ithaca, including opening a methadone clinic and increasing the number of office-based buprenorphine (i.e., Suboxone) prescribers.

9. Continue and expand proven harm reduction programs, including but not limited to, syringe exchange services, opioid overdose education/ trainings, syringe disposal kiosks, and naloxone distribution.

10. Explore the operation of a supervised injection site staffed with medical personnel as a means to: prevent fatal and non-fatal overdose, infectious disease, and bacterial infections; reduce public drug use and discarded needles; and provide primary care and referrals to basic services, housing, and substance use services and treatment, including the integration a basic health care provider at harm reduction sites.[1,2]

11. The city of Ithaca should request the New York Academy of Medicine or another objective research institute to study the efficacy and feasibility of heroin maintenance therapy for people who do not respond effectively to other forms of opioid replacement therapies.[3]

Community and Economic Development
Goal: Support and expand existing efforts to improve youth and family development, economic opportunity, and public health of communities, targeting vulnerable communities as immediate beneficiaries and ensuring that all Ithacans have the same access to resources and investments.

1. Partner with alternative to incarceration programs that connect low level users and sellers to jobs programs (see LEAD recommendation); integrate a jobs training program as an ancillary service in treatment centers; and create an apprenticeship program in conjunction with the Downtown Ithaca Alliance and Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce and community outreach worker to encourage youth employment.

2. Pass Ban the Box legislation for private and public sector jobs and encourage Tompkins County to do the same in order to expand job opportunities for people returning from incarceration.

3. Develop a citywide training/education program on basic work skills that would be offered before the start of any potential job training course.

4. Lobby Tompkins County to create a dedicated case management program for the re-entry population.

5. Seek to reform zero tolerance programs in the school district to incorporate restorative justice systems in order to curb the rise of suspensions, expulsions, and dropout rates all of which contribute to a young person's general community disengagement and raise the likelihood of unhealthy risk behaviors.

6. Integrate comprehensive services to reduce the risks associated with drug use or alcohol poisoning at local establishments frequented by residential college students such as, safe settings where patrons can sit and rest

away from loud, crowded spaces; setting up syringe disposal containers in restrooms; and providing free and accessible water during school year weekends.

7. Establish a process through the Ithaca Office of Drug Policy to monitor, investigate, and address racial, gender, age, and geographic disparities in health and socio-economic outcomes across administrative and criminal systems. These efforts should include surveillance, research, and analysis of the different data systems (including desk appearance tickets, Unlawful Possession of Marijuana violation, treatment admissions/graduations, drug court enrollment, etc.). ODP should issue a findings report and make recommendations to reduce unwarranted disparities.

Public Safety
Goal: Redirect law enforcement and community resources from criminalization to increasing access to services. Encourage a shared responsibility for community health and safety that extends beyond the Ithaca Police Department.

1. Pilot a Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program, modeled on the successful Seattle LEAD program (see alternatives to incarceration program).

2. Train Ithaca Police Department on the syringe exchange program annually. The trainings, conducted by Southern Tier AIDS Program, should include how to make sure officers are safe when interacting with people who inject drugs and collaboratively identifying public spaces to place syringe and medication disposal kiosks.
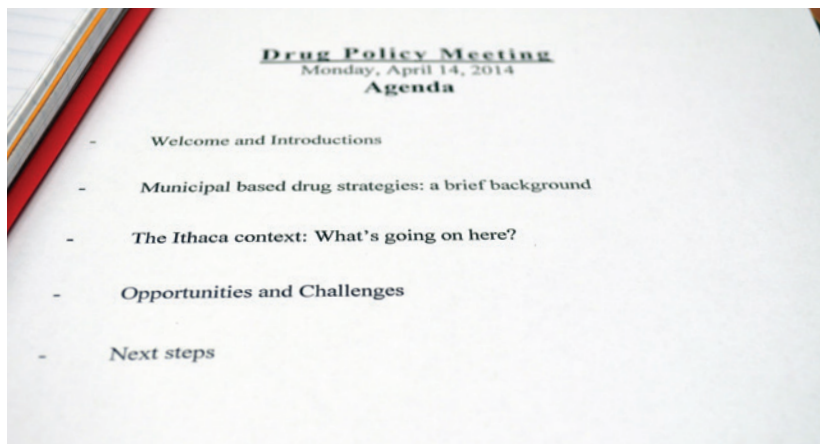
Left: Agenda from Mayor Myrick's initial municipal drug strategy convening – April 2014

[1] Wood, E., Kerr, T., Spittal, P. M., Li, K., Small, W., Tyndall, M. W., & Schechter, M. T. (2003). The potential public health and community impacts of safer injecting facilities: evidence from a cohort of injection drug users. *JAIDS Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes,* 32(1), 2-8.

