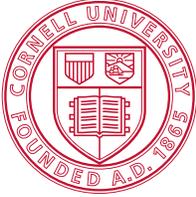


Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Agenda of the Thursday, February 22, 2018 Meeting
4:45pm-6:30pm in Willard Straight Hall: Memorial Room

- I. Call to Order & Roll Call**
- II. Open Microphone**
- III. Approval of the Minutes:**
 - a. February 15th Minutes
- IV. Announcements & Reports**
 - a. VP Valadez – D&I Summit
- V. Business of the Day:**
 - a. Resolution 28: Puerto Rico Debt and Disclosure Amendment
 - b. Resolution 29: Community Sponsorship Access
 - c. Resolution 30: FARC Byline
- VI. New Business**
 - a. Resolution 31: Adding a Veteran's Ex-Officio Representative to the Student Assembly
- VII. Additional Announcements and Reports**
 - a. GPSA, FS, EA, UA Liaison Reports
 - b. Other Liaison Reports
 - c. Representative Reports
- VIII. Adjournment**
- IX. Executive Session**
 - a. Election of Liaison to the Employee Assembly



Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, February 15, 2018 Meeting
4:45pm-6:37pm in Willard Straight Hall: Memorial Room

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

a. J. Kim called the meeting to order at 4:45 pm.

b. Roll Call:

- i. *Present:* D. Barbaria [0], A. Chowdhury [1], V. Devatha [1], O. Din [2], O. Egharevba [0], Nathalia Hernandez [0], R. Herz [5], M. Indimine [1.5], S. Iruvanti [0], G. Kaufman [0], J. Kim [0], S. Lim [0], L. Lipschutz [4.25], D. Nyakaru [0], S. Park [1.5], G. Park [0], C. Schott [1.25], E. Shapiro [1], J. Sim [1], M. Valadez [1], I. Wallace [1]
- ii. *Absent:* T. Ball (*unexcused*) [0.5], O. Corn (*excused*) [0], R. Cornell (*excused*) [2.5], H. Hassan (*excused*) [2.75], M. Peralta-Ochoa (*excused*) [1], S. Romero Zavala (*unexcused*) [1], D. Tokunboh (*unexcused*) [2.75]

II. Oath of Office

a. Natalia Hernandez was sworn in as the Minority Students Liaison At-Large using the Oath of Office.

III. Presentations

a. Provost Michael Kotlikoff and Executive Vice President Joanne DeStefano presented in regard to Student Assembly Resolution 28.

- i. M. Kotlikoff said that 78% of Cornell University's endowment is restricted, meaning that it is given to the University for a specific purpose, and those funds can therefore only be used for the purposes they are given. He added that 25% of that amount is used for financial

aid, which is a critical component to allowing access to Cornell.

- ii. J. DeStefano said that the University's investors do not directly invest in any fund, but instead hire investment managers to do this. She added that it is important for the University to not restrict their top managers in regard to what they can invest in, as doing so could cause Cornell to lose access to its top managers.
- iii. J. DeStefano commented that it is difficult to justify the impact on the University that using the endowment for political and social causes could possibly have, referencing the Kalven Report of 1967.
 1. The Kalven Report states that universities have a role in fostering development of social and political values, but to become a critic itself would endanger the effectiveness and the existence of the university.
- iv. J. DeStefano cited the University's criterion of "moral reprehensibility" for divestment, which states that Cornell will divest in cases of acts including but not limited to genocide, apartheid, slavery, and human trafficking.
- v. M. Kotlikoff said that Seth Klarman '79 is the alumnus of Cornell in charge of the Baupost hedge fund, and that the University is grateful for his generosity.
 1. Earlier this decade, Seth Klarman donated funds to Cornell that were used in the construction of Klarman Hall on Central Campus.
- vi. M. Kotlikoff said that if Cornell were to divest from Baupost, it would not help Puerto Rico, and that it would do nothing regarding the terms of the territory's debt restructuring.
- vii. G. Kaufman asked whether or not Cornell is allowed to express selective constraints in regard to its investment managers. He also asked whether M. Kotlikoff and J. DeStefano could address concerns that he had in that Cornell's potential Puerto Rican debt holdings would, in fact, have significant impact.

