

Cornell University
University Assembly

U.A. Resolution # 25 Addendum

**Strengthening Reporting Requirements of University
Assembly Standing Committees**

May 11th, 2021

Sponsored by: David Dunham, President, Graduate & Professional Student Assembly

Whereas, standing committee chairpersons have the authority to conduct business on behalf of the University Assembly, including making official statements on behalf of the assembly and the committee; and

Whereas, while the chairperson has the authority to set the committee's agenda, the assembly has the authority to exercise full oversight over the committee's actions; and

Whereas, without the assembly oversight, the chairperson has the power, but not the right, to take actions contrary to the will of the assembly and the committee's members; and

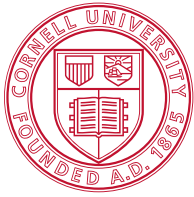
Whereas, the University Assembly has regularly allocated time in its agenda for oral updates from committee chairpersons, whereupon the assembly can examine the committee's agenda and exercise its oversight powers; and

Whereas, the parliamentary authority states that "[a]ll committee reports should be submitted in writing" [RONR 51:23] and that "[i]f a written committee report is of considerable importance, it should be signed by all the members concurring. Otherwise, the committee can authorize its chairman to sign the report alone, in which case he adds the word *Chairman* after his signature. By so doing, the committee chairman certifies that the report has been adopted by the committee..." [RONR 51:27]; and

Whereas, the lack of a *written* report enables the chairperson to exercise powers without the consent of the committee; and the assembly would lack the written documentation as evidence of the chairperson's compliance with the assembly's directions;

Be it therefore resolved, that the University Assembly Bylaws is amended to add the following §3.2.1(G) after line 111 ("Each standing committee must..."):

G. submit written committee reports for inclusion on the agenda at each regular assembly meeting.



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Be it further resolved, that the University Assembly Bylaws is amended to add the following §3.3.1(C) after line 145 (“Mandatory Procedures”):

- C. issue written reports at each regular meeting of the University Assembly, which must include all relevant documentation pertaining to official actions of the committee, including:
- 1) the minutes of committee meetings,
 - 2) written correspondence of members acting in their capacity as representatives of the committee,
 - 3) reports issued by the committee to any external entity, and
 - 4) reports received by the committee from any external entity.

Passed by the University Assembly in conjunction with Resolution 25 with 14-0-1 {V. Aymer – yes; H. Depew – yes; N. Danev – yes; D. Dunham – yes; J. Feit – yes; B. Fortenberry – yes; T. Fox – yes; D. Hiner – yes; C. Levine – yes; J. Pea – yes; L. Smith – yes; C. Van Loan – yes; P. Thompson – abstain; J. Withers – yes; L. Kenney – yes.}