[2] Ministry of Health, Canada. (2008). *Vancouver's INSITE Service and Other Supervised Injection Sites: What Has Been Learned from Research?*. Vancouver, BC, Canada.

[3] March, J. C., Oviedo-Joekes, E., Perea-Milla, E., & Carrasco, F. (2006). Controlled trial of prescribed heroin in the treatment of opioid addiction. *Journal of substance abuse treatment*, 31(2), 203-211.
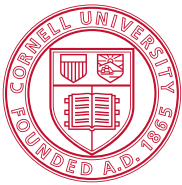
Originally Presented on:	11/10/16
Type of Action:	TYPE: Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

Cornell University
Student Assembly

S.A. Resolution #19
Recommending Uniformity in Faculty Laptop Policies

ABSTRACT: This resolution requests that faculty allow greater freedom of student laptop usage in classes that require significant note-taking or online reading access.

Sponsored by: Noah Chovanec, '18

Whereas, according to Article II of the Student Assembly Charter, 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;"

Whereas, the effective understanding of course material is essential to the academic welfare of students;

Whereas, the value of experiential learning and its relation to student autonomy is a fundamental aspect of collegiate development;

Whereas, some faculty do not make materials available to students following lectures, and handwritten notes may not allow students to record key course material;

Whereas, laptops are one of the most efficient note-taking devices;

Whereas, laptop usage is consistent with Cornell's initiative to reduce its environmental footprint by allowing electronic access to textbooks and readings;

Whereas, in February 2016 the Daily Sun wrote: "there has been a growing trend toward a more stringent regulation of [laptop use in classrooms];"

Whereas, the Student Assembly acknowledges the distracting nature of extraneous laptop usage on surrounding students;

Whereas, professors and instructors can eliminate this distraction through a variety of means that do not hinder the learning of students, such as relying on an "honor system" of self-enforcement or peer-enforcement, enforcing an "airplane-mode" policy, or utilizing teaching assistants to monitor laptop usage;

Be it therefore resolved, that the Student Assembly recommends that professors and instructors, especially in the humanities and social sciences, allow students to use laptops in lectures and discussion sections where note-taking is necessary and/or the reading materials can be accessed online.

Be it further resolved, that while we recognize that faculty members retain authority over their classroom policies and have the greatest amount of knowledge of their own course material, we request that faculty members consider individual learning experiences and have a discussion about the possible benefits of laptop use;

Be it finally resolved, that this resolution be conveyed to the Dean of Faculty and the Faculty Senate.

49   **Respectfully Submitted**,
50
51   Noah Chovanec '18
52   *School of Industrial and Labor Relations Representative, Student Assembly*
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54   Zack Schmetterer '18
55   *Former Member, SA Academic Policy Committee*
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57   Rachel Marciano '20
58   *Member, SA Academic Policy Committee*
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60   Dale Barbaria '19
61   *Chair, SA Academic Policy Committee*
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63   *(Reviewed by* SA Academic Policy Committee, 12-1-2, 11/6/2016)
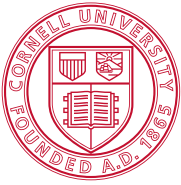
Cornell University
Student Assembly

S.A. Resolution #20

Student Assembly's Support for and Input on "Options for Achieving a Carbon Neutral Campus by 2035"

ABSTRACT: This resolution seeks to support Cornell University's commitment to carbon neutrality by a firm deadline of 2035 and push for transparent, shared decision-making in reaching carbon neutrality through the creation of a publicly accessible platform for annual update reports.