- viii. J. DeStefano said that the Cornell investment office works by investment committees and subcommittees, one of which is tasked with reviewing the risks and rewards of hedge fund investments. She explained that the managers make decisions about investments that are generally large portfolios and not individual investments, and that in these cases the University does not have any choice regarding the components of the investments.
- ix. A representative of The Cornell Daily Sun said that in the past, divestment has been a major issue at Cornell and that it has led to prominent scholars leaving the University, and asked whether or not this might become an issue in this case.
- x. M. Kotlikoff responded in the affirmative, saying that this concern led to the discussion that gave rise to the aforementioned “morally reprehensible” criterion.
- xi. The Daily Sun representative asked whether or not Cornell has ever divested in accordance with the “morally reprehensible” criterion.
- xii. J. DeStefano said that it occurred once since the policy’s inception.
 - 1. This divestment was in regard to the human rights violations in Sudan in 2006.
- xiii. Community member Elizabeth Chi asked whether or not M. Kotlikoff and J. DeStefano could be more transparent regarding what a divestment campaign must do to meet the “morally reprehensible” threshold, and inquired whether or not such a thing was a stalling tactic.
- xiv. M. Kotlikoff said that the University’s Board of Trustees would vote on any divestment campaign, and that the fossil fuel divestment campaign did not meet this threshold.
- xv. J. DeStefano said that the threshold must be strict, otherwise there would be a well-meaning cause every week that would make Cornell divest.

- xvi. M. Kotlikoff added that any assertion that actions are morally reprehensible would need to sway the majority of the Board of Trustees.
- xvii. Christopher Arcé said that it is obvious to him that the debt holdings are morally reprehensible, and that the bankruptcy process occurring now is only happening because the American government routinely denies the Puerto Rican people equal rights, and that allowing Cornell to invest in Baupost is an example of colonialism.
- xviii. J. DeStefano said that one of the conditions regarding divestment is whether or not divesting will have an impact on the issue at hand. She said that all the concerns that C. Arcé stated are real, but that a divestment is a statement, and does not make an impact.
- xix. M. Kotlikoff said that they must be careful about blaming the problems C. Arcé outlined on the investors who purchased bonds that Puerto Rico offered.
- xx. Rahul Mukherjee asked why Seth Klarman has invested \$2.9 billion in lobbying efforts to stop the negotiations of Puerto Rico's debt payments.
- xxi. M. Kotlikoff said that he was not sure where these statistics came from, but that part of this is normal negotiation such that Baupost can get the most amount possible back of what they have invested.
- xxii. R. Mukherjee asked whether or not the best solution would therefore be to support negotiation.
- xxiii. M. Kotlikoff said that he does not think that it is appropriate to ascribe negative motivations to the individuals participating in this process.
- xxiv. R. Mukherjee asked why Cornell does not disclose their partnerships, considering that institutions such as Harvard University, Yale University, and Princeton University do so.
- xxv. J. DeStefano said that Cornell is not a direct investor and that they hire managers for investment, and will follow up on this once she is able to find out whether or not the

investments disclosed by Harvard, Yale, and Princeton are indeed direct.

- xxvi. T. Ball called into question the legitimacy of the earlier statement that Cornell does not involve itself in political issues, saying that Cornell constantly takes political stances, referencing the University's statement regarding DACA. He also said that if Cornell does not divest, then it remains complicit in the devaluing of black and brown bodies, which is as morally reprehensible in this case as it is when it occurs during apartheid.
- xxvii. M. Kotlikoff stated his respect for these opinions, but that Cornell's DACA statement was not political, but a statement of supporting students enrolled at Cornell, so as to ensure (to the extent that they can) that students do not suffer from such a change in policy. He reiterated that the endowment must be used to support students, and not to make political statements.
- xxviii. G. Kaufman asked what impact divestment would have on the operating budget.
- xxix. J. DeStefano said that the real impact would be the restriction imposed on the University's investment managers and their ability to invest. She said that Cornell has worked hard to get the top tier of managers, and that more divestments would eventually result in Cornell having to take a lower level of investors, creating upward of \$100 million in losses.
- xxx. M. Kotlikoff stated that Cornell's endowment is no different than the endowment of any other university, but that their threshold for divestment is slightly different, and that such a step is reserved for only the most important issues.

IV. Open Microphone:

- a. No speakers at the open microphone

V. Approval of Minutes:

- a. Minutes of February 8th, 2018
 - i. R. Herz motioned to amend the minutes to remove the phrase “on the part of the former” – amended 22-0-1.
 - 1. This phrase occurs in section VI, subsection g, subsection v.
 - ii. Motion to approve the minutes of the February 8th, 2018 Student Assembly meeting – approved unanimously.

