I. Call to Order & Roll Call

II. Approval of the Minutes
   a. 3/5/20 Meeting

III. Announcements & Presentations
   a. VPF Adeghe – Special Projects Funding
      i. S.A Resolution #53: Approving Special Projects Request for SASSY
      ii. S.A Resolution #54: Approving Special Projects Request for Women’s Club Volleyball

IV. Open Microphone

V. New Business
   a. S.A Resolution #55: Approving Special Projects Request for Union Days
   b. S.A Resolution #56: Support of the Divestment from Fossil Fuels
   c. S.A. Resolution #57: Election Cancelation and Fall Election Restructuring
   d. S.A. Resolution #58: Amending the Standing Rules to Allow Votes Out of New Business

VI. Adjournment
I. Call to Order & Roll Call
   a. J. Anderson called the meeting to order at 4:46 pm.
   b. Roll Call:
      ii. Absent: C. Benedict (excused), N. Matolka (excused), P. Solovyeva (excused), V. Xu
      iii. Arrived After Roll Call: A. Cass (excused), G. Martin (excused), S. Sun (excused)

II. Announcements
   a. J. Anderson said that everyone should wash their hands and use hand sanitizer above 60% alcohol content if needed. He added that everyone should stop touching their face, and that if he can break that habit, so can everyone else.
   b. B. Weintraub said that anyone who feels like they are getting sick and have more respiratory symptoms than usual should go to Cornell Health, and that anyone who has any indication that they are sick with more than a cold should also go to Cornell Health.
   c. C. Huang said that C. Benedict is approving $400 for Mortarboard.
   d. J. Kroll and I. Pavlov began setting up for a presentation.
   e. O. Egharevba said that the working group’s first meeting will be tomorrow from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm in a location that is yet to be determined but will be put on the Slack.
      i. B. Weintraub asked who is in the group and what its purpose is.
      ii. O. Egharevba said that the agenda for tomorrow will be to evaluate the current structure of the SA at this time, and use that to see where it goes. He added that he does not have a list of names for who is in it, but that members off the top of his head are J. Feit, N. Watson, and J. Youngblood.
   f. J. Anderson said that there will be a sprint meeting on Sunday.
   g. Lydia Zheng said that the candidate elections that are uncontested are the College of Arts and Sciences Representative; the College of Art, Architecture, and Planning Representative; the College of Human Ecology Representative; the LGBTQIA+ Students Liaison At-Large; the Minority Students Liaison At-Large; and the Undergraduate Representative to the University Assembly. She added that they still
need to fill one seat for both the Minority Students Liaison and the Undergraduate Representative to the UA.

i. M. Haddad asked if those seats would therefore be filled next year.
ii. L. Zheng said that the precedent has been to wait until the fall, but that it could technically be done at the end of this current election cycle.

III. New Business/Business of the Day I
a. Resolution 45: Approving Special Projects Request for Student Assembly/Amending the Student Assembly Budget
   i. B. Weintraub moved to amend the agenda such that Resolution 45 would be presented now while J. Kroll and I. Pavlov continued to set up – amended.
   ii. M. Adeghe moved to amend the title of the resolution such that it would represent the budget.
      1. J. Anderson said that the title could be “Amending the Student Assembly Budget”.
   iii. Motion to amend Resolution 45 such that the title would become “Amending the Student Assembly Budget” – amended.
   iv. M. Adeghe presented the resolution.
   v. Motion to vote on Resolution 45 – approved 20-0-1.
      1. Despite the resolution having been counted as New Business, there was an agreement that the resolution would have automatically been counted as moving into Business of the Day if it passed with more than a two-thirds majority.

IV. Presentation
a. Divestment
   i. J. Kroll and I. Pavlov presented on fossil fuel divestment.

V. Open Microphone
a. No speakers at the open microphone.

VI. New Business/Business of the Day II
a. Resolution 46: In support of Joining Today’s Students Coalition
   i. J. Anderson presented the resolution.
   ii. There was a motion to suspend the rules of debate such that a motion to vote can also be an implicit motion to move to Business of the Day if it reaches a two-thirds majority – approved.
   iii. Motion to vote on Resolution 46 – approved 19-0-2.
b. Resolution 47: Guaranteeing Centralized Housing for All Transfer Students
   i. C. Huang and N. Watson presented the resolution.
   ii. A. Cass said that they have the impression that it’s pretty standard that other universities tend to guarantee transfers housing, and that it seems like the university is admitting more people than they can house, and asked if the administration has said anything about that. They added that it seems like a weird and unsustainable policy to have.
   iii. N. Watson said that they have been admitting fewer transfers and freshmen in recent years to account for the lack of beds, and that they are also looking at the expansion project to give housing to everyone who wants it and thereby increase enrollment.
iv. C. Huang said that the reason that Cornell has the guaranteed transfer program for state schools is the lack of housing, and that they don’t have room for these students.

