S.A. Resolution #57
Election Cancellation and Fall Election Restructuring

ABSTRACT: A resolution in response to the University mandate concerning COVID-9 as it relates to Student Assembly elections: restructuring the elections process and cancellation.

Sponsored by: Elections Committee & Executive Committee

Whereas, on March 10th, 2020, President Martha E. Pollack announced the University mandate for students to stay home after Spring Break in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic (as classified by World Health Organization [WHO]);

Whereas, candidates have signed onto a letter, suspending campaigns in light of the administration’s mandate citing, “Any student who has chosen to run for any student assembly position should be well aware of the fact that we, as candidates, are choosing to serve the student body. Serving the student body, in this instance, means using our platforms to spread resources about how to help each other. Any candidate who chooses to continue campaigning is doing a disservice to the students that they are supposed to represent.”

Whereas, in response to this letter, the Elections Committee voted in a 6-0-3 decision to adopt the following rules and regulations for the Fall election;

Whereas, in response to this letter, the Executive Committee, including the current: President, Executive Vice President, Vice President of Finance, Vice President of External Affairs, Vice President of Internal Affairs, Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion, and Vice President of Research and Accountability—voted in a unanimous decision to unequivocally support the Elections Committee in its decision;

Therefore be it resolved, the Elections Committee in conjunction with the Student Assembly formally cancel the Spring 2020 elections, to be suspended and postponed until the Fall 2020 semester;

Be it further resolved, the SA will keep its Executive Committee as the interim body charged with authority to engage with the university administration during these unprecedented times, and for the period of June 1, 2020 until the next Student Assembly elections take place and their respective successors are seated;

Be it further resolved, the Student Assembly Bylaws be amended as follows:

2.3 “Officers shall serve for a term of one year or until their successor is elected and is administered the oath of office. Following the next regular or special Student Assembly elections.”

Be it further resolved, this Bylaw amendment is temporary, and meant to ensure continued representation of the undergraduate student body with the university administration during the period of time affected by the university’s response to the COVID-19.

1 https://statements.cornell.edu/2020/20200310-coronavirus-update.cfm
Be it further resolved, the following measures will be incorporated into the Interim Election Rules leading up to the elections in the Fall of 2020.

The below portion of this resolution will act as the election rules, regulations, and instructions come the Fall 2020 semester and written/innumerated powers:

Article I: Director of Elections and Elections Committee

Section I: Collectively, the Student Assembly will nominate and appoint a Director of Elections by the end of the academic year 2019-20;

Section II: The Director of Elections will select Election Committee Members;

Sub-Section I: The selection of the Elections Committee and powers withheld in the Charter, Bylaws, Election Rules, and will be maintained as it is written;

Section III: The Election Committee will create and publish a tentative elections schedule for the Fall 2020 semester before the end of the 2019-20 academic year;

Section IV: The Elections Committee will provisionally parse the Elections Rules as it relates to dates and timing to ensure a timely, efficient, and stable election;

Article II: Current Candidates

Section I: In terms of those who are current candidates in competitive candidates who have collected signatures—have been validated by the Office of the Assemblies—attended Student Assembly meetings—and began campaigning races—

Including and limited to:

- Candidates for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences seats
- Candidates for the Dyson School of Business seat
- Candidates for the College of Engineering seats
- Candidates for the School of Hotel Administration seat
- Candidates for the School of Industrial and Labor Relations seat
- Candidates for the Undesignated Representative At-Large seats
- Candidates for the First Generation Students Liaison At-Large seat
- Candidates for the International Students Liaison At-Large seat
- Candidates for the Womxn’s Issues Liaison At-Large seat
- College of Arts and Sciences seats
- College of Architecture, Art & Planning seat
- Candidates for the College of Human Ecology seat
- Candidates for the LGBTQIA+ Liaison At-Large seat
- Candidates for the Minority Students Liaison At-Large seats
- Candidates for Undergraduate Representative to the University Assembly
- Candidates for President
- Candidates for Executive Vice President

Will be able to recommence their campaigns, personal and/or organizations.
Article III: Student Assembly Powers

Section I: This body will have NO legislative power, cannot pass resolutions, public statements, hold hearings, perform internal elections, convene/congregate in any fashion, or other actions that are deemed unfitting.

Section II: If the body as a whole or individual members are found in violation of the above, Article II, Section I the Director of Elections will have the power to remove members by a majority vote of the Elections Committee.

Article IV: Concurrent Elections

Section I: For the vacant seats of (1) Minority Students Liaison At-Large seat; and (1) Candidates for Undergraduate Representative to the University Assembly—elections will run concurrent with the Fall elections, in which the petition period will open up along with the mandated Fall elections with Freshman Representatives and the Transfer Representative.

Article V: Referendum

Section I: No referenda items will be allowed onto the Fall 2020 semester ballot;

Article VI: Campaigning

Section I: Effective immediately, after the passage of this resolution, all campaigning must cease—with the exception of a message of gratitude to supporters, and a notification of suspending campaigns;

Section II: Any campaigning after the day of May 24th (until in accordance with the new Elections calander) will result in being disqualified by the Elections Committee;

Article VII: After the Fact

Section I: Immediately following the close of elections in the Fall 2020 semester, this document will no longer have citation power or purpose. Instead, any and all further election and legislative matters will be deferred back onto the the Cornell Student Assembly Charter, Bylaws, Standing Rules, and Election Rules;

Article VIII: Amendments

Section I: These Emergency Election Rules and Regulations will be closed to amendments, unless by unanimous approval by the Elections Committee.

Be it finally resolved, The Cornell Student Assembly will release a public statement regarding the cancelation of elections and the new restructuring of the Fall 2020 elections.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Elections Committee

The Executive Committee

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