

Cornell University

University Assembly

University Assembly Meeting Agenda

April 23, 2024

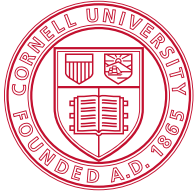
4:45-6:15pm

401 Physical Sciences Building | [Zoom](#)

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Roll Call
 - b. Land Acknowledgment of the Gayogoho:nq̓ (Cayuga Nation)
 - c. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda
- II. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. Minutes from the April 9, 2024 Meeting
- III. Open Forum
 - a. Student Assembly Referendums
- IV. Open Forum
- V. Business of the Day
 - a. Vote on [UA Resolution 3: Enhancing Constituency Representation in Policy-Making](#)
 - b. Vote on [UA Resolution 4: Interim Expressive Activity Policy](#)
- VI. Assembly Reports
 - a. Student Assembly
 - b. Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
 - c. Employee Assembly
 - d. Faculty Senate
- VII. Committee Reports
 - a. Executive Committee
 - b. Campus Codes Committee
 - c. Campus Welfare Committee
 - d. Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology, and the Environment

VIII. Adjournment

If you are in need of special accommodations, contact the Office of the Assemblies at assembly@cornell.edu or Student Disability Services at (607) 254-4545 prior to the meeting.



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University Assembly

**U.A. Resolution # 3 Enhancing Constituency
Representation in Policy Making**

**University Policy 4.1 – Formulation and Issuance of
Policies**

[April 9, 2024]

1 **Sponsored by:** [S. Williams, SA, UA Chair; A. Broad, GPSA, UA Vice Chair of
2 **Operations; E. Crawley, EA, Executive Vice Chair; B. Milles, Faculty Senate, UA Ranking**
3 **Member]**
4

5 **Whereas**, the University Assembly (UA) represents a critical component of Cornell University's
6 governance structure, embodying the diverse perspectives of its constituencies;
7

8 **Whereas**, the Formulation and Issuance of University Policies (Policy 4.1) outlines a comprehensive
9 procedure for developing, reviewing, and approving university policies, yet does not explicitly
10 include UA or constituency representation in the policy-making process;
11

12 **Whereas**, the absence of UA representation in policy-making committees has led to policies that may
13 not fully consider the insights, needs, and concerns of all university constituencies, thus
14 impacting community trust and policy efficacy;
15

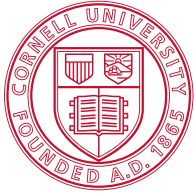
16 **Whereas**, the engagement of UA leadership and constituency presidents or chairs in the policy
17 development process can significantly contribute to creating policies that are inclusive, well-
18 informed, and reflective of the university community's values and needs.
19

20 **Be it therefore resolved,**
21

22 The University Policy Office (UPO), responsible executives, and policy development committees shall
23 engage in deep consultation with UA leadership at the onset of the policy development process. This
24 engagement shall include discussions on policy scope, impact, and considerations specific to various
25 constituencies;
26

27 In addition to deep consultations with UA leadership, brief consultations shall be conducted with all
28 constituency presidents and chairs to gather a broad spectrum of insights and recommendations on pending
29 policies. This step ensures that diverse perspectives are considered, enhancing the policy's relevance and
30 acceptance across the university;
31

32 To institutionalize the representation of different university constituencies in the policy-making process,
33 each policy development committee shall include at least one constituency-elected trustee. Trustees have



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34 been elected by their respective constituencies for the specific purpose of representing their interests and
35 should be included in policy development committees;

36
37 The University Assembly Chair should be briefed at least one time per semester on significant policy and
38 procedural changes that will impact the University community;

39
40 The overarching goal of this resolution is to foster a healthier, more inclusive community by ensuring that
41 UA involvement is integral to the policy development process. Recognizing the significant role that UA
42 and its constituencies play in the university ecosystem, their active involvement is essential to crafting
43 policies that are equitable, effective, and reflective of our collective values and goals.

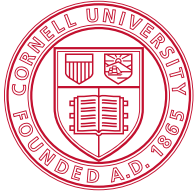
44
45 **Resolved,**

46
47 The University Policy Office (UPO), in collaboration with the UA, shall develop and implement
48 mechanisms to ensure the effective integration of this resolution's provisions into the policy development
49 process;

50
51 An annual review shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of UA and constituency involvement in
52 policymaking and to make adjustments as necessary to improve collaboration and policy outcomes.

