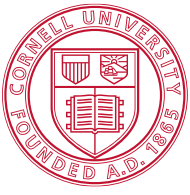


Cornell University
Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Agenda of the Thursday, April 20th, 2017 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 March 23rd Meeting
 - b. Minutes of the April 13th Meeting
- III. Announcements and Reports**
 - a. Lift Your Spirits Day Updates- all reps
 - b. VP Li
 - c. President Berger
- IV. Open Microphone**
- V. Discussion with President Pollack – 5pm**
- VI. Discussion with Title IX Coordinator Sarah Affel – 5:30pm**
- VII. Restructuring Update – President Berger**
- VIII. Business of the Day**
 - a. Resolution 34: Accessibility & Affordability of Cornell’s Fitness Centers
 - b. Resolution 39: Creation of the Vice President of External Affairs
 - c. Resolution 40: A Comprehensive Investigation into Cornell Exam Scheduling



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(03/23/17)
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #34

Accessibility & Affordability of Cornell's Fitness Centers

1
2
3
4 ABSTRACT: This resolution calls for the administration to address student concerns facing the
5 accessibility and affordability of the fitness centers on our campus.

6
7 Sponsored by: Alex Iglesias '17, Justin Selig '17, Ashwin Viswanathan '20
8

9 **Whereas**, annual membership fees for the fitness centers total \$145 which is more expensive than most
10 peer institutions;

11
12 **Whereas**, even if the membership fee could be reduced, it wouldn't be feasible given the existing
13 space concerns the facilities face;

14
15 **Whereas**, the existing facilities are operating at, or above, capacity during the times of the day when
16 most students go to the gym;

17
18 **Whereas**, renovation and expansion plans for Helen Newman Hall have been discussed in the past
19 however, they have not been executed;

20
21 **Whereas**, the expansion of recreation facilities into Appel Community Center has resulted in a space
22 which does not contain all the equipment students desire, and this space is frequently
23 used by physical education programs, and therefore students end up going to Helen Newman,
24 which further exacerbates the problem of overcrowding;

25
26 **Whereas**, the existing fitness space in Appel Community Center could serve as a satellite facility for
27 Cornell Health and this could be incredibly beneficial for students on North Campus;

28
29 **Whereas**, the proposed expansion of housing on North campus, per the housing master plan, would
30 further exacerbate existing issues facing availability of recreation facilities for students as the
31 existing facilities are not sufficient to meet the need from the Cornell community;

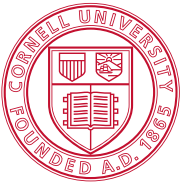
32
33 **Whereas**, many students residing in Collegetown do not have access to recreation facilities in their
34 immediate community which forces them to traverse to Noyes on West Campus or Teagle
35 which are distant walks and these facilities operate above capacity;

36
37 **Whereas**, recreation and fitness facilities have an essential role in supporting the health and wellbeing of
38 the Cornell community;

39
40 **Be it therefore resolved**, we request that Vice President Lombardi work with
41 students, recreation staff members, and the community to address the accessibility and
42 affordability of fitness centers and other recreational services on campus;

43
44 **Be it further resolved**, the Student Assembly recommends that the Division of Student and Campus
45 Life immediately explore the feasibility of acquiring space, or using existing space, to develop a
46 fitness center in Collegetown;

48 **Be it further resolved**, the Student Assembly requests that group exercise and recreation activities be
49 offered in the Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts until a new space is developed;
50
51 **Be it further resolved**, the Student Assembly asks that the administration plan to develop a community
52 center in Collegetown, or work with private developers to address such need, to include a fitness
53 center, recreation space, and dining unit, to improve the student experience;
54
55 **Be it further resolved**, the Division of Student and Campus Life should establish plans to renovate and
56 expand Helen Newman, or construct a new recreation facility, to meet the growing needs of
57 North Campus, while taking into consideration Cornell University Sustainable Design’s proposal
58 for a “Beebe Lake Redevelopment”;
59
60 **Be it further resolved**, we ask that the Division of Student and Campus Life recognize that fitness
61 centers should serve, to some degree, as community centers as Noyes Community Center does
62 on West Campus and that centralized facilities are more conducive toward community-building
63 than satellite facilities;
64
65 **Be it finally resolved**, we ask that this resolution be sent to President Hunter Rawlings, President-elect
66 Martha Pollack, Provost Michael Kotlikoff, Vice President for Student and Campus Life Ryan
67 Lombardi, Dean of Student Vijay Pendakur, and any others deemed appropriate.
68
69
70
71 **Respectfully Submitted,**
72
73 Alexander Iglesias ’17
74 *Human Ecology Representative, Student Assembly*
75
76 Justin Selig ’17
77 *Engineering Representative, Student Assembly*
78
79 Ashwin Viswanathan ’20
80 *Freshman Representative, Student Assembly*
81
82
83 *Reviewed by: Health & Wellness Committee, March 21, 2017*