Sponsored by: Miranda Kasher, '19

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

Whereas, Cornell faculty, students, and staff collaborated to develop the Climate Action Plan (CAP) in 2009 to comprehensively outline Cornell University's commitment, duty, and strategy for offsetting net campus carbon emissions as a "living laboratory" to the world,

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

Whereas, in Spring 2016, Provost and then Acting President Kotlikoff charged the Senior Leadership Climate Action Group (SLCAG) with achieving carbon neutrality by 2035,

Whereas, in Fall 2016 a report written by SLCAG and others titled "Options for Achieving a Carbon Neutral Campus by 2035" was released outlining potential plans of action Cornell University can pursue in order to achieve carbon neutrality by 2035,

Whereas, as of now, there is no accessible, consistently updated, and transparent mode of communicating administrative decision-making, updates on actions outlined by the Climate Action Plan, or progress being made on reaching carbon neutrality,

Be it therefore resolved, the Student Assembly support and commend the efforts of SLCAG and Cornell University in obtaining carbon neutrality by 2035,

Be it further resolved, the Student Assembly recommend that SLCAG engage in clear communication with the Cornell community and aim for transparency when pursuing the different options outlined within the Options for Achieving a Carbon Neutral Campus by 2035 report by providing updates on the progress of these initiatives,

44　**Be it further resolved**, that a single centralized platform to share resources and updates on
45　Cornell University's goal of carbon neutrality be created through two potential ways:
46　　　1. The Student Assembly asks the Cornell Campus Sustainability Office (CSO) to create a
47　　　　digital, collaborative forum on their website that gives relevant annual updates on the
48　　　　carbon neutrality goal and Climate Action Plan and allows community members to easily
49　　　　share documents or ask questions;
50　　　2. *Or* the Student Assembly, as a collaboration between the Technology Committee and
51　　　　Environmental Committee, create a digital forum that provides updates on the carbon
52　　　　neutrality goal and Climate Action Plan (e.g. PDF of resolutions taking a stance on CAP,
53　　　　all administrative decision-making relevant to CAP, all updates on the ongoing work on
54　　　　Cornell's geothermal energy project, etc.);
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56　**Be it finally resolved**, that an annual public forum with members of SLCAG and facilitated by
57　the Cornell Campus Sustainability Office and the Environmental Collaborative, be pursued as a
58　way to engage the campus community and create an open, transparent dialogue between Cornell
59　administration and students.
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62　**Respectfully Submitted**,
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64　Marcel Ramos, '17
65　*Environmental Committee Chair, Student Assembly*
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67　Cynthia Bensburg, '17
68　*Environmental Committee Member, Student Assembly*
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70　Emily Dong, '18
71　*Previous Environmental Committee Chair, Student Assembly*
72
73　Jennifer Juliano, '17
74　*Co-facilitator, Environmental Collaborative (Eco)*
75
76　Samsuda Khem-nguad, '17
77　*Senior Member, Environmental Collaborative (Eco)*
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79　(*Review by: Environmental Committee, 11/3/16, 12-0-1*)
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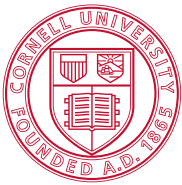
Cornell University
Student Assembly

1   S.A. Resolution #21

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3   Approving the Spring 2017 Election Rules

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5   ABSTRACT: This resolution seeks to update the election rules that govern Student Assembly seats
6   elected in Fall 2016.

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9   <u>Sponsored by</u>: Maha Ghandour '17

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11   **Whereas**, the Student Assembly bylaws task the Elections Committee with coordinating and
12   implementing the regularly scheduled and special elections of the Student Assembly and the
13   directly elected undergraduate representatives of the University Assembly;

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15   **Whereas**, a substantial part of coordinating and implementing the elections is ensuring that the election
16   rules are up to date;

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18   **Whereas**, the Student Assembly Elections Committee approved the rules set forth in the attached
19   document for all Spring 2017 elections;

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21   **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Student Assembly approves the procedures in the attached document
22   containing the Spring 2017 election rules with modifications to the Fall 2016 rules indicated;
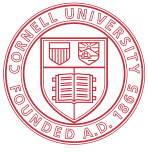
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24   **Respectfully Submitted**,

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26   Maha Ghandour '17
27   *Director of Elections, Student Assembly*

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29   *(Reviewed by: Elections Committee, 11/16/16, 6-0-0)*

Student Assembly Election Rules

Adopted on Thursday, December 3 2009. Amended on Friday, December 3, 2010, Friday, December 2, 2011, Thursday, November 29, 2012, Friday, December 6, 2013, Thursday, May 1, 2014, Thursday, November 20, 2014, Thursday, March 26, 2015, Thursday, December 3, 2015, May 5, 2016.
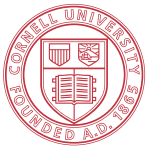
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Article I: Election Guidelines

Elections are the foundation upon which representative governance rests. These rules are designed to protect the rights of all candidates, as well as all members of the University community, and to ensure that the election process takes place in an open and fair arena. Candidates must respect the rights and privileges of all members of the Cornell community, and follow all election guidelines outlined in this document. Election rules are subject to the approval of voting members of the Student Assembly each semester.

