

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Originally Presented On |  |
| Type of Action | Internal Policy |
| Status/Result | New Business |

**S.A. Resolution # X**

**Creation of Student Assembly Judicial Commission – Bylaws Change**

**Sponsored by: Ulysses Smith ’13, Jordan Berger ’17, Scott Seidenberger ‘16**

**Whereas**, the Student Assembly is the governing body of all undergraduate students and is charged with addressing all matters of interest or concern to the student body;

**Whereas,** the SA has a responsibility to ensure that its policies and guidelines are effectively carried out in a manner that is both consistent and fair;

**Whereas,** internal disputes of the SA and questions of adherence to its governing documents are currently adjudicated by the Executive Board;

**Whereas,** this presents a conflict of interest in many circumstances and compromises the fairness of the internal policies of the SA;

**Whereas,** the SA currently has no designated body charged with ensuring that undergraduate student organizations are in compliance with SA actions and guidelines, and offers no resource for resolving disputes that arise under such policies;

**Be it therefore resolved,** that Article II, Section 4 of the Student Assembly Bylaws be amended to read as follows:

**Section 4: Recalling officers**

Two-thirds vote of the voting membership of the SA may vote to recall any officer of the SA from his or her office for being unable to execute the duties of their office or for violating the governing documents of the Student Assembly. Should there be a dispute regarding the reasons for recalling an officer, the issue will be resolved through a formal hearing before the Student Assembly Judicial Commission.

**Be it further resolved,** that the following changes are made to Article III, Section 9, and the numbering is altered to reflect the change:

**Section 9: Parliamentarian**

The Parliamentarian may not be an SA member. The office of Parliamentarian holds no special voting privileges. The Parliamentarian also may not hold the President or Executive Vice President positions. The responsibilities of the Parliamentarian are as follows:

1. Serve as the Head Commissioner of the Student Assembly Judicial Commission.

**Be it finally resolved**, that the following sections of Article VI be amended to read as follows:

**ARTICLE VI: Committees & Commissions**

**Section 1: Creation of Committees**

Committees will be established with the adoption of a committee charge to be included in this charter and these bylaws. A committee’s charge must be adopted and placed in the charter bylaws before its bylaws are to be considered. Committee bylaws shall be adopted with a majority vote.

**Section 2: Creation of Commissions**

Commissions will be established to carry out a specific task or function as determined by the SA. Commissions shall operate under their own charter or constitution, and maintain a set of bylaws or guidelines to govern their day-to-day operations. All of the aforementioned documents must be approved and adopted by a simple majority vote of the SA. Additionally, all commissioners and executive officers must be approved by a majority vote of the SA.

**Section 6: Commissions**

A. Student Assembly Finance Commission (SAFC) — The SA determines the policies for the allocation and use of funds for undergraduate student organizations. The SAFC by-line funding allocation shall be raised only in proportion to the percentage increase in the inflation of the dollar or increase in the undergraduate population of Cornell University. The SA VP of Finance shall serve as a non-voting member of the executive board. The SA also hears appeals from decisions of the undergraduate SAFC. The SA SAFC liaison shall serve as a full voting member of the Commission and a member of the Executive Board of the SAFC. All members of the Student Assembly will go through a short SAFC training session that includes a summary of the SAFC’s semester-long process, an overview of the SAFC guidelines Cheat Sheet, and a review of the Commissioner Quiz. The SA VP of Internal Operations and the SAFC Vice Chair of Internal Operations will coordinate this session.

B. Student Assembly Judicial Commission (SAJC) – The SA maintains authority over its internal policies and procedures. The SAJC shall serve as the body through which matters of internal disputes of the SA are resolved. These matters include matters of recall voting; matters of interpretation of the bylaws and other governing documents; matters of contested elections; and other matters arising under the bylaws or actions of the Student Assembly. The SA President may request a preliminary interpretation of the SA Charter, though final interpretation will ultimately be decided by the President of the University. Additionally, all resolutions shall be reviewed by the SAJC to ensure that they are properly classified and fit within the bounds of the authority of the SA. The SA also maintains authority over the policies of the Office of the Dean of Students (DOS), where all registered undergraduate student organizations that receive funding from the SA are housed. All undergraduate student organizations that are registered with the DOS via Student Leadership, Engagement & Campus Activities (SLECA), and are eligible to receive funds from the SA, either directly from the Student Activity Fee or indirectly by way of the SAFC, shall be subject to having matters resolved by the SAJC. These matters include matters of interpretation of governing documents; matters of non-Code of Conduct violations of DOS policies; and matters of violations of policies set forth by the SA. No matters of law shall be brought before the SAJC. Consistent with the authority of the SA, the Commission may revoke or withhold funds from any organization found to be in violation of the aforementioned policies. The Commission reserves the right to refer matters that are brought before it to other entities of the University for a more appropriate method of resolution.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Ulysses Smith ‘13

*President, Student Assembly*

Jordan Berger ‘17

*Parliamentarian, Student Assembly*

Scott Seidenberger ‘16

*Judicial Affairs Task Force, SA Community Life Committee*

*Reviewed by:*