v. T. Reuning said that he had a conversation with the Director of Undergraduate Admissions last semester, and that they said that they’re planning on increasing freshman enrollment even though it works against the idea of having enough beds.

vi. M. Adeghe said that she knows that these things can take a very long time, and asked when the presenters foresee this going into effect.

vii. C. Huang said that she’s only gotten to this now after a year and a half due to all the roadblocks involved, and that they have a meeting with VP Ryan Lombardi tomorrow. She added that the resolution says this will go into effect in 2021, and that they will then have the housing thereafter.

viii. O. Egharevba said that the housing market in Ithaca is crazy, and that this is a very good resolution.

ix. I. Pavlov said that T. Reuning’s comment had reminded her about how the Campus Master Plan has a quota on the number of students, and that the administration likes to say that it’s not official. She asked if the presenters could push to have that quota met until students are guaranteed housing.

x. C. Huang asked I. Pavlov to clarify.

xi. I. Pavlov said that she thinks that there is a cap of 15,000 students.

xii. Discussion continued in this regard.

xiii. J. Feit said that he is fully supporting this resolution, but that he isn’t certain that the administration won’t just cut transfer admissions upon receiving it rather than increasing housing.

xiv. C. Huang said that that is an important thing to keep in mind, and that they will be discussing that with VP Lombardi tomorrow, and then the new VP of Enrollment following that.

xv. M. Haddad said that she wanted to share her experience as a transfer student, and that while she is an international student, she did transfer in from an American university, but that international transfers can be left stranded off-campus. She added that everyone should vote for this resolution.

xvi. There was a motion to vote.

1. N. Watson moved to have the vote done by roll-call – approved 17-3-1.

xvii. Motion to vote on Resolution 46 – approved 23-0-0.

1. M. Adeghe: for
2. S. Ali: for
3. J. Anderson: for
4. M. Baker: for
5. A. Cass: for
6. U. Chukwukere: for
7. J. Clancy: for
8. O. Egharevba: for
9. J. Feit: for
10. M. Haddad: for
11. C. Huang: for
12. J. Kroll: for
13. Y. Li: for
14. G. Martin: for
15. I. Pavlov: for
16. T. Reuning: for
17. L. Smith: for
18. N. Watson: for
19. B. Weintraub: for
20. K. Wondimu: for
21. S. Xu: for
22. J. Youngblood: for
23. Y. Yuan: for

c. Resolution 48: Calling for the Extension of Cornell Health Services to Students
   Forcibly Withdrawn from the University for Non-Disciplinary Matters
   i. Liel Sterling presented the resolution.
   ii. B. Weintraub asked if the presenters had spoken to the administration and if
       they seem on board with it, or if they just have the idea and this resolution is
       the beginning steps.
   iii. L. Sterling said that it’s more the latter, and that she hasn’t spoken with
        anyone in the administration about it.
   iv. Motion to vote on Resolution 48 – approved 21-0-1.

d. Resolution 49: Amendment to S.A. Resolution 7 (Establishing the Office of Student
   Assembly Bylaws): Creation of the Director of International Student Affairs
   i. G. Martin said that there needs to be a discharge petition in order for this
      resolution to come to the floor.
   ii. There was a motion for a discharge petition for the next four resolutions –
      approved 21-0-1.
   iii. G. Martin said that this just needed to be done because Exec didn’t meet this
        week, and that it’s nothing to write home about.
   iv. U. Chukwukere presented the resolution.
   v. Y. Li said that he does find a problem in this resolution in that it’s opposed
      by the relevant body in the administration.
   vi. M. Haddad said that as an international student who has sought out the
       Office of Global Learning multiple times, it was a bunch of people who did
       not understand her situation telling her what to do. She added that her CPT
       was wrong, and that if she had left the country with the wrong CPT, she
       wouldn’t have been able to get back into the country, and that this was not
       acceptable. She also said that if she had the Office of the Student Advocate,
       they would have gone and fought the office with her and retrieved her right.
       She added that the office is overworked and she gets that, but sometimes
       people need a student who gets it.
   vii. Discussion continued in this regard.
   viii. L. Sterling said that she wants to clarify a misconception, and that the Office
        of the Student Advocate are in no way trying to replace the Office of Global
        Learning, and that it’s just providing a connection. She added that it’s easier
        sometimes to get a response so that if something could happen like it did
        with M. Haddad, she wouldn’t be doing it on her own.
   ix. T. Reuning said that his understanding of the Student Advocate is for when
       the administration is failing someone so that they can have a student on their
side, such that there is no conflict of interest between helping the student and being an employee of the university. He added that this would not be replacing any preexisting office.

x. Y. Li said that he just saw this resolution today, and that he was thinking about possibly tabling it and speaking with the Office of Global Learning first. He moved to table the resolution.

xi. U. Chukwukere said that in hearing M. Haddad’s experience, he doesn’t think that tabling it is necessary, and that he doesn’t want to table it.

xii. Motion to table, failed 7-12-3.

xiii. There was a motion to vote on the resolution.

