

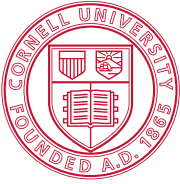
## Cornell University Student Assembly

### **Cornell University Student Assembly**

Agenda of the Thursday, October 26, 2017 Meeting  
4:45pm-6:30pm in Willard Straight Hall: Memorial Room

- I. Call to Order & Roll Call**
- II. Open Microphone**
- III. Announcements & Reports**
  - a. Rep Ball – Tri-Council Diversity & Inclusion Plan Update
- IV. Byline Reports**
  - a. Class Councils
  - b. Welcome Weekend Committee
  - c. Orientation Steering Committee
  - d. International Students Union
  - e. Multicultural Greek Letter Council
  - f. Slope Media
- V. New Business**
  - a. Resolution 14: Increasing the Transparency of WCM-Q
  - b. Resolution 15: Allowing International Students Financial Aid for Extenuating Circumstances
  - c. Resolution 16: Median Grade Reporting
- VI. Adjournment**
- VII. Executive Session**





**Cornell University**  
**Student Assembly**

Originally Presented on:	10/24/2017
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #14  
Increasing the Transparency of WCM-Q

ABSTRACT: This resolution respectfully requests the release of the charter between Cornell University and the Qatar Foundation.

**Sponsored by: Jesse Pollard '18**

**Whereas**, laborers and foreign national employees continue to face harsh, exploitative working conditions and inadequate protections under Qatari law, as described in International Trade Union Confederation March 2014 report "The Case Against Qatar,"

**Whereas**, these abuses continue systemically despite Qatar's policy change late December 2016 to ban sponsorship practices, as described by BBC News and Amnesty International;

**Whereas**, these labor abuses, and recent allegations of research misconduct, have been connected to Education City, which Cornell is directly affiliated with, disappointing the Cornell student body;

**Whereas**, there is an astounding lack of transparency regarding the internal affairs and functions of the Education City university extensions, as all but one of the Universities have not made public their charters with the Qatar Foundation;

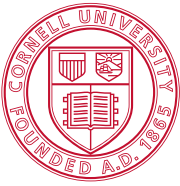
**Be it therefore resolved**, that the original charter between Cornell University and the Qatar Foundation be made public for increased transparency.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Jesse Pollard '18  
*CALS Representative, Student Assembly*

Zachary Aleksandur de Stefan '18  
*Co-Facilitator, Amnesty International at Cornell*

*Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 4-0-0, 10/22/2017*



# Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	10/26/2017
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

## S.A. Resolution #15

### Allowing International Students Financial Aid for Extenuating Circumstances

ABSTRACT: This resolution requests the Cornell Office of Financial Aid to expand the scope of leftover domestic financial aid funds and/or create a separate fund to support international students facing unanticipated financial need.

**Sponsored by: Varun Devatha '19 and Christopher Schott '18**

**Whereas**, domestic students are admitted upon a “need-blind” policy;

**Whereas**, aid for domestic students is adjusted annually to meet required need, both on the individual and aggregate level;

**Whereas**, domestic students who face unanticipated financial need during the semester have access to additional aid, both from Governmental and Cornell Financial Aid sources;

**Whereas**, financial aid for international students is capped and grows at a lower rate than domestic aid;

**Whereas**, only international applicants are subjected to a “need-aware” undergraduate admissions policy;

**Whereas**, because of this policy, international students are effectively disincentivized from applying to Financial Aid when they first apply to Cornell;

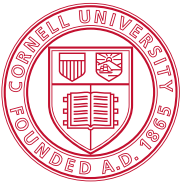
**Whereas**, it is impossible for international students to apply for Financial Aid, under any circumstances, during their Undergraduate career if they were not awarded Financial Aid upon their initial Cornell application;

**Whereas**, this puts the enrollment of international students facing unanticipated financial need in jeopardy, at best entailing an extreme economic burden and at worst amounting to a termination of their tertiary education;