VI. Announcements and Reports I:

- a. Academic Policy Committee
 - i. Alexis Pollitto spoke about a survey regarding course pre-enrollment, and that she would appreciate it if Student Assembly members could share the link to the survey with their constituents. She also referenced an undertaking regarding student-wide communication.
- b. Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
 - i. D. Barbaria said that the GPSA’s resolution recommending changes to the LGBTQ Resource Center has led to talks with the Division of Human Resources.
- c. Anabel’s Grocery I
 - i. V. Devatha said that Anabel’s Grocery is conducting a February Break Giveaway at the Law Library, and that potential winners must first join the Anabel’s Shoppers Club.
- d. Cornell Design and Tech Initiative
 - i. R. Herz said that CDTI is seeking Student Assembly feedback.
- e. Anabel’s Grocery II
 - i. G. Kaufman asked V. Devatha a question regarding the supposed financial difficulties of Anabel’s Grocery.
 - ii. V. Devatha said that he cannot speak in this regard since he did not attend the previous Anabel’s meeting, and that developments will come in the future to help solve financial difficulties.
- f. Appropriations Committee

- i. G. Kaufman said that the Appropriations Committee allocated funds to Sexual Assault Awareness Week.
- g. Net-Print Task Force
 - i. J. Sim said that the task force met on the previous day, and that a survey that the task force sent out got 640 responses, which they are now taking the comments from so as to see what concerns the student body has that the task force can act on.
 - ii. J. Sim said that the task force has two new liaisons.

VII. Business of the Day:

- a. J. Kim said that representative from the Slope Day Programming Board will present at 5:45 pm, and that discussion of Resolution 28 will be postponed until after their report.
- b. Resolution 24: Allocating Part of the Student Assembly Surplus
 - i. D. Barbaria said that this resolution was on the agenda at the end of Fall 2017, and that this resolution's objective is to allocate funds that were set aside by a resolution passed two years ago. He said these funds would help underserved student organizations that address issue areas on campus, including veteran students, students with disabilities, and first-generation students.
 - 1. The resolution referenced by D. Barbaria is Student Assembly Resolution 40, passed in Spring 2016.
 - ii. Motion to vote – passed 23-0-1.

VIII. Announcements & Reports II:

- a. Slope Day Programming Board
 - i. Adja Toure announced the headliner and special guest performers for Slope Day 2018. She also said that the Slope Day Programming Board (henceforth SDPB) will soon be asking for funds from the Student Assembly, since the SDPB now knows their performers and therefore their fees for performing.

1. The headliner is EDM duo Galantis, and the special guests are EDM duo Young Bombs and hip-hop artist Dreezy.
- ii. J. Kim said that the Student Assembly no longer has as much money as they have in past years, and recommended that A. Toure speak with G. Kaufman at a later time.
- iii. G. Kaufman reiterated that the Student Assembly might not be able to provide as much support as it was formerly able.
- iv. A. Toure said that any amount that the Assembly is willing and able to give will be appreciated.
- v. V. Devatha asked A. Toure to repeat the names of the performers aside from Galantis.
- vi. A. Toure obliged.
- vii. V. Devatha recommended that SDPB request a larger increase in funding in future years.
- viii. A. Toure said that the money that goes to the performers is the only flexible money in the Slope Day budget, and that a \$10,000 increase will only go so far in this regard due to the fact that the SDPB must pay for multiple artists.
- ix. V. Devatha recommended that the SDPB request a much larger increase, such as from \$1 per student to \$10 per student, in future years.
- x. R. Herz voiced her support for the work that the SDPB does.

IX. Business of the Day II:

- a. Resolution 28: Puerto Rico Debt and Disclosure
 - i. Zachary Schmetterer said that he had a call with Baupost and requested clarifications regarding their investments. He said that the Puerto Rican debt holdings can neither be confirmed nor denied, and mentioned the need for further research.