1. Y. Yuan dissented.

2. Vote to vote – approved 20-3-1.

xiv. Motion to vote on Resolution 49 – approved 19-1-3.

c. Resolution 50: Requesting the Establishment of the Cornell University Police Department Oversight Committee

i. U. Chukwukere presented the resolution.

ii. A. Cass said that this is a very good idea, and that they were wondering if the presenters could speak to the experiences of people who have tried to use the existing channels.

iii. G. Martin said that it’s important to preface this by saying that not every interaction with CUPD has been negative, but that police institutions are inherently racist. He added that they have heard about certain marijuana-related instances, as well as students being called certain things by police.

iv. I. Pavlov said that she would like to hear more about the structure of the reports. She added that the committee meets two times a year and whenever grievances come in, and asked whether it would ever meet with the police chief or if the process would be electronic.

v. U. Chukwukere said that it could be both, and that he wanted it to be such that the chief of police is there at the meetings, probably as an ex-officio member, and that in situations where it’s not necessary for them to be in the room, it would be possible.

vi. J. Feit said that he thinks that this is a fantastic resolution, and asked if this resolution would have to be passed through the Employee Assembly and Faculty Senate as well, since it would be seating employees and faculty members.

vii. U. Chukwukere said that the steps following the passing of the resolution would be to coordinate with those two bodies and the Graduate & Professional Student Assembly to get people on this body.

viii. J. Feit asked if U. Chukwukere knows the numbers regarding diversity on CUPD.

ix. U. Chukwukere replied in the negative and said that he was having a lot of trouble even getting access to those reports online. He added that this committee would make that more transparent and available to them.

x. J. Clancy asked if this would differ from similar bodies had at other universities.

xi. G. Martin said that Brown University has the best example of a body, and that they don’t have employees or faculty sitting on the body, and that they do have a quota of seats for students representing their Black Students
United. He added that they are trying to bring more people to the table, but that it is largely the same.

xii. S. Sun asked what the presenters’ plan is to make sure people are aware of these resources.

xiii. U. Chukwukere said that it’s really just about connecting to a lot of different student organizations, and that he is already in direct communications with BSU and other ALANA organizations. He added that they’re definitely going to push this to make sure it gets out there and is a very well-known thing.

xiv. T. Reuning said that he thinks that it is something that they can also make RAs aware of and let their residents know about the resources.

xv. L. Smith asked if there is a vision for relations with people external to the Cornell community, such as Ithaca PD, and what that vision is if there is one.

xvi. G. Martin said that he had brought up earlier that students sometimes have run-ins with Ithaca PD, and that a lot of the negative reputation that CUPD has is in part because of that, and that this would ameliorate that. He added that Ithaca PD would not be on the body.

xvii. L. Smith asked if this means there will not be communication with them.

xviii. G. Martin said that that is not the current plan, but that it can be arranged should there be a dire need for communications.

xix. J. Anderson said that there is also an Ithaca Community Police Board that can also be reached out to.

xx. J. Feit said that T. Reuning brought up a good point regarding different residential buildings, and asked if there would be any way to ensure that RAs get a seat on this committee. He also said to disregard his thought if necessary since he is not a member of a group that has been historically oppressed or targeted by police, and said that he is curious as to whether or not it would be beneficial to have an officer on the committee.

xxi. U. Chukwukere said that he would prefer not to have an officer on the committee, but that they could be ex-officio, and that the outgoing JA sits on CJC as ex-officio, and she therefore does not vote on anything. He asked what J. Feit’s other question was.

xxii. J. Feit repeated his question.

xxiii. U. Chukwukere said that they can amend that so that it is explicit.

xxiv. G. Martin said that they could also have the people who chair the committee prioritize those applications.

xxv. B. Weintraub asked if they could get someone from RSC on the committee.

xxvi. S. Sun asked how the presenters would feel about making this body a branch of the Office of the Student Advocate, such that they could go to that office and then direct them to other resources if necessary, but have this office under the umbrella if it is necessary.

xxvii. U. Chukwukere said that he can see that, and that he thinks that is part of why he wanted to have at least one of the undergraduate students on the committee being from that office, such that it will be represented.

xxviii. S. Sun said that if they want people to find out about the committee faster, it might be easier for them to find out about it if it is part of an existing body.