A. Voter Eligibility

To vote in an election for a seat in the Student Assembly (SA) or for the directly elected seats on the University Assembly (UA), a person must:

1. Be a full-time, matriculated undergraduate student enrolled in a degree-granting unit of the Ithaca campus of the University; and,
2. Be a member of the constituency for which the seat is designated, if it is designated for one of the following:
    a. Specific to college of enrollment
    b. Freshman
    c. Transfer

B. Candidate Information

1. Eligibility and Requirements

To be a candidate, a person must, <u>prior to the petitioning deadline</u> specified in the election calendar:

1. Be eligible to vote in the election for the seat and plan to remain seated so for the full term for which they are seeking election[1]
2. Submit a completed candidate registration form and any associated materials required in that form. You may not register for more than one position on the candidate registration form.
3. Submit petitions endorsed by the required number of people who are eligible to vote in the election for that specific position, which is the lesser of 10% of those eligible to vote for that specific position or:
    a. 300 for President and Executive Vice President
    b. 150 for all other at-large seats
    c. 100 for Arts and Sciences seats
    d. 25 for Transfer seat
    e. 75 for all other seats
4. Not already hold a directly elected voting position on the SA and/or UA for the term for which they are seeking election
5. Have not resigned or been removed from the SA or from a directly elected UA seat in the academic year prior to the academic year of the term for the seat being elected

To be a candidate, a person must, <u>prior to the commencement of voting</u> as specified in the elections calendar:

1. Attend at least one full SA meeting in that semester and register his or her attendance at that meeting with the Director of Elections, unless waived by the Director of Elections for extenuating circumstances[2]

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[1] Candidates should not plan to pursue study abroad programs or internships that would require them to leave the Ithaca campus for any semester during their tenure.

[2] However, this rule does not apply to past SA representatives.
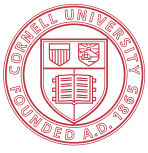
89   2.   Apply online to serve on at least one committee of the SA

The Office of the Assemblies, assisted by the Elections Committee, will review submitted materials for compliance with petitioning requirements as follows:

1. A sampling method may be used as long as at least 10% of required signatures are validated for all petitions and all required signatures are attempted to be validated for any petition found to be ineligible
2. All petitions will be available for viewing only to members of the Cornell community and may be examined in the Office of the Assemblies, 109 Day Hall after the announcement of candidates. Petitions may not be photocopied once submitted.
3. The Office of the Assemblies will notify the Director of Elections, who will notify any candidates who fail to meet petitioning requirements prior to the announcement of candidates
4. Candidates who are listed on the ballot but found to have not fulfilled eligibility requirements prior to tabulation of results will be disqualified with vote counts untallied and discarded

2. Petitioning

In order to demonstrate that they will be a respectable representative of the student body at large, candidates are required to collect a certain number of petition signatures. The required number of petition signers is designated above. Candidates are expected to maintain the highest integrity when collecting petition signatures. In addition to the Early Campaigning rules detailed in Article 1, Section C(1) of these elections rules, the following restrictions are in place to ensure fairness during the petitioning period. Candidates may not:

1. Announce their candidacy on social media platforms in order to collect signatures
2. Announce their candidacy in front of a classroom during class hours in order to collect signatures
3. Circulate unattended petitions

3. Written Statements

1. Each candidate is asked to submit a short statement, which may be <u>no more than</u> 1,250 characters, including spaces (NOT word count) via the online Candidate Profile portal. Submissions must be plain text.
2. Statements will be displayed in informational materials published by the Elections Committee
3. Statements may not include names of any political coalitions
4. If a candidate's statement does not conform to these guidelines, the statement will not be posted

4. Pictures

Candidates may have their photos taken in the Office of the Assemblies, 109 Day Hall, before the petition deadline. Photos will be displayed in informational materials published by the Elections Committee. Candidates may submit a photograph of themselves that conforms to the specifications noted in the online candidate registration form.