- ii. C. Arcé said that he believes that Cornell's stance of political neutrality must be questioned, as well as its definition of moral reprehensibility, saying that Cornell cannot tell its student body what a student's moral compass is or isn't.
- iii. Z. Schmetterer mentioned his support for passing this resolution through the other governing bodies on campus, and that supporters must be able to make a strong and compelling case as to why Cornell's holdings are morally reprehensible.
- iv. R. Mukherjee emphasized that the matter at hand is a moral issue, and not a political issue.
- v. M. Valadez said that M. Kotlikoff and J. DeStefano did not provide any new information with their presentation, and that she believed that they expressed that the University will accept remaining complicit.
- vi. V. Devatha made a point of personal privilege, requesting that the discussion of Resolution 28 be kept to matters such as impact, considering that everyone in the Assembly seems to agree that the issue at hand is morally wrong.
- vii. C. Schott referenced his desire to pass this resolution through other bodies, and advised that proponents of the resolution try to find some common ground on this issue with the University administration, so as to make matters easier in the long run.
- viii. Z. Schmetterer said that the biggest piece of common ground that they have is that endowments nationwide have had trouble with investing in hedge funds such as Baupost, and that their current holdings are risky.
- ix. Joseph Anderson referenced his experiences with students affected by the crisis in Puerto Rico, and reiterated that this issue does affect people at Cornell.
- x. N. Hernandez voiced her support for the resolution, saying that the issue at hand is, on a basic level, about transparency.

- xi. D. Nyakaru asked what the passing of this resolution would do aside from sending a message to the administration since it will not be supported by the University. She also asked whether or not the sponsors of this resolution have any plans to work at making sure this effort goes forward.
- xii. R. Mukherjee said that there will be a presentation regarding this issue at the upcoming Ivy Council meeting, and that there will be discussions with students of other Ivy League colleges at this council in this regard.
- xiii. G. Kaufman stated his desire to press the issue of costs and benefits associated with this resolution, stating that if Cornell does choose to divest, then the funds lost might come out of the funding for financial aid, and said that it is up to the Student Assembly to deliberate what sorts of decisions should be made with the information they have.
- xiv. D. Barbaria reiterates that the Student Assembly is not making a political statement with this resolution, and asks about the sponsors' involvement with the GPSA.
- xv. Z. Schmetterer said that he will contact other boards following this meeting. He also motioned for an amendment to the resolution – **amended** unanimously.
 - 1. Lines 15-17 of Resolution 28 now read: “Whereas, in said letter, Hedge Clippers and its partner organizations outlined the adverse economic impacts of lobbying done on the behalf of Baupost and other fund managers to the economic wellbeing and recovery of Puerto Rico”.
- xvi. V. Devatha asked whether divestment would have any sort of impact, especially a negative impact, on the people of Puerto Rico.
- xvii. Z. Schmetter said that the amount divested would likely be between \$1 million and \$10 million, and that such an amount would likely not affect much in this regard.
- xviii. V. Devatha asked where the debt holdings would go if Cornell were to divest.

- xix. Z. Schmetterer said that the bonds would go to the open market, and mentioned that Cornell must take action with other organizations in order for any tangible effect to be made.
- xx. V. Devatha expressed his confusion regarding divestment, and asked how Cornell's divestment in this specific case would help Puerto Rico.
- xxi. C. Arcé said that divestment would be an opportunity to join voices trying to officially rule the process of bankruptcy that Puerto Rico is currently going through as unconstitutional.
- xxii. Shivani Parikh requested that the Assembly look into the Jubilee Debt Campaign, and said that the administration clearly values alumni relations over moral reprehensibility.
- xxiii. G. Park said that the Kalven Report was originally designed to advocate for students, and expressed her concern for low-income students and this resolution's potential tangible, negative impact on financial aid.
- xxiv. Z. Schmetterer said that Cornell tells its investors not to invest in derivatives due to the associated risks, and that it would be reasonable for it to also tell its investors not to invest in distress debt, since such investments can cause losses.
- xxv. Motion to vote – **passed** 22-0-2

X. New Business

- a. Motion to extend meeting time by twenty minutes – **failed** 9-13-1.
- b. Motion to extend meeting time by seven minutes – **passed**.
- c. Resolution 29: Community Sponsorship Access
 - i. O. Din said that this resolution defines how community members interact with the Student Assembly, and that this resolution allows community members to sponsor a Student Assembly resolution, something that they currently cannot do.