Originally Presented on:	04/13/2017
Type of Action:	Internal Policy
Status/Result:	New Business

1 S.A. Resolution #39
2 Creation of the Vice President of External Affairs

3
4 ABSTRACT: This resolution combines the Vice President of Public Relations and the Vice
5 President of Outreach role into the single position of the Vice President of External Affairs.

6
7 **Sponsored by: Matt Indimine '18 and Edem Dzodzomenyo '20**

8
9 **Whereas**, the Vice President of Outreach and the Vice President for Public Relations have overlapping
10 roles and responsibilities;

11
12 **Whereas**, the overlapping roles and responsibilities often cause confusion for members of the executive
13 committee and the assembly as to who is responsible for completing a particular task;

14
15 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Vice President of Outreach and the Vice President for Public
16 Relations roles be combined into the Vice President of External Affairs beginning in the 2017-
17 2018 academic year;

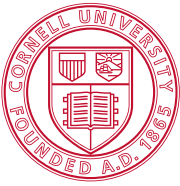
18
19 **Be it finally resolved**, that the Student Assembly Bylaws be amended as follows:

20
21 **Article II Section 1: Officers (lines 30-33) will be amended to read:**

22
23 The officers of the SA shall be a President, an Executive Vice President, a Vice President of
24 Internal Operations, a Vice President for Finance, ~~a Vice President for Public Relations~~, a Vice
25 President of External Affairs, a Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion, ~~a Vice President of~~
26 ~~Outreach~~, a Director of Elections, a Parliamentarian, and an Executive Archivist. These officers
27 shall perform the duties prescribed by this Charter and by the parliamentary authority adopted
28 by the SA.

29
30 **Article II Section 2: Election and Appointment of Officers, Time of**
31 **Election/Appointment (lines 35-46) will be amended to read:**

32
33 The SA will, as soon as possible after the spring election, hold an organizational and planning
34 meeting in executive session. At this meeting, the voting members will elect from among
35 themselves the offices of Vice President of Internal Operations, Vice President for Finance, ~~Vice~~
36 ~~President for Public Relations~~, Vice President of External Affairs, Vice President of Diversity
37 and Inclusion, ~~Vice President of Outreach~~. The voting members will elect from the Cornell
38 community (student, employee, faculty, alumnus living in Ithaca) the office of Director of
39 Elections. Self-nomination will be in order in each of the elected offices. Elected officers should
40 be approved by a majority vote of SA members present at organizational meeting. Additionally,
41 at this meeting the members will affirm the appointments of Parliamentarian and Executive
42 Archivist. The offices of Parliamentarian and Executive Archivist will be appointed by the SA
43 President. Each nominee for the respective offices shall be subject to majority approval of the
44 SA voting members. The newly elected officers will undertake the responsibilities of their
45 position at the start of their term on the SA. Elections for officers shall be by secret ballots. SA



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46 voting members may have one vote for each position to be filled, but may not vote for any one
47 individual twice on any ballot.
48

49 **Article III: OFFICER DUTIES Section 5: Vice President for Public Relations (lines 121-**
50 **139) will be removed and the Vice President of External Affairs will be created:**

51
52 **Section 5: Vice President for Public Relations**

53 ~~The responsibilities of the Vice President for Public Relations are as follows:~~