5. Promotional Materials

~~Each candidate may receive a combination of up to 300 one-sided 8 1/2" X 11" or 150 two-sided 8 1/2" X 11" printed materials at no charge. These may be posters or quarter-cards[4], or a combination of both.~~

1. ~~The design must be attached, exactly as it is to be copied, as a PDF to the Candidate Profile Form online and submitted by the application deadline~~
2. ~~All materials must include the dates and times of the elections and be in compliance with election guidelines~~
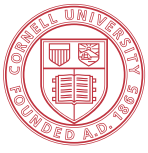
139   ~~3. Candidates may select up to two different paper colors from the swatches provided by the~~
140   ~~Office of the Assemblies~~
141   ~~4. Materials will be printed in black & white only~~
142   ~~5. No Cornell insignia or logo is allowed~~
143   ~~6. Candidates who do not submit materials, which meet these criteria by the petitioning deadline,~~
144   ~~forfeit the opportunity to receive such materials from the Office of the Assemblies~~
145   ~~7. The Office of the Assemblies will be responsible for making the copies.~~
146   ~~8. The Office of the Assemblies will not assist in designing, modifying, or otherwise formatting a~~
147   ~~printed submission~~
148   Candidates ~~that do not receive or choose not to receive free promotional materials printed by the~~
149   ~~Office of the Assemblies~~ will be eligible for up to ~~$20~~ $35 in reimbursements that can be used
150   towards the following expenses: website expenses (web hosting, domain names, and online
151   advertising), chalk, printed materials, or any other promotional materials approved by the Director of
152   Elections that are not a violation of these elections rules. These reimbursements will not be counted
153   in a candidate's out-of-pocket expenses, as detailed in the Campaign Finance rules in Article 1, Section
154   C(6) of these elections rules.
155
156   Candidates' promotional materials must include the dates and times of the elections and be in compliance
157   with election guidelines. No Cornell insignia or logo is allowed.
158
159   **6. Candidate Forum**
160   All candidates are encouraged to participate in the Candidates' Forums held by the Elections
161   Committee during the campaign period. The Elections Committee will be responsible for planning,
162   coordinating, and marketing these forums. At the forum, candidates are encouraged to discuss their
163   experience, platforms, and more. Candidates are also encouraged to use the forum as an opportunity
164   specifically to discuss why they are more qualified for the contested position than their opponent(s).
165   The Director of Elections shall reach out to student organizations that receive funding from the
166   Student Assembly, encouraging them to use the candidate forum as an opportunity to vet candidates
167   for endorsements.
168

169   # C. Election Guidelines

170   **1. Early Campaigning**
171   Candidates and supporters acting on their behalf must not participate in the following campaign
172   activities until campaigning officially begins:
173   1. Distribution of printed campaign materials to the public
174   2. Advertising candidacy by chalk, poster, or other method designed for public viewing
175   3. Making speeches or statements to student organizations or groups of students
176   4. Promoting their candidacy through email, social networking tools, or other digital media
177   The Elections Committee may challenge or disqualify a candidate if a violation is found to
178   compromise the fairness of the election.
179
180   **2. Restrictions for Current SA Members**
181   Current SA members seeking reelection:
182   1. Must refrain from any form of individual or self-promoting publicity during the petitioning
183   period
184   2. Must not host constituency outreach events that are meant to fulfill an outreach requirement
185   from the deadline for election materials through the last day of voting
186
187   **3. Compliance with University Policies and Campus Code of Conduct**
188   Candidates and supporters acting on their behalf must be aware of and comply with all applicable