- ii. G. Kaufman expressed his support for the clause of the resolution that limits the numbers of sponsors on one resolution, but expressed his belief that the resolution's main objective is ridiculous. He asked why the Student Assembly would consider discussing a resolution that a community member would be unable to get a single Student Assembly member to sponsor, and supports striking that part of the resolution.
- iii. O. Din said that the Student Assembly would discuss such a resolution since they are a democratic body.
- iv. D. Nyakaru voiced her support for the resolution, saying that it adds transparency to the Assembly body.
- v. G. Kaufman said that putting unelected people on the agenda to take up time allows people to gum up the process of the Student Assembly. He motioned to table the resolution indefinitely – failed.
- vi. There was a motion to table the resolution – tabled.

XI. Adjournment

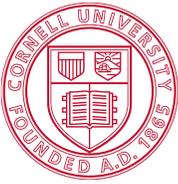
- a. J. Kim adjourned the meeting at 6:37 pm.

XII. Executive Session

Respectfully Submitted,

John Hannan

Clerk of the Assembly



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(02/08/2018)
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #28

Mandating Cornell's Commitment to the Economic Justice of Puerto Rico and the Operational Transparency of its Investments

ABSTRACT: This resolution recommends that Cornell University investigate its holdings and divest from any and all Puerto Rican debt obligations. Additionally, Cornell should create a fair investment policy in regard to government debt as well as disclose its investment partnerships in yearly tax filings.

Sponsored by: Zachary Schmetterer '18

Whereas, a letter signed by 28 organizations was sent to President Pollack on October 16, 2017 regarding the university's endowment holdings in Seth Klarman's Baupost Group, which owns \$911.6 million worth of Puerto Rican debt bonds;

Whereas, in said letter, Hedge Clippers and its partner organizations outlined the adverse economic impacts of lobbying done on the behalf of Baupost and other fund managers to the economic wellbeing and recovery of Puerto Rico;

Whereas, the Intercept and CNBC found that Baupost purchased \$469 million senior and \$442 junior COFINA bonds through shell company Decagon Holdings LLC to shield the hedge fund from public scrutiny;

Whereas, Cornell University has not publicly disclosed its holdings in the Baupost Group, and the Office of the University Treasurer "is bound by confidentiality agreements with its investment managers that prevent Cornell from publicly disclosing a manager's investment strategy or investment holdings" as of December 22, 2017;

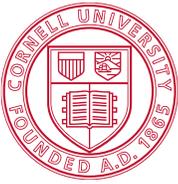
Whereas, the University Tax Office fails to disclose any of Cornell's investment partnerships relating to "investment income information provided by the endowment's investment managers" on its Form 990 and Form 990-T;

Whereas, Cornell's disclosure policies represent a significant departure from that of peer institutions such as Harvard, Yale, and Princeton; for instance, Princeton's 2015 Form 990 clearly lists the University's partnerships and investments in funds managed by the Baupost Group;

Whereas, Cornell has previously shown its commitment to the welfare of Puerto Rico and its people with its offer of a free semester of study to 62 students from Universidad de Puerto Rico;

Be it therefore resolved, that Cornell University makes a strong commitment to economic justice and operational transparency as well as execute the following remedies;

Be it further resolved, that Cornell University conduct a due diligence investigation of its holdings with the Baupost Group and divest from any and all Puerto Rican debt obligations;



Cornell University Student Assembly

45 **Be it further resolved**, the Office of University Investments evaluate the holdings with other investment
46 partnerships for Puerto Rican debt and likewise divest from such investments;

47
48 **Be it further resolved**, the Office of University Investments create a new policy preventing affiliated
49 investment partnerships from coercing the repayment on government debt above the market terms offered
50 to all investors;

51
52 **Be it finally resolved**, Cornell University's Office of the University Treasurer, University Tax Office, and
53 all other relevant entities explicitly list investment partnerships in their yearly tax filings in terms of both
54 the initial investment amount, the fund's name, and affiliation.

55
56 **Respectfully Submitted,**

57
58 Christopher Arcé '19
59 *Co-President, Puerto Rican Students Association*
60 *Vice-President, Cornell Welcomes Refugees*
61 *Executive Board, Christian Union*

62
63 Zachary Schmetterer '18
64 *Parliamentarian, Student Assembly*
65 *Ex-President Cornell Roosevelt Institute*

66
67 Rahul Mukherjee '20
68 *President, Cornell Impact Investing*

69
70 Aman Banerji
71 *Senior Program Associate, Roosevelt Institute*

72
73 Elizabeth Parisian
74 *Hedge Clippers*

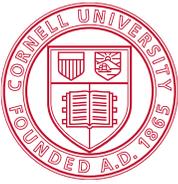
75
76 Ademali Sengali
77 *Columbia University, Roosevelt Institute*

