



Cornell University Student Assembly

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

S.A. Resolution #12

Empowering All Students in the Restructuring of Student Assembly

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

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7 Sponsored by: Paola Muñoz '17, Nicholas Karavolias '18
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9 **Whereas**, the Student Assembly does not represent all students. This was affirmed by the 2015-2016
10 Student Assembly in their discussions surrounding the creation of the First Generation Student
11 Representative. This resolution was adopted unanimously by the previous assembly;
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13 **Whereas**, there are significant barriers for students to gaining membership on the Student Assembly and
14 these barriers need to be removed. Some of these barriers include elitist language, access to
15 accommodation, and more;
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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;
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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;
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24 **Whereas**, all students are stakeholders in the representative structure of the Student Assembly;
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26 **Be it therefore resolved**, this resolution empowers and encourages each and every member of the
27 Student Assembly to convene open working groups to discuss restructuring the Student Assembly;
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29 **Be it further resolved**, the Student Assembly empowers and encourages all undergraduate students to
30 participate in the restructuring process and to conduct discussions and convene working groups on the
31 restructuring of the Student Assembly;
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33 **Be it further resolved**, that all undergraduate students may send recommendations to
34 studentassembly@cornell.edu by October 31st at noon. All proposals shall be made publically available
35 and shared with the undergraduate student body by **November 1st at noon**. Additionally, a form shall be
36 made available for all students to provide comments electronically if they are unable to attend the forum;
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38 **Be it further resolved**, that all ideas and proposals be discussed at an open forum held on **Wednesday**
39 **November 2nd from 5:30-7:30pm**. The Student Assembly President shall moderate the forum and shall
40 prioritize non-Student Assembly members on the speakers list. At the end of the forum, all participants
41 shall be given a voice and a vote in what the next step forward is. Additionally, notes from the forum
42 shall be made publically available to all members of the student body;
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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;

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

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

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57 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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

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

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