189   policies and provisions of the Campus Code of Conduct, including but not limited to:
190   1. Use of Cornell Name, Logo & Artwork policy
191   2. Event Registration policies
192   3. Facilities reservation policies, including Willard Straight Hall area reservation policies
193   4. University Postering & Chalking policies
194   5. Residential & New Students Programs' policy for postering in residence halls
195   6. Dining hall policies, including a prohibition of distributing printed campaign materials in
196   dining halls without permission from authorized staff, and as designated in the Campus Code
197   of Conduct[3]
198
199   A violation of any University policy is a violation of these rules and therefore grounds for a challenge
200   if it compromises the fairness of the election. It is the candidate's responsibility to read the referenced
201   documents and be familiar with the rules and regulations established within them. The Director of
202   Elections may also refer any reported violations to the Office of the Judicial Administrator or any
203   other appropriate office, which may impose disciplinary remedies and penalties according to its own
204   rules and procedures.
205
206   **4. Campus Mail**
207   Candidates and their supporters may not use Campus Mail for campaigning purposes.
208
209   **5. Electronic Communications and Social Media**
210   Candidates and supporters acting on their behalf:
211   1. Must obtain permission from the administrator of any university-hosted bulk mailing lists
212   2. Must comply with Cornell University IT policies
213
214   **6. Campaign Finance**
215   Candidates or supporters acting on their behalf must submit all receipts and/or proof of fair market
216   value with the signed expense report to the Office of the Assemblies by the deadline specified in the
217   election calendar. Candidates who do not submit receipts and/or proof of fair market value will be
218   presumed to have spent $0 on their campaign.
219   1. Candidates and supporters acting on their behalf may not exceed the $50 limit for out-of-
220   pocket expenses and fair market value of donations of materials, professional services, and/or
221   money
222   a. Fair market value is the value at which something is to be obtained normally if
223   documentation of its dollar value is not provided
224   b. If there is a supporting receipt for a good used in a candidate's campaign, then the
225   value of that good is the dollar value on the supporting receipt as long as the
226   transaction was conducted at arm's length
227   c. For donated materials, professional services, or other goods for which no official
228   receipt is provided, candidates must seek the most plausible assessment of the fair
229   market value of the good. Professional services will be defined as any work for
230   which the given individual/donor is typically compensated. Volunteer time donated
231   by full-time students will not be considered professional services.
232   d. Paid advertisements and related costs on social networking sites or other websites
233   must also be accounted for at fair market value
234   2. Candidates and supporters acting on their behalf in races where only one candidate has
235   submitted a petition are limited to ~~150 copies and~~ $10 for out-of-pocket expenses. Donations

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[3] Please note that it is against the University Postering and Chalking Policy to chalk on any vertical surface, regardless of the location.
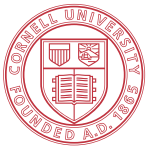
236   may be used, but proof of their fair market value must be provided and accounted for.
237
238
239   **7. Endorsements**
240   All registered student organizations receiving funds from the Student Assembly are encouraged to
241   endorse candidates. If an organization chooses to endorse a candidate, it is expected to abide by the
242   guidelines below.
243   1. Student Activities Funding Commission (SAFC) funded and Student Activity Fee (SAF)
244   byline funded organizations may endorse candidates. All groups must act in a way that is fair
245   and balanced when deciding on the endorsement of candidates. This includes the disclosure
246   of endorsements to the Elections Committee prior to the publication of said endorsement.
247   2. The Elections Committee may recommend that the SA impose fines on or revoke allocated
248   funds from organizations failing to comply
249
250
251   **8. Campaign Ethics**
252   Candidates and supporters acting on their behalf:
253   1. May not, at any time before, during or after the elections, harass, threaten, ~~defame~~ or coerce
254   others
255   2. May not provide anything of material value to a member of the Cornell community to further
256   themselves in the election or to promote their candidacy
257   3. May not compel any person to endorse their candidacy, assist their campaign, or act as
258   supporter as an explicit or implicit condition for initiation to, admission into, affiliation with,
259   or continued membership in a group or organization
260

# D. Restrictions on Ticketing and Slates

262   **1. General Rules**
263   Candidates and supporters acting on their behalf may not:
264   1. Include any other candidate's name, a common "ticket" name, or a shared slogan and/or
265   symbol on any promotional materials or within any form of electronic communication and/or
266   media
267   2. Share or pool campaign finances with any other candidates or supporters acting on their
268   behalf
269   3. Distribute any promotional materials, send any electronic communication, or utilize any other
270   form of electronic media on behalf of any other candidate except if the candidate does so for
271   another candidate in the President and/or Executive Vice President races
272   4. Campaign with or on behalf of each other or engage in any coordination of campaigning
273   activities except if the candidate does so for another candidate in the President or Executive
274   Vice President races.
275
276   **2. Special circumstance for the President and Executive Vice President elections**
277   Candidates in any race, besides those running for the position of President of Executive Vice
278   President, will be given the freedom to distribute promotional material, send electronic
279   communications, campaign on behalf of, and speak for candidates in the President or Executive Vice
280   President races. Candidates who choose to do so are considered supporters and are held accountable
281   to all clauses in these rules that pertain to candidates and their supporters. The President and
282   Executive Vice President candidates are strictly prohibited from coordinating activities. Candidates are
283   strictly prohibited from performing the actions above for candidates not in the President or Executive
284   Vice President races.