xxix. T. Reuning said that he thinks that the issue is that it’s not really the role of the Student Advocate, and that it is meant to point people toward resources or help them get them, rather than being an investigative board. He added
that having that link is the point of having the Office representative on the body.

xxx. B. Weintraub said that they do need to be careful regarding the Office of the Student Advocate, in that they don’t want to give them the idea that they can tell them anything, and that they are not a lawyer. He added that they want to make sure that people don’t think that, and avoid getting students into legal trouble.

xxxi. There was a motion to vote on Resolution 50 – approved 20-0-1.

f. Resolution 51: Requesting the Establishment of the Policy 6.4 (Prohibited Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual and Related Misconduct) Cornell Title IX Oversight and Advisory Board
   i. U. Chukwukere and M. Haddad presented the resolution.
   ii. S. Sun asked if this would be within the Title IX office or if it would be a separate entity.
   iii. U. Chukwukere said that it would be completely separate.
   iv. There was a motion to vote on Resolution 51 – approved 20-0-1.

VII. Adjournment
   a. J. Anderson adjourned the meeting at 6:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Hannan
Clerk of the Assembly
S.A. Resolution #53

Special Projects Funding for Students Against the Sexual Solicitation of Youth

ABSTRACT: This resolution approves $1,315 of Special Projects funding to Student Against the Sexual Solicitation of Youth.

Sponsored by: Moriah Adeghe ‘21

Whereas, according to the Student Assembly Standing Rules, Special Project “requests over $400 and under $1500 by a majority vote. The SA, at large, may reverse an Appropriations Committee decision to fund amounts over $400 by a two-thirds vote. The request should be presented to the Student Assembly in the form of a resolution.

Whereas, the Appropriations Committee, by a majority vote, recommended $1,315 in Special Projects Funding to SASSY for their educational summit;

Be it therefore resolved, the Student Assembly necessitates that this funding be used to cover costs related to putting on the summit;

Be it finally resolved, the Student Assembly encourages students to attend the summit on March 21st.

Respectfully Submitted,

Moriah Adeghe ‘21
Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

(Reviewed by: Appropriations Committee, 8-0-2, 3/09/2020)
S.A. Resolution #54
Special Projects Funding for Women’s Club Volleyball

ABSTRACT: This resolution approves $1,000 of Special Projects funding to the Women’s Club Volleyball at Cornell.

Sponsored by: Moriah Adeghe ‘21

Whereas, according to the Student Assembly Standing Rules, Special Project “requests over $400 and under $1500 by a majority vote. The SA, at large, may reverse an Appropriations Committee decision to fund amounts over $400 by a two-thirds vote. The request should be presented to the Student Assembly in the form of a resolution.

Whereas, the Appropriations Committee, by a majority vote, recommended $1,000 in Special Projects Funding to the Women’s Club Volleyball at Cornell for their tournament;

Be it therefore resolved, the Student Assembly necessitates that this funding be used to cover the cost of paying for travel and hotel accommodations for the tournament;

Be it finally resolved, in the event that the tournament is cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the refundable funds will be returned to the Student Assembly.

Respectfully Submitted,

Moriah Adeghe ‘21
Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

(Reviewed by: Appropriations Committee, 8-1-1, 3/09/2020)
S.A. Resolution #55

Approving Special Projects Request for Union Days

ABSTRACT: This resolution approves $2,700 of Special Projects funding to Union Days to bring in a speaker for their annual conference.

Sponsored by: Moriah Adeghe ‘21

Whereas, according to the Student Assembly Standing Rules, Special Project “Requests $1500 and over shall be decided upon by a majority vote of the Appropriations Committee and confirmed by a majority vote of the Student Assembly, at large. The SA, at large, is only required to confirm requests of $1500 or greater. The request should be presented to the Student Assembly in the form of a resolution”;

Whereas, the Appropriations Committee, by a majority vote, recommended $2,700 in Special Projects Funding to Union Days for bringing in a speaker for their event.

Be it therefore resolved, the Student Assembly approves the $2,700 Special Projects disbursement to Union Days for their project;

Be it finally resolved, the Student Assembly necessitates that this funding be used to cover the cost of the speaker.

Respectfully Submitted,

Moriah Adeghe ‘21
Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

(Reviewed by: Appropriations Committee, 9-0-2, 3/02/2020)
S.A. Resolution #56
Support of the Divestment from Fossil Fuels

ABSTRACT: Resolution to divest Cornell University’s endowment from all investments in coal, oil, and natural gas.

Sponsored by: Julian Kroll ’20, Indigo Pavlov ’22

Whereas, many reputable financial publications have suggested that the fossil fuel industry is in the preliminary stages of a significant market decline, while renewable industries such as wind and solar energy promise sustainable, meaningful growth.

