S.A. Resolution #15
Urging Cornell to Immediately Release Financial Aid

ABSTRACT: This resolution calls for Cornell’s Office of Financial Aid to immediately release all
financial aid to students.

Sponsored by: Joseph Mullen ’24, Valeria Valencia ’23, Claudia León ’23, Adele Williams ’24,
Deepak Ilango ’22, Duncan Cady ’23, Nicole Overton ’23

Whereas, Cornell’s Office of Financial Aid announced that “the Office of Financial Aid and
Student Employment is working diligently to notify students who are still awaiting the results of
their 2021-22 financial aid application. This includes collaborating with the Bursar's Office to make
sure impacted students are not held responsible for August finance charges. We acknowledge the
additional stress this is causing and appreciate your patience”,

Whereas, many students “have yet to be notified about their financial aid awards, while the Bursar
office asks for the school year's first tuition payment”,

Whereas, students were classified as “missing students” — “meaning that due to late fees on a
Bursar bill” they were “temporarily withdrawn from the University and barred from class
add/drop”,

Whereas, a petition with about 50 signatures as of Aug. 18 was sent to the Office of Financial Aid
and administration, expressing frustrations with the financial aid office,

Whereas, said petition called for Cornell to:

1. Issue a formal address to the student body regarding the issue with Financial Aid
2. Take immediate measures to expedite the delivery of financial aid packages
3. Establish an inquiry into the issues that are facing the Financial Aid department with a
   completion date of the end of the calendar year
4. Release the inquiry report to the general Cornell population upon completion

Whereas, these delays are frequent and widespread, and previously occurred halfway into the fall
2020 semester,

Whereas, students have correctly asserted that “Financial aid is an integral part of the University
and should be working properly,”

Be it therefore resolved, the Student Assembly formally calls upon Cornell to implement the
following:

1. Accept the demands of the student petition as listed above:
a. Issue a formal address to the student body regarding the issue with Financial Aid
b. Take immediate measures to expedite the delivery of financial aid packages
c. Establish an inquiry into the issues that are facing the Financial Aid department with
   a completion date of the end of the calendar year
d. Release the inquiry report to the general Cornell population upon completion

2. Release the complete financial aid packages (without reductions), with immediate haste,

3. Compile the submitted comments regarding financial aid and make them publicly viewable
   so the community is better informed,

4. Issue a formal explanation to the entire community surrounding this situation,

5. Withdraw all charges erroneously billed to students,

6. Undertake efforts to prevent this crisis from ever occurring again.

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(Reviewed by: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, PASSED, 08/31/2021)