- 54 ~~1.—Prepare a weekly email to be sent over email to the entire undergraduate student~~
55 ~~body each week with the agenda. (Undergraduates may choose to opt-out of this~~
56 ~~email listserv.) In addition, the Vice President of Public Relations is responsible for~~
57 ~~up to two additional communications with the undergraduate student body per~~
58 ~~month when information must be disseminated in a timely manner.~~
- 59 ~~2.—Consult with the Director of Elections regarding elections’ advertising.~~
- 60 ~~3.—Co-Chair Communications and Outreach Committee. Propose communication~~
61 ~~yearly budget by last meeting in September.~~
- 62 ~~4.—Arrange all advertising, postering, banners, etc.~~

63
64 **Section 5: Vice President of External Affairs**

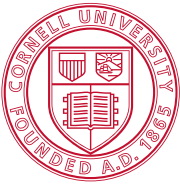
65 The responsibilities of the Vice President of External Affairs are as follows:

- 66 1. Coordinate constituency representatives’ community outreach efforts (including, but not
67 limited to, community forums, meetings with Deans, internal school governments, etc.)
- 68 2. Invite all relevant stakeholders to Student Assembly meetings, when the weekly agenda is
69 released
- 70 3. Devise mechanisms for student organizations to become active members in the decision
71 making process of the SA; most importantly, committees.
- 72 4. Oversee the City and Local Affairs Committee and the Technology Committee by assisting
73 and advising the committee chair and attending meetings as necessary.
- 74 5. Chair the Communications and Outreach Committee
- 75 6. Consult with the Director of Elections regarding elections’ advertising.
- 76 7. Arrange all advertising, postering, banners, social media, etc.
- 77 8. Serve as a liaison to relevant news sources
- 78 9. Serve as editor of SA newsletter to be sent over email to the entire undergraduate student
79 body at least two times/semester. The newsletter should include the current month’s
80 accomplishments and next month’s plans, accompanied by the name of a contact person to
81 whom comments and questions may be addressed. Maintain contact with Student Assembly
82 alumni through distribution of the biannual Student Assembly newsletter to any interested
83 alumni.

84
85
86 **Article III: OFFICER DUTIES Section 6: Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion will**
87 **be amended to read (line 140-158):**

88
89 **Section 6: Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion**

90 The responsibilities of the Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion are as follows:



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- 91 1. Serve as a direct link between the SA and the Office of Academic Diversity Initiatives, as
- 92 well as the Center for Intercultural Dialogue;
- 93 2. Undergo a diversity training session provided by Human Resources and/or OADI;
- 94 3. Prepare training sessions for the SA on addressing issues of diversity along with the Vice
- 95 President of ~~Outreach~~ External Affairs;
- 96 4. Meet at least monthly with the Associate Vice Provost (OADI) and the Associate Dean of
- 97 Students/Director of Intercultural Programs;
- 98 5. Meet on an as-needed basis with other administrators and staff concerning diversity
- 99 initiatives;
- 100 6. Attend the Diversity Community meetings on a semesterly basis;
- 101 7. Maintain communication with the individual diversity councils of the colleges;
- 102 8. Ensure that legislative acts of the SA are culturally inclusive;
- 103 9. Provide updates on the state of diversity at Cornell and work to align the SA with University
- 104 initiatives;
- 105 10. Work with University-sponsored programs such as the Pre-freshmen Summer Program and
- 106 Diversity Hosting Month to introduce new students to the governance system of Cornell.
- 107 11. Chair the Diversity and Inclusion committee in conjunction with the leaders of the two task
- 108 forces.
- 109 12. Coordinate with the Vice President of ~~Outreach~~ External Affairs to effectively communicate
- 110 with groups that advocate for underrepresented students on campus.

111
112 **Article III: OFFICER DUTIES Section 5: Vice President of Outreach (lines 159-168) will**
113 **be removed:**

114
115 **~~Section 7: Vice President of Outreach~~**

116 ~~The responsibilities of the Vice President of Outreach are as follows:~~

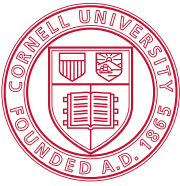
- 117 ~~1. Coordinate constituency representatives' community outreach efforts (including, but not~~
- 118 ~~limited to, community forums, meetings with Deans, internal school governments, etc.)~~
- 119 ~~2. Devise mechanisms for student organizations to become active members in the decision-~~
- 120 ~~making process of the SA; most importantly, committees.~~
- 121 ~~3. Maintain student organization outreach directory.~~
- 122 ~~4. Oversee the City and Local Affairs Committee by assisting and advising the committee chair~~
- 123 ~~and attending meetings as necessary.~~
- 124 ~~5. Co-168 chair the Communications and Outreach Committee.~~