285
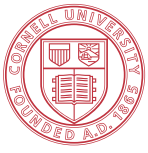
286 **3. Plagiarism**

287 Candidates may not disseminate written statements, promotional materials, or electronic

288 communications that are plagiarized or substantially copied from any such items created or distributed

289 by any current or former candidate.

290

Article II: Election Procedures

A. The Election Calendar

292

    1. The Director of Elections, in consultation with the Office of the Assemblies, will draft the election calendar prior to the semester of the election, and will be approved by the Elections Committee at a meeting in the prior semester if possible[4]

    2. Consideration shall be given to any religious holidays that may fall during the election period, guaranteeing that the right to free religious observance is afforded to all potential candidates

B. The Elections Committee

    1. The Director of Elections shall serve as chair and a designated representative of the Office of the Assemblies shall serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of this committee

    2. Members of the Elections Committee may not seek SA or UA office for the academic year following their term of service on the committee

    3. The Director of Elections shall publish at the beginning of each semester a list of Assembly seats to be filled, in accordance with Student Assembly Charter

    4. Elections Committee members are expected to abide by the highest standards of personal conduct and integrity. Students are mandated to excuse themselves from serving on the Elections Committee if they plan to take part in a campaign ~~or sit on the executive board of an organization that has endorsed a candidate.~~ Therefore, members should not be involved in the campaigning process. All conflicts should be considered and resolved before the election cycle begins. If a member of Elections Committee sits on the Executive Board of an organization who chooses to endorse a candidate, the committee members are required to recuse themselves from any challenge hearing involving the endorsed candidate.

    5. The Elections Committee should be prepared to meet immediately following the challenge deadline to rule on all pertinent challenges. The Elections Committee shall use Robert's Rules of Order to consider challenges, in addition to the election rules. In the event of conflict, these election rules supersede Robert's Rules of Order. The Elections Committee has no power to overrule the election rules under any circumstances.

    6. The Director of Elections shall give a final report on the results of the election when there are no remaining unresolved matters

    7. For the benefit of the students, the Elections Committee shall establish voting booths across campus on the days of the election. Committee members will ensure that no campaigning occurs within 25 feet of a voting booth.

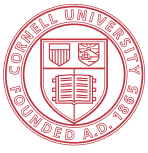## C. Independence of the Elections Committee

    1. While members of the Elections Committee are expected to abide by the highest standards of integrity, they also enjoy independence from undue interference. Hence, students may not falsely accuse, harass, threaten or coerce any member of the Elections Committee for actions

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[4] The Director of Elections should coordinate the schedule of the Student Assembly elections with other campus elections, such as those of the Student-Elected Trustee and Class Councils.

330   taken in their official capacity.
331   2.   Subject to the determination of the Elections Committee, any violation of this section can
332   result in temporary or permanent disqualification from contesting elections to the SA or UA.
333   It may also result in disciplinary referral to the Judicial Administrator.
334
335

D. Voting and Tabulation

337   1.   The order in which names appear on the ballot shall be randomly selected
338   2.   Uncontested candidates will not be listed for a vote on the ballot and will be deemed
339   victorious pending the resolution of challenges
340   3.   Results for challenged races will be posted after the Elections Committee has ruled on those
341   challenges
342   4.   The Elections Committee will not have access to the results prior to and during challenge
343   deliberations. The Office of Assemblies will release election results after the Elections
344   Committee has validated the election results.
345   5.   A printout of election results for qualifying candidates shall be available in the Office of the
346   Assemblies, 109 Day Hall, for one year following the election. Disqualified candidates will not
347   have their vote tallies made available.
348

E. Challenges

1. Eligibility to Challenge

351   1.   Any member of the Cornell community may submit a challenge
352   2.   The Director of Elections may submit a challenge
353   3.   The Elections Committee as a body may submit a challenge by majority vote
354   4.   Individual committee members, except the Director of Elections, may not submit a challenge
355

