What are the Assemblies?!

The assemblies are a part of shared governance at Cornell.

- The faculty have a senate, and the staff and students have assemblies.
- Like legislative bodies in our government, the assemblies are elected, representative, constituent bodies, with some amount of delegated authority to affect, direct or recommend policies to the highest levels of, in our case, the university.
The three basic functions for which shared campus governance was established and still continue to serve today are:

1. **Participation in University decision-making** by students, faculty, and staff in areas of direct and joint concern to them;

2. **A forum for discussion** of campus issues;

3. **Supervision of the campus judicial system**.
The Cornell Community

**Employee Assembly**
- 28 Staff Members

**Grad & Professional Student Assembly**
- 18 Graduate & Prof Student Members

**Student Assembly**
- 24 Undergraduate Student Members

**Faculty Senate**
- 108 Faculty Senators

**University Assembly**
- 5 staff, 5 grad/professional students, 5 undergraduates, 5 faculty

Constituents:
- 8,658
- 7,543
- 14,927
- 1,648
- 32,776
The Assemblies, like the Faculty Senate, receive their authorities from the Board of Trustees.

The authority includes recommending changes to university policies that affect constituents, *subject to approval by the President*, who reviews and responds to resolutions (legislation) passed by the assemblies.
Administrative Structure
The Assemblies fall under the division of University Relations because of its function to communicate with internal stakeholders — between the campus communities and the administration. In times of campus unrest or crises, the Assemblies often serve as an outlet for the tensions, and a direct channel to the administration for voicing dissent.
Cornell’s current (modern) shared governance bodies are an outgrowth of the unrest on campus in 1969, which culminated in a mass meeting of over 7,000 people camped in Barton Hall for three days discussing conditions on campus.

Outcomes of this event were:
- The Assemblies
- The University Ombudsman
- The Campus Code of Conduct
History of Shared Governance

Willard Straight Hall Takeover, Assembly at Barton Hall-1969
Current issues being taken up by the assemblies include:

- Hate Speech
- Campus Referendum for a Smoke-Free Campus
- DACA and support for undocumented students, faculty and staff
- Campus Code of Conduct*

**Campus Code of Conduct**

While the Board of Trustees is vested with ultimate control over the University, and retains responsibility for all aspects of University governance, the Board has delegated authority for changes to the Campus Code of Conduct to the University Assembly, subject to the approval of the President.
The Assemblies in Action

University Assembly Tables Tobacco-Free Campus Referendum Proposal

April 18, 2017

University Assembly Members Mull Hate Speech Ban Following Racially Charged Incidents

October 5, 2016

Employee Assembly Seeks to Sustain Emergency Care Fund

March 1, 2017

University Assembly Votes to Improve Web Accessibility

April 1, 2017
The Office of the Assemblies provides support to the assemblies, their committees; supports all campus elections; maintains the public record; exchequer of the processes; elevates, promotes and encourages participation in shared governance; and makes lots of placards!

- We manage lots of data, datasets (we work closely with the Registrar and HRIS to have current, correct data sets for all 32,766 constituents, for mailings and elections!).

- And we launched a new website in 2017!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>32,766</td>
<td>Constituents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>914</td>
<td>Roles in the Assemblies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>775</td>
<td>Committee Members</td>
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<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>Committees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Assemblies</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
We built the new website to be intuitive, informative, engaging and functional... with tools for the members of the assemblies and their committees, but also engaging to those just trying to find a way to participate.
We invite you to take some time to:

- engage with your representative on an Assembly
- raise an issue you have on your mind
- attend a meeting of any of the assemblies (they are all open)
- stop by the office for a visit, a cup of coffee, or to search through the archives
- poke around on the website
- let us know if you’d like to participate and just aren’t quite sure how

Thank you!
Get Involved!

Questions?

Thank You!