

Cornell University
University Assembly

**U.A. Resolution 2: Enhancing Constituency
Representation in Policy Making**

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

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;
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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;
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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;
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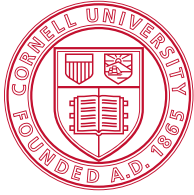
16 **Whereas**, the engagement of UA leadership and constituency presidents or chairs in the policy
17 development process can significantly contribute to creating policies that are inclusive, well-
18 informed, and reflective of the university community's values and needs.
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20 **Be it therefore resolved,**
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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;
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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;
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32 To institutionalize the representation of different university constituencies in the policy-making process,
33 each policy development committee shall include at least one University Assembly elected representative,



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34 who will report back to the University Assembly in a manner consistent with the requirements of the
35 University Policy Office committee guidelines;

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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;

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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,**

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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;

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51 An annual assessment shall be conducted by the University Assembly, in coordination with the University
52 Policy Office and the Ombuds Office, to assess the effectiveness of UA and constituency involvement in
53 policymaking and to make adjustments as necessary to improve collaboration and policy outcomes, by
54 January 30 of each University Assembly term;

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

Passed by the Assembly 11-0-1

April 23, 2024

Shelby Williams, *Chair of the University Assembly*