2. Challenge Deadlines

357   1.   Election challenges must be submitted by the election challenge deadline specified in the
358   elections calendar
359   2.   The Director of Elections or the Elections Committee by a majority vote can submit a
360   challenge at any time before the declaration of results
361   3.   No challenges will be accepted after these deadlines
362   4.   Once submitted, a challenge becomes part of the formal record, and may not be withdrawn
363   except by the explicit permission of the Director of Elections
364

3. Format of Challenges

Challenges must be in writing, submitted on the signed Challenge Form, and accompanied by the
following supporting documentation:
368   1.   Challenger's name
369   2.   Candidate's name
370   3.   Date of challenge
371   4.   Reason for challenge and supporting evidence
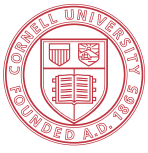372

4. Notification of Election Challenges

The Office of the Assemblies will notify the Director of Elections who will send an email notifying
anyone who is named in an election challenge. The email will contain a scanned copy of the challenge.
376

5. Response to Election Challenges

378   A challenged candidate may review challenges to which they are a party in the Office of the
379   Assemblies, 109 Day Hall, and address written statements in response to the committee. The
380   challenged candidate may request a hearing in person with the committee.
381

382   **6. Challenge Review Meeting**
383   The committee will schedule a meeting to review challenges in Executive Session. The committee, less
384   temporarily recused members, will provide an opportunity for the challenged candidate to respond in
385   person if requested by the challenged candidate or a member of the committee. For each challenge,
386   the committee will determine:
387   1. Whether a preponderance of evidence substantiates each alleged violation; and,
388   2. Which, if any, substantiated violations or combination thereof compromised the fairness of
389   the election and constituted a material advantage to the extent the challenged candidate
390   should be disqualified by a two-thirds majority
391   The Committee will first vote by simple majority to determine if the evidence substantiates each
392   alleged violation. If the violation is substantiated, the committee will vote which, if any, substantiated
393   violations or combination thereof compromised the fairness of the election and constituted a material
394   advantage to the extent the challenged candidate should be disqualified by a two-thirds majority.
395

396   **7. Written Report**
397   1. For each rule violation, the Director of Elections or a member of the Elections Committee as
398   delegated by the Director will create a written report summarizing the challenge(s), the
399   decision made, and how the decision was reached
400   2. The report is kept confidential and only released to the challenged candidate and the
401   challenger(s)
402   3. A copy is kept in the Office of the Assemblies, 109 Day Hall
403   4. For each challenge, the committee will report to the challenger(s) and the challenged
404   candidate all evidence received/found, any violations substantiated, and any decisions to
405   disqualify the challenged candidate
406

407   **8. Reconsideration**
408   1. If the committee determines a candidate should be disqualified, the candidate may request
409   reconsideration within twenty-four hours of receiving the written report. To be reconsidered,
410   the candidate seeking such reconsideration must submit a request in writing to the Office of
411   the Assemblies via email to assembly@cornell.edu. The statement should address the specific
412   findings in the written report to be reconsidered.
413   2. The committee will convene in response to such a request. The committee, after evaluating
414   each request for reconsideration, will take a vote requiring a simple majority to determine if
415   the previous decision to disqualify should be overturned.
416   3. If a disqualified candidate finds that the Elections Committee was biased in their application
417   of the rules, they may request a review by the Judicial Codes and Counselor (JCC). If the JCC
418   review finds that the application of the rules was biased, the decision of the Elections
419   Committee may be overturned.
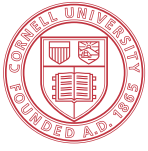420

421   **9. Finality**
422   The determination of the committee after expiration or resolution of requests for reconsideration shall
423   be final.
424

425   **10. Confidentiality**
426   1. Members of the committee and parties to a challenge may not share the contents of
427   challenges, evidence, or decisions submitted to or received from the committee, except when

428   explicitly permitted by these rules or by the Director of Elections

429   2.   Unauthorized disclosure of confidential information may result in a disciplinary referral to the
430   Judicial Administrator

431   3.   A review of the Challenges may take place in the Office of the Assemblies, 109 Day Hall, by
432   any member of the Cornell community. Challenges may not be photocopied, photographed,
433   digitally recorded or removed from the Office of Assemblies.