78
79 Michael Charles '16
80 *Former President, American Indian Science and Engineering Society*

81
82 Shivani Parikh '19
83 *President, South Asian Council*
84 *Presidential Task Force, Campus Response Sub-Committee Member*

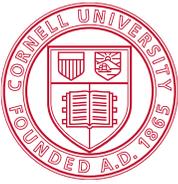
85
86 Anne Riley '18
87 *Treasurer, Cornell Welcomes Refugees*
88 *Chief Administrative Officer, Kappa Alpha Theta, Iota*
89 *Director of Recruitment, Cornell International Business Association*

90



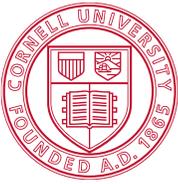
Cornell University Student Assembly

- 91 Adriana Herrera '20
92 *Chair, MEChA de Cornell*
93 *President, Sabor Latino Dance Ensemble*
94
95 Zachary Aleksandur de Stefan '18
96 *Co-Facilitator, Amnesty International at Cornell University*
97
98 Paul Russell '19
99 *President, Interfraternity Council*
100
101 Jeremy Gartland '18
102 *Executive Board, Christian Union*
103
104 Andrew Peterson '18
105 *Co-president, Cornell Coffee Club*
106
107 Robert Hendricks '17 JD '19
108 *President, Christian Legal Society*
109
110 Tarannum Sahar '20
111 *President, Cornell Welcomes Refugees*
112 *Vice President, Bengali Students Association*
113
114 Micah Wallingford '20
115 *Brotherhood Chairman, Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity*
116
117 Nayara Luna Guzmán '19
118 *Student Staff, Latina/o Studies Program*
119
120 Michael Sarkis '20
121 *Vice President of Programming, Interfraternity Council*
122
123 Venus Dulani '19
124 *Co-President, Big Red Bikes*
125 *Advocacy, International Students Union*
126
127 Natalie Brown '18
128 *President, Cornell University Democrats*
129
130 Winnie Ho '19
131 *Cornell Tradition Fellow*
132
133 Jenise Carter '19
134
135 Piragash Swargaloganathan '19
136 *Member SJP*



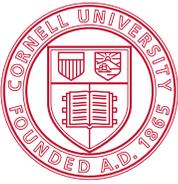
Cornell University Student Assembly

- 137
138 Kimberly St Fleur '21
139 *Cornell Tradition Fellow*
140 *Member, Christian Union*
141
142 Faith Slaughter '20
143 *Treasurer, The Black Women's Support Network*
144
145 Dennis Delasi Nyanyo '18
146 *Vice President of Funding, International Student Union*
147 *Co-President, Ghanaians at Cornell*
148
149 Lavanya Aprameya '19
150 *President, Haven: Cornell's LGBTQ Student Union*
151
152 Omar Din '19
153 *Board Member, Muslim Educational & Cultural Association*
154 *Human Ecology Rep, Student Assembly*
155
156 Christopher Schott '18
157 *Executive Board, International Students Union*
158 *International Students Liaison At-Large, Student Assembly*
159
160 Mark Svenjak '18
161 *President, American Hotel & Lodging Association*
162 Drew Lord '18
163 *President, Interfraternity Council*
164
165 Ian Wallace '20
166 *LGBTQ+ Liaison At-Large, Student Assembly*
167 *Board Member, Cornell Welcomes Refugees*
168
169 Kyjana Barnett '18
170 *President, Cornell Students for Animal Rights*
171
172 Alex Santoriello '19
173 *House Manager, Sigma Pi Fraternity*
174
175 Daniela Manzano '19
176 *Executive Chairperson, Cornell University Program Board*
177 *Director of Corporate Relations, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers*
178
179 Elton Munoz '19
180 *Community Service Associate, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers*
181
182 Cristian Alonso '18



Cornell University Student Assembly

- 183 *Treasurer, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers*
184
185 Maame Akosua Ohemeng-Tinyase '20
186 *Director of Internal and External Affairs , Ghanaians@Cornell*
187 *Secretary, Baraka Kwa Wimbo*
188
189 Tasnuva Ferdous Ming Khan '18
190 *President, Bengali Students Association*
191
192 Anuush Vejalla '20
193 *Vice President, South Asian Council*
194 *Secretary, Hindi Student Council*
195
196 Syed Samin '19
197 *President, Muslim Educational and Cultural Association*
198
199 Abraham Araya '19
200 *President, Multicultural Greek Letter Council*
201
202 Evan Shapiro '19
203 *College of Arts and Sciences Representative, Student Assembly*
204 *Productions Chairperson, Cornell University Program Board*
205
206 Aaron Gottesfeld '19
207 *Executive Vice President, Roosevelt Institute*
208
209 Stephannie Chen '19
210 *President, Roosevelt Institute*
211
212
213 *(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 4-0-0, 02/07/2018)*