53
54 **Be it finally resolved,** this resolution shall be communicated to all relevant parties within the
55 university, including policy development committees, the University Policy Office, and the
56 university community at large, to ensure widespread awareness and compliance.

No signature block is present until the resolution has been disposed of by the Assembly (Passed, Failed, Withdrawn, etc.) Then a block with the certifying member (customarily Chair/Vice-Chair) verifying the authenticity and vote tally of the resolution.



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U.A. Resolution # 4 Interim Expressive Activity Policy

[April 9, 2024]

1 **Sponsored by:** [S. Williams, SA, UA Chair; A. Broad, GPSA, UA Vice Chair of
2 **Operations; E. Crawley, EA, Executive Vice Chair; B. Milles, Faculty Senate, UA Ranking**
3 **Member]**
4

5 **Whereas**, the Cornell University community values free and open inquiry and expression as
6 foundational principles, as stated in the Interim Expressive Activity Policy and the Cornell Policy
7 Statement on Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech and Expression;
8

9 **Whereas**, the process by which the Interim Expressive Activity Policy (Policy Number 4.23) was
10 developed and revised on March 11, 2024, has raised significant concerns among the Cornell
11 University Assembly (UA) and its constituents regarding the inclusiveness, transparency, and
12 consideration of the diverse voices within our community;
13

14 **Whereas**, there exists a palpable sense of vulnerability and anxiety among students, faculty, and staff
15 concerning the potential punitive nature of the policy towards various constituencies, including
16 undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty members, and employees, thus necessitating
17 clear communication and understanding of the policy's implications;
18

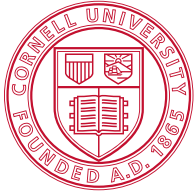
19 **Whereas**, concerns have been expressed about the policy's restrictions on the use of amplified sound,
20 which may hinder the ability of community members to effectively engage in expressive
21 activities;
22

23 **Whereas**, the UA recognizes the need for the university to establish reasonable time, place, and manner
24 guidelines for protests to ensure the safety and well-being of all community members while
25 upholding the rights to free expression;
26

27 **Whereas**, the UA appreciates the clarifying remarks issued by the administration on March 11, 2024,
28 aiming to address some of the concerns raised by the community members;
29

30 **Whereas**, despite these efforts, the current form of the Interim Expressive Activity Policy leaves many
31 Cornellians feeling vulnerable to disproportionate disciplinary actions and fearful of administrative
32 retaliation for voicing their opinions, thereby chilling the very essence of free expression the policy
33 seeks to protect.
34

35 **Be it therefore resolved** that the University Assembly urges the Cornell University administration to:
36



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37 Acknowledge that the process by which the Interim Expressive Activity Policy was created and amended
38 was flawed, lacking in comprehensive community engagement and transparency, thereby necessitating a
39 restart of the policy-making process from square one;

40
41 Ensure the new policy development process is inclusive, transparent, and genuinely considers the
42 opinions and concerns of each constituency through rigorous recourse with a shared governance model;

43
44 Address the uncertainty surrounding the punitive nature of the policy to dispel fears and clarify the scope
45 of disciplinary actions for all constituencies involved;

46
47 Reexamine the restrictions on the use of amplified sound to facilitate a more vibrant and dynamic forum
48 for expressive activities, consistent with the university's commitment to free expression;

49
50 Continue to communicate with the university community, providing clarifying remarks and updates to
51 ensure the evolving policy reflects the community's needs and values;

52
53 Recognize that these critiques represent a non-exhaustive list of the concerns shared by UA-elected
54 leaders and our constituencies over the course of the Spring 2024 semester;

55
56 We encourage administrators to consider the following feedback that we have compiled this semester as
57 they continue in this policy development process.

58
59 **Be it finally resolved** that this resolution be communicated to the Cornell University administration, all
60 constituencies, and the wider university community to foster an environment of collaboration,
61 understanding, and mutual respect in the collective pursuit of refining the Interim Expressive
62 Activity Policy.

No signature block is present until the resolution has been disposed of by the Assembly (Passed, Failed, Withdrawn, etc.) Then a block with the certifying member (customarily Chair/Vice-Chair) verifying the authenticity and vote tally of the resolution.