Whereas, in August 2019, the Financial Times reported that “Climate Change has been framed as an ethical issue for years now, with mixed success. But now the calls for socially responsible investing to save the planet are increasingly being reinforced by cold economic logic. Mainstream institutional investors are recognising that climate change is not just a threat to the health of the planet, but also a threat to the wealth of their clients”.

Whereas, the Financial Times reported on October 1, 2019 that “Investors who bet on a shift from fossil fuels to clean energy are being richly rewarded as solar and wind stocks outperform oil and gas shares by a widening margin this year”.

Whereas, Bloomberg’s New Energy Outlook (NEO) 2019 reported that solar and wind power have become the most cost effective way to create new energy sources. This report also suggests that wind and solar operations will be able to produce power at lower cost—without subsidy—than existing coal and gas plants across the world by 2030. Since 2010, the cost of solar energy has fallen by 85% and the cost of wind powered energy has dropped by roughly 50%.

Whereas, Deloitte’s 2019 Renewable Energy Industry Outlook report states that some of the market and industry phenomena that “drove growth in 2018 were declining costs of wind and solar generation, advances in battery storage technology, and grid operators’ growing expertise and expanding toolset for integrating intermittent renewable power into the grid. And, perhaps most significant, was robust demand from most market segments. Utilities demonstrated strong “voluntary demand,” as opposed to the demand driven by policy mandates we’ve seen in the past”.

In regards to specific drivers of renewable growth, the Deloitte report states that, “while the current US administration is not focused on decarbonization, states, cities, communities, and businesses with increasingly ambitious sustainability goals are driving renewable growth. Market developments such as the entry of smaller corporations into the corporate procurement market, renewed interest from oil and gas players, and greater involvement of asset management companies offer new opportunities for renewable growth”.

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Whereas, a portfolio manager of the Investec Global Environment fund stated that “Decarbonisation is the largest investment the world has ever had to make in peacetime and the yield curve is giving us an extremely attractive environment in which to make that investment”.

Whereas, the global financial community is increasingly averse to oil investments. In late September, for example, the French oil and gas company Total announced an intention to accelerate dividend growth in years to come. Despite this effort to spur interest in Total’s stock, the company’s shares have nonetheless remained stagnant since the announcement.

Whereas, in both 2017 and 2018, renewable stocks outperformed gas and oil shares.

Whereas, a significant body of market analysts have indicated that as renewable energies become more cost effective, the infrastructure of renewable energy becomes more robust, and industrial actors become more interested in sustainability and more averse to fossil fuels, it is more financially prudent to invest in renewable energies than in the fossil fuel industry.

Whereas, as stated in the 2015 fossil fuel divestment resolution, “there is overwhelming evidence that the use of fossil fuels is disrupting the Earth's climate system and acidifying its oceans, and that such disruptions will significantly challenge the subsistence of human civilization”;

Whereas, the metabolism of fossil fuels emits carbon dioxide (CO2) and nitrous oxide (NO) into the global atmosphere. A particle of CO2 spends between 20 and 200 years in the atmosphere. A particle of nitrous oxide has an atmospheric lifetime of 110 years.

Whereas, the presence of greenhouse gases carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, methane, hydrogen gas, and chlorofluorocarbons raise the specific heat capacity of atmospheric gas, trapping solar rays as they are reflected off of the earth’s surface.

Whereas, “Human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels, with a likely range of 0.8°C to 1.2°C. Global Warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate” - IPCC 2019 Climate change report

Whereas, “Warming from anthropogenic emissions from the pre-industrial period to the present will persist for centuries to millennia and will continue to cause further long-term changes in the climate system, such as sea level rise, with associated impacts, but these emissions alone are unlikely to cause global warming of 1.5°C”. - IPCC 2019

Whereas, carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide remain in the atmosphere for decades to centuries after their original emission and trigger positive reinforcement cycles which both release additional greenhouse gasses and slow their reabsorption or decomposition.
Whereas, climate change’s impacts on natural and human systems have already been documented. The nature of future climate-related risks depend on the trajectory of warming and extent of human preparedness.

Whereas, the effects of global warming vary geographically, disproportionately impacting people of greater geographic vulnerability who lack robust economic and/or social resources.

Whereas, the gradual increase of global mean temperatures will correspond to more extreme weather events, more frequent and intense precipitation in several regions, increased frequency of droughts in some regions, marine ice sheet loss, sea level rise, and risks related to sea level rise.