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(02/15/2018)
Type of Action:	Bylaws Amendment
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #29

Amending Community Sponsorship Access in the Student Assembly Bylaws

ABSTRACT: This resolution seeks to amend the bylaws in order to make it easier for members of the student body to submit resolutions to the student assembly.

Sponsored by: Omar Din '19, Dale Barbaria '19

Whereas, the Student Assembly was founded to effect more extensive involvement in campus governance and work on matters which involve the interests of or concern the welfare of the student community.

Whereas, the focus of the Student Assembly should be on the Cornell undergraduate body, and not on the elected members of the Student Assembly.

Whereas, the Student Assembly charter grants all members of the Cornell undergraduate student body ex-officio membership to the student assembly in order to ensure and encourage their participation, and rights thereof, in shared governance.

Whereas, the participation of its members, the equality of its community, and the transparency of its governing body are all hallmarks of and necessary conditions for any democratic society.

Whereas, Article VII, section 1, lines 443-446 of the Student Assembly Bylaws reads as follows:

The SA and its committees shall respect and protect the rights of individual members of the Cornell community. All members of the community have the right to add a resolution to the Student Assembly Agenda after procuring the written signature of at least a majority of seated SA members, and presenting the signatures to the SA President or their designee for verification, at least 48 hours before the meeting at which the resolution is to be introduced.

Whereas, resolutions function as the main avenue through which the student assembly functions.

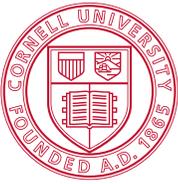
Whereas, the reason students would seek to bring resolutions straight to the assembly floor without assembly member co-sponsors is because they are unable to or otherwise unwilling to find any.

Whereas, if that is the case, it is an unrealistic and undemocratic expectation for them to have to procure a majority of Student Assembly members' approval.

Whereas, even if a resolution in such instance is unlikely to pass, it still deserves to be discussed if members of the Cornell undergraduate body deem it relevant, and as a democratic body the Student Assembly has a duty to do so.

Be it therefore resolved, that article VII, section 1, lines 443-446 of the Student Assembly bylaws be amended to instead say:

The SA and its committees shall respect and protect the rights of individual members of the Cornell community. All members of the community, **who do not otherwise have an appointed or elected position on**



Cornell University Student Assembly

47 the student assembly, have the right to add a resolution to the Student Assembly Agenda as a sponsor
48 (without the requirement of having a member of the assembly being a sponsor) after gaining the approval of
49 a Student Assembly committee through a majority vote or ~~the approval~~ after procuring the written signature
50 of at least a majority of seated SA members and presenting it to the SA President or their designee for
51 verification at least 48 hours before the meeting at which the resolution is to be introduced. Resolutions that
52 appear on the agenda using either of these methods may not have more than 3 sponsors who are not Student
53 Assembly members or Student Assembly committee chairs.

54

55 **Respectfully Submitted,**

56

57 Omar Din '19

58 *Human Ecology Rep, Student Assembly*

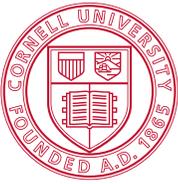
59

60 Dale Barbaria '19

61 *Vice President for Internal Operations, Student Assembly*

62

63 *(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 4-0-0, 02/13/2018)*



Originally Presented on:	(02/15/2018)
Type of Action:	Internal Policy
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #30

Reinstating the Financial Aid Review Committee as a Byline-Funded Organization for the 2020-2022 Cycle

ABSTRACT: This resolution reinstates the Financial Aid Review Committee (FARC) as a byline-funded organization for the 2020-2022 byline cycle.