**Whereas**, 89% of awarded scholarships & grants are provided directly by Cornell, with the remaining 11% made available through federal, state, and external sources;

**Whereas**, conversations with Financial Aid and Admissions officials have indicated that the annual number of international students who request Emergency Aid is in the single digits;

**Whereas**, Cornell’s founding mission of “any person, any study” and its commitment to equal opportunity includes International students;



## Cornell University Student Assembly

**Be it therefore resolved,** that the Student Assembly urges the Office of Undergraduate Admissions to empirically justify or provide evidence for their recent decision to make admissions “need-aware” for International students;

**Be it further resolved,** that the Student Assembly urges the Office of Financial Aid to administer additional Financial aid to students facing extenuating circumstances, regardless of citizenship;

**Be it further resolved,** that the Student Assembly urges the Office of Financial Aid, the Office of Alumni Affairs and Development, President Martha Pollack, Vice President Ryan Lombardi and Vice Provost for International Affairs Laura Spitz to create an Emergency Aid Pool for international students beyond the current budget for International Financial Aid, for instance by drawing on leftover resources from domestic Financial Aid or by encouraging (international) alumni to contribute to an external fund for emergency aid;

**Be it finally resolved,** that the Administration take care to include members of the International Students Union and Student Assembly in its efforts to remedy this structural inequality;

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Varun Devatha ‘19  
*Executive Vice President, Student Assembly*

Christopher Schott ‘18  
*International Students Liaison At-Large Representative, Student Assembly*

Akanksha Jain ‘20  
*Advocacy Team Member, International Students Union*

Mayra Valadez ‘18  
*Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion, Student Assembly*  
*Chair, SA Financial Aid Review Committee*

*Reviewed by: Financial Aid Review Committee, VOTE, 10/20/2017*



# Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	10/26/2017
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

## S.A. Resolution #16 Median Grade Reporting

ABSTRACT: This Resolution recommends that the University Faculty direct the University Registrar to report median grades on transcripts based on instructor, in those courses where multiple sections with different instructors are offered.

### **Sponsored by: Osai Egharevba '21**

**Whereas**, course grades and student grade point averages (“GPAs”) derived from grades should serve as reliable indicators of student grasp of course material; and

**Whereas**, employers and graduate school admissions rely heavily on grades to filter and select candidates; and

**Whereas**, many of the University’s peer institutions have publicly acknowledged that their grades are inflated, and in 1996 the Faculty Senate voted to publish median grades on student transcripts in an acknowledgement of the University’s grading practices; and

**Whereas**, median grades have been posted on University transcripts since 2008; and

**Whereas**, many courses offered by the University are taught in multiple “sections,” with different groups of students and different instructors; and

**Whereas**, the quality and style of instruction, the approach to grading, and the instructor’s fluency in english all necessarily vary between instructors; and

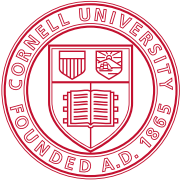
**Whereas**, those students whose instructors write exams may have an advantage over those whose instructors do not;

**Be it therefore resolved**, that the Student Assembly recommends that the Faculty Senate direct the University Registrar to report median grades on transcripts by *section*, so that all sections of a particular course wholly taught by the same instructor during the same academic term are treated as independent “courses” for the purpose of calculating and reporting median grades on University transcripts; and

**Be it further resolved**, that the Student Assembly recommends that this change be applied to all multiple-instructor, multiple-section courses from Fall 2018 onwards; and

**Be it finally resolved**, that this resolution be conveyed to the Dean of Faculty and to the Faculty Senate.

**Respectfully Submitted,**



## Cornell University Student Assembly

- 44 Osai Egharevba '21,  
45 *Freshman Representative, SA*  
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47 Christopher Schott '18  
48 *International Students Liaison At-Large, Student Assembly*  
49  
50 Nathan Weierich, '18  
51 *Member, Student Assembly Academic Policy Committee*  
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53 *Reviewed by: Academic Policy Committee, 13-0-1, 10/22/2017*