

Cornell University University Assembly

UA Resolution #13:

Amending the University Assembly Bylaws to allow for the Continuation of Ad Hoc Committees and Subcommittees

[March 2nd, 2021]

1 **Sponsored by: Bennett Sherr, Undergraduate Representative, Chair of the Campus Welfare**
2 **Committee; Jacob Feit, Undergraduate Representative, Chair of the Campus Infrastructure**
3 **Committee**

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5 **Abstract:** This resolution amends the bylaws of the University Assembly to replace language that
6 requires the dissolution of ad hoc committees and subcommittees at the end of a University
7 Assembly term to allow for the indefinite tenure of such committees.

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9 **Whereas,** the Section 3.1 of the University Assembly Bylaws reads, “The Assembly, the Executive
10 Board, and the Assembly’s standing committees may establish such ad hoc committees or
11 subcommittees as are necessary for the proper performance of their function,” and;

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13 **Whereas,** Section 3.1.1.B. reads, “No ad hoc committee may have fewer than three voting
14 members. Each ad hoc committee must disband at the end of a session of the Assembly,” and;

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16 **Whereas,** the mechanisms necessary to ensure proper performance of the University Assembly,
17 Executive Board, and the standing committees may not change across terms of the University
18 Assembly, and;

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20 **Whereas,** requiring the University Assembly, Executive Board, and standing committees to recreate
21 subcommittees and ad hoc committees at the start of every University Assembly term is both time
22 consuming and unnecessary, and;

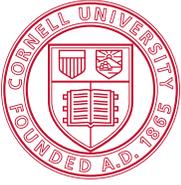
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24 **Whereas,** allowing ad hoc and subcommittees to continue through the end of cycles helps
25 contribute to an easier transition of leadership from chair to another, and;

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27 **Whereas,** forcing the University Assembly, the Executive Board, and the standing committees to
28 disband their ad hoc committees and subcommittees at the end of every year may force such
29 committees into hasty decisions that could be potentially detrimental to the Cornell community.

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31 **Be it therefore resolved,** the University Assembly will amend “Subsection 3.1.1: Composition and
32 Terms,” starting with line 91, to read:

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34 “B. No ad hoc committee or subcommittee may have fewer than three voting members. The ad hoc
35 committee or subcommittees may remain active up until a specified date, indefinitely, or until the
36 purpose of the committee has been achieved, as decided by the appointing body thereof.

37 C. Changes in membership of an ad hoc committee or subcommittee must be reported to the Vice
38 Chair of Operations before the ad hoc committee or subcommittee can continue its regular duties
39 even in cases of normal yearly changes in membership.



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- 40 D. Unless otherwise specified or altered by the appointing body, an ad hoc committee or
41 subcommittee is assumed to dissolve at the end of the present term of the University Assembly,
42 such dissolution may be altered at any time by a simple majority vote of the appointing body.”