Sponsored by: Mayra Valadez '18

Whereas, the Joint Assemblies Financial Aid Review Committee (JAFARC) was created in 1985 to “assist registered Cornell undergraduate students in financial need”

Whereas, JAFARC voluntarily forwent byline funding in the Fall of 2009 “in the interest of being good stewards to the university” due to the financial burden placed on students and their families during the financial crisis

Whereas, the decision to forgo funding was made with the understanding that the Appropriations Committee consider FARC “as a continuing applicant should [they] need to request funding in a future cycle, thus not requiring the 1500 signatures that is required of new applicants”

Whereas, FARC established the Summer Experience Grant (SEG) in 2014 to “provide students with the opportunity to obtain career-related experience in the summer that is unpaid or minimally paid.” (SA AY 14-15 Resolution 69)

Whereas, FARC awarded \$13,990.06 via the Student Helping Students fund (SHS) and \$48,535.00 via SEG in FY17

Whereas, total money awarded via SHS and SEG exceeded total income in FY17 of \$56,577.23

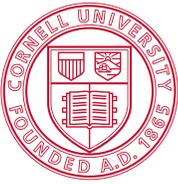
Whereas, FARC and the Student Assembly voted to allocate \$320,000 for the development of Anabel’s Grocery in SA AY 2015-2016 via [Resolution 22](#) using endowment funds, which significantly impacted total annual returns since

Whereas, FARC has seen a significant increase in applications to the SEG since its expansion to all 7 colleges in FY16 and anticipates the number to grow in the coming years

Be it finally resolved, the Student Assembly recommends that the Appropriations committee consider FARC as a continuing applicant for the 2020-2022 byline cycles, thus not requiring the 1500 signatures of a new organization applying for funding and includes language to this effect in their Appendix B amendments this semester

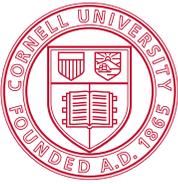
Respectfully Submitted,

Mayra Valadez '18
VP of Diversity & Inclusion, Student Assembly
Chair, Financial Aid Review Committee



Cornell University Student Assembly

- 48 Christopher Schott '18
49 *International Students Liaison At-Large, Student Assembly*
50 *Member, Financial Aid Review Committee*
51 *Undergraduate Representative, University Assembly*
52
53 Dongyeon (Margaret) Lee '20
54 *Member, Financial Aid Review Committee*
55
56 Ching Liu Huang '20
57 *Member, Financial Aid Review Committee*
58 *Member, Diversity Committee*
59 *Member, Communications Committee*
60 *Member, City & Local Affairs Committee*
61
62 Andy Zhou '20
63 *Member, Financial Aid Review Committee*
64
65 Jonvi Rollins '20
66 *Member, Diversity & Inclusion Student Assembly*
67 *Member, Financial Aid Review Student Assembly*
68
69 *(Reviewed by: Financial Aid Review Committee, 8-0-0, 02/09/2018)*



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(02/22/2018)
Type of Action:	Internal Policy
Status/Result:	New Business

1 S.A. Resolution #31
2 Reinstating the Financial Aid Review Committee as a Byline-Funded Organization for
3 the 2020-2022 Cycle

4
5 ABSTRACT: This resolution adds a Veteran’s Ex-Officio Representative to the Student Assembly.

6
7 **Sponsored by: Varun Devatha ‘19**

8
9 **Whereas**, Cornell University was founded by Ezra Cornell as an “institution where any person can find
10 instruction in any study,”

11
12 **Whereas**, all members of the Cornell community are technically ex-officio members of the Student
13 Assembly,

14
15 **Whereas**, veterans are an underrepresented population on the Cornell campus with a series of unique
16 experiences,

17
18 **Whereas**, veterans struggle with inclusivity as well as knowledge of organizations, support centers, and
19 resources across campus,

20
21 **Whereas**, Cornell University has committed to increasing the veteran student population by planning on
22 quadrupling the veteran population to 100 by fall of 2020,

23
24 **Whereas**, the Student Assembly will provide veterans with...

25
26 **Be it therefore resolved**, a Veteran’s Ex-Officio Representative to the Student Assembly be instated with
27 the following language added after Article I, Section 3, line 22 of the Student Assembly Bylaws:

28
29 **C. The SA will grant one member from Cornell University Veteran Association an ex-officio position as an
30 organizational liaison.**

31
32 **Respectfully Submitted,**

33
34 Luke Opyd ‘18
35 *President, Cornell Undergraduate Veterans Association*

36
37 Varun Devatha ‘19
38 *Executive Vice President, Student Assembly*

39
40 *(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 4-0-0, 02/20/2018)*