125
126 **Article III: OFFICER DUTIES Section 8: Director of Elections, responsibility 2 (lines**
127 **172-173) will be amended to read:**

- 128 2. Assume responsibility for all aspects of the Fall and Spring elections and coordinate all
- 129 efforts with the Director of the Office of the Assemblies, the VP ~~for Public Relations~~
- 130 External Affairs, and the President.

131
132 **Article III: OFFICER DUTIES Section 8: Director of Elections, responsibility 5 (lines**
133 **189-191) will be amended to read:**

- 134 10. Make sure, in conjunction with the VP ~~for Public Relations~~ External Affairs, that there are a
- 135 substantial number of potential ballot referenda to be considered for approval by the SA,



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136 and that all approved referenda are advertised along with all elections activities described in
137 #5 above (especially c. and e.).
138

139 **Article VI: COMMITTEES Section 2: Review Committees J. City and Local Affairs**
140 **Committee (lines 325-329) will be amended to read:**

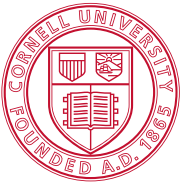
141 **City and Local Affairs Committee** – This committee will advocate on behalf of students’
142 interest at the city and county government levels. In addition to its advocacy work, the
143 committee will organize events that foster a sense of engagement in the Ithaca community for
144 Cornell students. The chair position can be held by any member of the Cornell undergraduate
145 student population and the committee will be under the supervision of the ~~VP of Outreach~~ **Vice**
146 **President of External Affairs**.
147

148 **Article VI: COMMITTEES Section 3: Operational Committees D. Infrastructure Fund**
149 **Commission (lines 358-370) will be amended to read:**

150 **Student Assembly Infrastructure Fund Commission** – The SAIF Commission (SAIFC) of
151 the SA is responsible for evaluating applications for funding through the SAIF. The Commission
152 shall consist of 8 voting members of the SA, to be selected by the Assembly at-large during their
153 organizational meetings, which must include the Vice President for Finance, ~~the Vice President~~
154 ~~of Public Relations~~ **External Affairs** of the Student Assembly and one new student, a chair,
155 which cannot be either the Vice President for Finance or the President of the Assembly, and 7
156 undergraduate at-large voting members to be selected by the Staffing Committee. No SAIFC
157 Commissioners shall serve as voting members of the SAIFC (with the exception of the Vice
158 President for Finance). No more than 2 of the voting Student Assembly members on the SAIFC
159 may also be voting members of the Appropriations Committee and no more than 4 of the total
160 voting members on the committee may be voting members of the Appropriations Committee.
161 Quorum shall be defined as a simple majority of all staffed voting members. Upon request, a
162 written summary of the meeting will be provided by the chair. The Director of the Office of the
163 Assemblies or their designee shall serve as an ex-officio non-voting member.
164

165 **Article VI: COMMITTEES Section 3: Operational Committees E. Communications and**
166 **Outreach Committee (lines 371-381) will be amended to read:**

167 **Communications and Outreach Committee** – The Communications and Outreach
168 Committee helps to bridge the disconnect between campus and the Student Assembly. The
169 Assembly strives to foster collaborative student activities, as well as inform the student body
170 about the Student Assembly initiatives, meetings, and resolutions. The committee will ensure a
171 direct and ever present link between students active in campus government, the administration,
172 and students at-large and will relay student interest to the SA. The committee will assist in
173 furthering the outreach efforts of the assembly by aiding in the coordination of SA sponsored
174 events including, but not limited to conducting polls, referenda, community outreach forums,
175 designated constituency events, and hearings. The committee will also assist in coordinating
176 efforts and devising strategies to involve more non-voting members in the decisions and events
177 of the SA. The Assembly plans recreational events for students. The SA ~~VP Public Relations and~~
178 ~~VP Outreach will serve as the Co-Chairs~~ **Vice President of External Affairs will serve as Chair** of
179 the Committee.
180