Whereas, Cornell’s Board of Trustees issued a statement in 2016 detailing the circumstances under which they would initiate divestment proceedings. The criteria are as follows:

1. A company’s actions or inactions are “morally reprehensible,” Additionally, either...

2. The divestiture will likely have a meaningful impact toward correcting the specified harm and will not result in disproportionate offsetting societal consequences; or

3. The company contributes to harm so grave that it would be inconsistent with the goals and principles of the university

Whereas, the operations of the fossil fuel industry are morally reprehensible

Whereas, the body of research supporting the fossil fuel industry’s moral reprehensibility has grown significantly since the Board of Trustees’ 2016 negative fossil fuel divestment decision.

Whereas, the U.S. EPA states on their website that “Climate change is very likely to affect food security at the global, regional, and local level. Climate change can disrupt food availability, reduce access to food, and affect food quality. For example, projected increases in temperatures, changes in precipitation patterns, changes in extreme weather events, and reductions in water availability may all result in reduced agricultural productivity. Increases in the frequency and severity of extreme weather events can also interrupt food delivery, and resulting spikes in food prices after extreme events are expected to be more frequent in the future. Increasing temperatures can contribute to spoilage and contamination”.

Whereas, fluctuations in temperature, sea level, precipitation, and the frequency and severity of extreme events will compromise the infrastructure and economy of energy production, delivery, and consumption in the United States.

Whereas, global warming will increase demand for electricity through elevated cooling activity in warmer months, while elevated global average temperatures will reduce the efficiency of fossil fuel, nuclear power plants, and other production facilities that use water as a coolant.
Whereas, as efficiency of energy production decreases as a result of decreased factor productivity of water-based coolants, and demand for energy increases in warm months as global average temperatures increase, it is likely that energy shortages will occur. People of lower socioeconomic status who lack the buying power to purchase energy at elevated prices will be most egregiously affected. This will lower quality of life, raise barriers to socioeconomic mobility, and create medical risk, among other negative effects.

Whereas, climate change will cause a reduction in energy production efficiency that will hinder the infrastructure of fresh water transportation. Simultaneously, climate change will reduce many regions’ access to fresh water resources by drought. Thus, climate change will create regionally specific elevated demand for fresh water in addition to a weakened freshwater transportation infrastructure that will be less capable of meeting this demand.

Whereas, Climate Change leads to increased salinity in oceans through disruption of otherwise stable patterns of evaporation and precipitation. This disrupts ocean current patterns and reduces freshwater resources. When coastal regions are inundated with this increasingly saline ocean water, the soil is overly salinated and less conducive to agricultural productivity.

Whereas, “Of 105,000 species studied, 6% of insects, 8% of plants, and 4% of vertebrates are projected to lose over half of their climatically determined geographic range for a 1.5°C, increase in global temperatures, compared with 18% of insects, 16% of plants, and 8% of vertebrates for a more extreme global warming of 2°C.”

Whereas, many ecosystems are delicate, interconnected, and dynamic. The loss of a relatively small portion of flora or fauna will catalyze significant disruptions.

Whereas, if their emissions of greenhouse gases are not drastically reduced, the fossil fuel industry will play a significant role in precipitating an anthropogenic mass extinction that will threaten human subsistence.

Whereas, phenomena caused by global warming will displace populations located on islands, coasts, and peninsula.

Whereas, the United Nations issued a statement in 2011 urging the island nation of the Maldives to prepare for displacement resulting from rising sea levels, salinization, coastal erosion, declining access to fresh water, and more frequent storms and flooding.

Whereas, it has been estimated that many islands will become uninhabitable within decades due to the destruction or compromise of freshwater resources and an increased frequency of flooding.

Whereas, migration away from these islands—such as the Maldives, the Marshall Islands, and other small Pacific Island nations, as well as coastal regions like the Louisiana coast or southern Florida—will occur as this land becomes uninhabitable.
Whereas, the creation of new refugee populations could incite conflict through the disruption of existing global geopolitical dynamics.

Whereas, negative externalities produced by the fossil fuel industry have been shown to disproportionately impact marginalized communities—particularly communities of color with lower average socioeconomic status.

Whereas, Black Americans are three times more likely to die from exposure to air pollution and twice as likely to lack access to potable water.

Whereas, a study by Lelieveld et al. published by the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America asserts that “fossil-fuel-related emissions account for about 65% of the excess mortality rate attributable to air pollution”.

Whereas, 68% of Black Americans live within 30 miles of a coal-fired power plant.

Whereas, the NAACP published a report in April 2019 entitled Fossil Fuel Foolery, detailing the tactics employed by the fossil fuel industry to manipulate and disempower communities of color. These strategies generally involve manipulation of information and public perception. The manner in which the fossil fuel industry treats communities of color is particularly relevant because these communities tend to bear disproportionate amounts of the negative externalities produced through fossil fuel enterprise.

