



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented On	03/05/2020
Type of Action	Legislation
Status/Result	New Business

1 S.A. Resolution #49
2 Amendment To S.A. Resolution 7 (Establishing the Office of the Student Advocate
3 Bylaws): Creation of the Director of International Student Affairs

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5 ABSTRACT: This resolution is intended to create the Director of International Student Affairs
6 under the Office of the Student Advocate

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8 **Sponsored by: Uche Chukwukere '21, Masa Haddad '21, Liel Sterling '21**

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10 **Whereas**, As of the reporting year, 2018-2019, it has been reported that approximately 10.9%¹
11 of the undergraduate student population on Cornell's campus are classified as International
12 Students

13 **Whereas**, International Students are part of what provides the institution is uniqueness and
14 come from varying intersectional backgrounds and lenses

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16 **Whereas**, International students are not immune to the hardships that Cornell imposes and are
17 more so affected by virtue of being international students

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19 **Be it therefore resolved**, In order to continue combatting the issues that international students
20 face, the position of Director of International Student Affairs should be created under the Office
21 of the Student Advocate and the position be filled by appointment

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23 **Be it finally resolved**, The following amendments be made to Resolution 7: Establishing the
24 Office of The Student Advocate Bylaws

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26 **Whereas**, Cornell's Office of the Student Advocate (OSA) would be an executive, non-partisan
27 office created and legitimized by the Cornell Student Assembly.

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29 **Whereas**, the Office of the Student Advocate has been created to offer help to any student or
30 group trying to navigate Cornell's bureaucracy when their rights given by federal, state, and
31 local laws or University policy have been violated;

32
33 **Whereas**, the OSA would be made up of undergraduate students acting as caseworkers in
34 different fields to navigate issues including conduct violations, grade disputes, enrollment
35 issues, financial aid problems, residency concerns, discrimination and harassment;

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37 **Whereas**, when issues arise pertaining to areas of expertise already handled by other Cornell
38 offices, the OSA will refer students to those offices as a first point of contact. All assistance
39 would be free and confidential;

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41 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Student Assembly approve and adopt the attached Bylaws
42 amendments:

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47 OFFICE OF THE STUDENT ADVOCATE

48 Article 1. Roles and Responsibilities

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50 Section 1: Student Advocate

51 The responsibilities of the Student Advocate are as follows:

- 52 1. Attend and chair all office meetings
- 53 2. Correspond with the Student Assembly to affect office priorities
- 54 3. Create training programs for caseworkers and staff
- 55 4. Monitor the collection of data in the office
- 56 5. Develop relationships with University offices and coordinate informational materials

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59 Section 2: Chief of Staff

60 The responsibilities of the Chief of Staff are as follows:

- 61 1. Supervise office staff and ensure cohesion
- 62 2. Ensure that all cases are met with an appropriate and timely response
- 63 3. Create training programs for caseworkers and staff
- 64 4. Develop relationships with University offices and coordinate informational materials
- 65 5. Write and present an office report at the end of each semester

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67 Section 3: Director for Student and Campus Life

68 The responsibilities of the Director for Student and Campus Life are as follows:

- 69 1. Oversee caseworkers handling student issues pertaining to residency, discrimination,
70 harassment and student-related conduct violations.
- 71 2. Create informational materials relating to these issues.

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73 Section 4: Director for Academic Affairs

74 The responsibilities of the Director for Academic Affairs are as follows:

- 75 1. Oversee caseworkers handling student issues pertaining to professor-related conduct
76 violations, grade and enrollment disputes.
- 77 2. Create informational materials relating to these issues.

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79 Section 5: Director for Student Finance

80 The responsibilities of the Director for Student Finance are as follows:

- 81 1. Oversee caseworkers handling student issues pertaining to financial aid disputes and
82 student-employment.
83 2. Create informational materials relating to these issues.

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85 Section 6: Caseworkers

86 The responsibilities of Caseworkers shall be as follows:

- 87 1. Follow the supervision of their Director
88 2. Participate in the office's training process
89 3. Respond to questions and inquiries sent via email by students or in person in a timely
90 manner
91 4. Refer students to the appropriate office within the University to handle their complaint.

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93 Section 7: Director of International Student Affairs

94 The responsibilities of the Director of International Student Affairs

- 95 1. Oversee caseworkers handling student issues pertaining to international students affairs
96 2. Create informational materials relating to these issues.

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98 Article 2: Recruitment of Office of the Student Advocate Members

99 Section 1: The outgoing Office of the Student Advocate shall nominate a new Student Advocate
100 as well as staff-members each year, to be discussed and approved by the Student Assembly
101 before the end of the academic year. The first student advocate shall be appointed by the SA
102 President and confirmed by the Student Assembly and begin staffing the remainder of the office
103 to be confirmed again by the Student Assembly.

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105 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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107 Uche Chukwukere '21

108 *Undesignated Representative At Large, Student Assembly*

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110 Masa Haddad '21

111 *College of Human Ecology Representative*

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113 Liel Sterling '21

114 *Student Advocate, Office of the Student Advocate*

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116 *(Reviewed by: Discharge Petition)*

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