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181 **Article VI: COMMITTEES Section 3: Operational Committees F. Technology**
182 **Committee (lines 382-386) will be amended to read:**
183 **Technology Committee** – The Technology Committee will coordinate with Student Assembly
184 representatives to create websites as needed for initiatives that improve campus life and require
185 online platforms, and will work with CIT when possible to update existing websites for the
186 benefit of the Cornell community. The chair or co-chair position can be held by any member of
187 the Cornell undergraduate student population and the committee will be under the supervision
188 of VP of ~~Public Relations~~ External Affairs.
189

190 **Article VI: COMMITTEES Section 3: Operational Committees H. Staffing Committee**
191 **(lines 398-408) will be amended to read:**
192 **Staffing Committee** – The committee shall staff any vacant committee positions the Student
193 Assembly (SA) is empowered to staff during meetings in early fall. The committee shall re-
194 evaluate the committee application outreach plan at the end of every spring term. The committee
195 shall also evaluate SA committees’ end of the year report, and determine if the SA committee
196 and/or their composition need to be changed. The committee shall be charged with creating and
197 enforcing an attendance policy for all committees. The membership of this committee shall
198 include the SA’s President, Executive Vice President, Vice President for Finance, ~~Vice President~~
199 ~~of Public Relations, and Vice President of External Affairs,~~ Vice President of Internal
200 Operations, ~~Vice President of Outreach,~~ Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion, and all SA
201 committee chairs. Ex-officio membership shall be granted to the Director of the Office of
202 Assemblies. The VP Internal of Operations shall serve as chair. The VP of Internal Operations
203 shall be responsible for consulting with chairpersons of committees and recommending
204 candidates for vacant committee positions to the Staffing Committee.
205

206 **Article VI: COMMITTEES Section 4: Diversity A. Diversity and Inclusion Committee**
207 **Subsection d.iii (lines 434-436) will be amended to read:**
208 iii. Student Assembly representation: SA LGBT Liaison at-large, Women’s representative,
209 International representative, both Minority Liaisons, and the Vice President of ~~Outreach~~
210 ~~External Affairs~~ are required to be members of the committee.
211

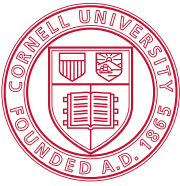
212 **Respectfully Submitted,**

213
214 Matthew Indimine ‘18
215 *Executive Vice President, Student Assembly*

216
217 Edem Dzodzomenyo ‘20
218 *Freshman Representative, Student Assembly*

219
220 Dale Barbaria ‘19
221 *Parliamentarian, Student Assembly*

222
223 *Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 03/27/2017*



Originally Presented on:	03/30/2017
Type of Action:	Investigation
Status/Result:	New Business

1 S.A. Resolution #40

2 A Comprehensive Investigation into Cornell Exam Scheduling

3
4 ABSTRACT: This resolution recommends the formation of an ad-hoc committee of faculty and
5 students, charged with exploring inter-departmental exam-scheduling coordination, increased
6 student consultation, increased faculty communication, a reconsideration of the 24-hour rule for
7 final exams, and general transparency concerning exam scheduling procedures.
8

9
10 **Sponsored by: Justin Selig '17**

11
12 **Whereas**, the process of exam scheduling has varied widely across departments, relying mostly on
13 discussion between faculty, students remain passive stakeholders in arguably the most important
14 component of their academic pursuits;
15

16 **Whereas**, 'exams' shall be herein defined as Tuesday/Thursday registrar-scheduled prelims, registrar-
17 scheduled final exams, and in-class exams occurring at any other times determined by the course
18 instructor;
19

20 **Whereas**, faculty whose exams are not scheduled by the university registrar generally consult directly
21 with their students to schedule alternative exam dates. These unilaterally-determined exam dates
22 are typically decided by majority vote without deference to the registrar;
23

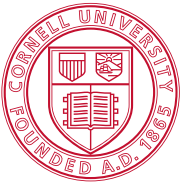
24 **Whereas**, while faculty may try to mitigate exam overlap by considering other courses in that faculty
25 member's major or department, students often take many courses across departments, schools,
26 and colleges of which individual faculty members cannot have extensive knowledge;
27