Whereas, 35% of sites of fossil fuel extraction lie either directly on or near Indigenous land.

Whereas, fossil fuel projects have consistently violated indigenous human rights and caused significant long-term damage on indigenous traditional territories. These actions must be contextualized by a history of antagonism and colonialism that has weakened indigenous communities.

Whereas, Cornell University occupies the territory of the Cayuga Nation.

Whereas, for instance, the process of oil extraction and tar sands developments in Canada has created massive waste pools that can be seen from space in the center of Dene people’s territory, fracturing and destroying their land.

Whereas, the direct and robust contribution of the fossil fuel industry to climate change, a phenomena which has been proven beyond a reasonable doubt to threaten the production and transportation of food, energy, and freshwater, is morally reprehensible. As these resources become more scarce, populations across the world will inevitably lose access to them.

Whereas, the direct and robust contribution of the fossil fuel industry to climate change, a phenomena that threatens to cause an anthropogenic mass extinction, is morally reprehensible. The
impact of collapsing global ecosystems on human subsistence is not negligible; human agricultural processes are often interwoven with local flora and fauna.

Whereas, the direct and robust contribution of the fossil fuel industry to climate change, a phenomena that threatens to displace populations and create a new generation of environmental refugees, is morally reprehensible. The effects of these imminent disruptions to volatile global geopolitical dynamics are unpredictable.

Whereas, the overwhelming amount of human death, suffering, and disruption that climate change threatens to cause is inherently morally reprehensible. The disproportionate impact of climate change upon indigenous communities, communities lacking robust socioeconomic resources, and communities of color bears similarities to an apartheid state, in which operates a system of segregation and violence based on color, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status.

Whereas, the process of fossil fuel divestment has a meaningful impact towards correcting the fossil fuel industry’s emissions of carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide through diminishing their external funding, stock value, and legitimacy in the global marketplace.

Whereas, a 2017 study written by Ekwurzel et al. showed that 90 fossil fuel companies account for two thirds of all carbon dioxide and methane emissions produced in the industrial era. Destabilizing the fossil fuel industry is a prudent route to a sustainable and just future.

Whereas, Cornell University’s divestment from the fossil fuel industry would follow the UC system’s recent decision to divest from fossil fuels, and would set a precedent for the rest of the Ivy League and other peer institutions. As more institutions choose to divest from the fossil fuel industry, the symbolic and material objectives of fossil fuel divestment are more fully realized.

Whereas, if successful, the global drive for fossil fuel divestment will incentivize fossil fuel companies to transition into reliance on renewable technologies.

Whereas, divestment from fossil fuels legitimizes contemporary climate science. This is particularly important in today’s context, given the Trump Administration’s consistent denial and repression of climate science. The Trump administration’s institutionalized climate change denial has manifested itself in the following ways, among others:

1. **Altering economic models of climate change by deliberately miscalculating the social cost of carbon:** The Trump EPA’s ‘social cost of carbon’ is calculated as the social cost of one ton of carbon to the U.S. economy and environment, as opposed to the previous model which calculated the impact of one ton of carbon upon the global environment and economy. As a result, the social cost of one ton of carbon sank from $50 to between $1 and $7. As this data is factored into the formation and implementation of environmental policy, greater amounts of carbon dioxide pollution will be permitted. Additionally, a social cost of
carbon based solely on domestic carbon impact is surely inaccurate given our interconnected global economy, which will encounter higher transportation and energy costs due to greenhouses gases like carbon dioxide.

2. **Removing mention of human-made climate change from research conducted by National Park Service Scientists:** The release of Maria Caffrey’s 2013 research on the impact of climate change on 118 coastal parks in the U.S. was delayed until 2017. When the report was released, all mention of human-made climate change was removed. The scientist who published the report was subsequently demoted and dismissed. Documentation of the agency’s actions was made available through the Freedom of Information Act.

3. **Direct quotes from the president of the United States endorsing conspiracy theories and misinformation in regards to climate science:** In 2012, Donald Trump tweeted that climate change was a hoax invented by the Chinese government in order to weaken American industry. There is no evidence supporting this claim. On April 2nd, 2019, Donald Trump stated in a speech that noise from wind turbines causes cancer. There is no evidence supporting this claim. During an especially cold November weekend in 2018, Donald Trump tweeted “Whatever happened to Global Warming”. This act reflects a deep misunderstanding of the nature of climate change.

Whereas, Cornell University’s divestment from fossil fuels will not result in disproportionate offsetting societal consequences. While a degree of structural unemployment may be experienced as primacy in the energy market shifts from fossil fuels to renewable technologies, this negative impact is certainly not disproportionate to the social value generated by the mitigation of climate change.

