

U.A. Resolution 3: Interim Expressive Activity Policy

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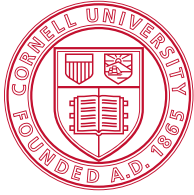
23 **Whereas**, the UA recognizes the need for the university to establish reasonable time, place, and manner
24 guidelines for protests to ensure the safety and well-being of all community members while
25 upholding the rights to free expression;
26

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:
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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;



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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 clarify the scope of disciplinary
45 actions for all constituencies involved, and to encourage grace and leniency towards anyone found in
46 violation of the Interim Expressive Activity Policy:
47
48 Reexamine the restrictions on the use of amplified sound to facilitate a more vibrant and dynamic forum
49 for expressive activities, consistent with the university's commitment to free expression;
50
51 Continue to communicate with the university community, providing clarifying remarks and updates to
52 ensure the evolving policy reflects the community's needs and values;
53
54 Recognize that these critiques represent a non-exhaustive list of the concerns shared by UA-elected
55 leaders and our constituencies over the course of the Spring 2024 semester;
56
57 We encourage administrators to consider the following feedback that we have compiled this semester as
58 they continue in this policy development process.
59
60 **Be it finally resolved** that this resolution be communicated to the Cornell University administration, all
61 constituencies, and the wider university community to foster an environment of collaboration,
62 understanding, and mutual respect in the collective pursuit of refining the Interim Expressive
63 Activity Policy.

Passed by the Assembly 7-1-2
April 23, 2024
Shelby Williams, *Chair of the University Assembly*