28 **Whereas**, the faculty handbook currently contains language regulating only exam conflicts during finals
29 weeks - with the current maximum limit of three exams in a 24-hour period:
30

31 "Evening examinations may be given on Tuesday and Thursday evenings after 7:30 p.m. Large
32 courses (over 30 [students]) may schedule evening exams only with prior permission from the
33 Office of the University Faculty. No permission is required for examinations or make- up
34 examinations involving small numbers of students (under 30 [students]) if given on Tuesday and
35 Thursday" (Faculty Handbook, pg. 77);
36

37 **Whereas**, it is possible for students to have more than three final exams in a 48-hour, two-day period,
38 thereby negating the efficacy of the current 24-hour rule for final exams. For example:
39

40 Exam 1: 9am, Day 1
41 Exam 2: 12pm, Day 1
42 Exam 3: 12pm, Day 2
43 Exam 4: 7pm, Day 2;
44



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45 **Whereas**, as a result of disjoint exam-scheduling methods, students are limited in their course choices as
46 they are discouraged from taking classes with conflicting exam times. These times are typically
47 released on syllabi in the first few days of a course;

48
49 **Whereas**, students following similar course tracks who experience clustered exam schedules should be
50 easily identified by their respective departments;

51
52 **Whereas**, prelim exam scheduling is handled by the registrar for T/TH exams based mostly on room-
53 availability, however, there is no explicit policy for rescheduling MWF exams or in-class exams;

54
55 **Whereas**, the Academic Policy Committee performed an initial investigation into inter-departmental
56 procedures for exam scheduling, (including CHEM, ECE, CS, ILR, ECON, PSYCH, HDD,
57 MATH, PAM) and received responses by department chairs validating mixed procedures and
58 minimizing the negative mental health effects of exam-taking in favor of current procedures;

59
60 **Whereas**, exams are arguably the broadest and most universal university-imposed source of mental
61 stress;

62
63 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Student Assembly recommends the Faculty Senate form a committee
64 with members of the faculty and undergraduate student body to investigate possible solutions to
65 the problems tied to exam-scheduling outlined above;

66
67 **Be it further resolved**, that the proposed committee look into extending the 24-hour rule to a longer 30
68 or 36-hour rule that prevents the possibility of a student having more than three exams in a two-
69 day, 48-hour period;

70
71 **Be it further resolved**, the Academic Policy Committee recommends other potential topics to be
72 investigated, including:

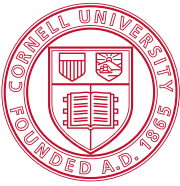
- 73
- 74 • Scheduling of exams during religious holidays.
 - 75 • Exam conflicts with other forms of evaluation including group projects, essays, and labs;

76
77 **Be it further resolved**, that the Student Assembly recommends the proposed committee look into the
78 feasibility of the following solutions:

- 79
- 80 • Including language in the faculty handbook to suggest consulting students to set exam
81 dates.
 - 82 • Consulting the EPC on ideas for conflict mitigation;

83
84 **Be it further resolved**, that solutions determined feasible by this committee be considered for
85 implementation across all undergraduate university departments;

86
87
88 **Be it finally resolved**, that this resolution be forwarded to the Dean of Faculty, the Dean of Students,
89 and the Educational Policy Committee of the Faculty Senate;



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90
91 **Respectfully Submitted,**
92
93 Justin Selig '17
94 *College of Engineering Representative, Student Assembly*
95
96 Samir Durvasula '17
97 *Member, Student Assembly Academic Policy Committee*
98
99 *With Support from:*
100
101 Noah Chovanec '18
102 Alexis Pollitto '18
103 Shreya Mantrala '18
104 Caleb Sturman '19
105 Christine Amenechi '19
106 *Members, Student Assembly Academic Policy Committee*
107
108 Dale Barbaria '19
109 *Chair, Student Assembly Academic Policy Committee*
110
111 Gabe Kaufman '18
112 *Former Chair, Student Assembly Academic Policy Committee*
113
114 *Reviewed by: Academic Policy Committee, 15-0-1, 03/27/2017*