Whereas, divestment from the fossil fuel industry will have a meaningful impact toward correcting the specified harm of climate change through delegitimizing the fossil fuel industry, stigmatizing their enterprises to potential investors and consumers, and empowering climate science, which clearly indicates that the fossil fuel industry’s operations are unsustainable and unjust.

Whereas, A 2019 report from Truzaar Dordi and Olaf Weber asserts that “divestment announcements decrease the share price of the fossil fuel companies,” based on “several robustness tests using alternate expected returns models and statistical tests … to ensure the accuracy of the result.” As share prices reflect the performance of the firm, this will incentivize fossil fuel companies to shift away from business as usual.

Whereas, the divestment from the fossil fuel industry will have a meaningful impact towards correcting the specified harm of climate change by catalyzing our transition to a livable, just, and sustainable future powered by renewable energy. It will contribute to this transition by creating an economic incentive for fossil fuel companies to transition into reliance on renewable and just technologies and by disincentivizing the fossil fuel industry’s stagnation.

*Cornell University Student Assembly © www.CornellSA.com
Whereas, divestment from the fossil fuel industry will have a meaningful impact toward correcting the specified harm of climate change by reinvesting funds into sustainable and just technologies, enabling them to develop and implement industrial processes that will render fossil fuels obsolete.

Whereas, Cornell University’s investment in fossil fuels is dissonant with its Climate Action Plan, which advocates a “low-carbon future” and carbon neutrality on campus by 2035.

Whereas, Cornell University is the leading Ivy League in sustainability rankings and regards itself as “a global leader in sustainability and climate change research.”

Whereas, Cornell University must be cognizant of its direct contribution to climate change, a phenomena that existentially threatens the society that it prepares students to enter.

Whereas, at Cornell, “academic integrity is expected not only in formal coursework situations, but in all University relationships and interactions connected to the educational process, including the use of University resources.” (University code of conduct)

Whereas some of the largest fossil fuel companies (including ExxonMobil, Shell, ConocoPhillips, Chevron, BP, and Peabody) withheld scientific findings asserting the existence of climate change in 1977 and have since continued to fabricate uncertainty about climate science.

Whereas, ExxonMobil has spent $30 million supporting think tanks that produce biased reports fabricating uncertainty about climate science.

Whereas, if Cornell University would not tolerate academic dishonesty in a Cornell researcher or undergraduate, Cornell must not tolerate self-interested dishonesty in the companies that it invests in.

Whereas, the direct and robust contribution of the fossil fuel industry to climate change, a phenomena that poses an existential threat to the world that Cornell University prepares its students to enter, is inconsistent with the goals and principles of the university.

Whereas, the direct and robust contribution of the fossil fuel industry to climate change is inconsistent with Cornell’s commitment to sustainability and climate change research. The fossil fuel industry is both deeply unsustainable and has been shown to engage in frequent repression of climate change research.

Whereas, the many cases in which the fossil fuel industry has suppressed climate change research and contributed to the spread of misinformation concerning climate change is inconsistent with Cornell University's Code of Academic Integrity.
Be it therefore resolved, that Cornell divest from all investments in coal, oil, and natural gas in an orderly manner and as rapidly as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julian Kroll ‘20
School of Arts and Sciences Representative, Student Assembly

Indigo Pavlov ‘22
Vice President of External Affairs, Womxn’s Representative, Student Assembly

Catherine Huang ‘21
Executive Vice President, Student Assembly

(Reviewed by: Environmental Committee, 8-1-0, 03/11/2020)
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, 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.
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/in numerated 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
S.A. Resolution #58
Amending the Standing Rules to Allow Votes Out of New Business

ABSTRACT: This resolution amends the Student Assembly Standing Rules to allow for voting on resolutions without expressly needing to move legislation to Business of the Day.

Sponsored by: Bryan Weintraub ’21

Whereas, many of the resolutions that the Assembly considers are voted on (and passed) on the day that they are initially presented;

Whereas, these resolutions are frequently non-contentious in nature and require minimal discussion;

Whereas, parliamentary procedure can be cumbersome and the need to move legislation from “New Business” to “Business of the Day” has no legitimate impact on the eventual passage of the resolution;

Be it therefore resolved, the Student Assembly approve and adopt the attached Standing Rules amendments;

Section 3: Agenda-Setting Policies and Procedures

F. Rule 6. In order for a resolution to be moved to Business of the Day, a Resolution must have been discussed at a prior meeting or be moved to Business of the Day by a ⅔ vote of members present. Furthermore, a resolution may be brought to a vote while in New Business but will require a vote of two-thirds of SA members present to be passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bryan Weintraub ’21
School of Hotel Administration Representative, Student Assembly
(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, X-X-X, 03/XX/2020)