



Resolution #	4
Originally Presented On	September 3, 2009
Sponsor(s)	Rammy Salem '10, Ola Williams '10
Subject of Resolution	Voting Rights for Members of the Undergraduate Community "The Community Clause"
Status/Result	Unfinished Business

Whereas, the Preamble of the Student Assembly Charter states that the Student Assembly will "effect more extensive involvement in campus governance."

Whereas, the Student Assembly seeks to further engage the undergraduate student community all issues relating to undergraduate student life at Cornell University.

Whereas, the Student Assembly, with the passage of Resolution 12, calling for the direction election of the Student Assembly President and Executive Vice President, has embraced fundamental ideas relating to direct democracy.

Be it therefore resolved:

The following changes are made to the Student Assembly charter:

3.1 Composition

The SA will consist of 23 **popularly elected** voting members **and any member of the undergraduate community who fulfills the voting eligibility requirements pursuant to *Bylaw 3.1.d***, who are registered undergraduate students at Cornell University. Eleven voting members of the SA will be elected by and from the student populations of the colleges and schools, one from each: the College of Architecture, Art and Planning; the School of Hotel Administration; the College of Human Ecology; and the School of Industrial and Labor Relations.

...and...

Add:

Bylaw 3.1.d (The Community Clause)

i. One vote will be allocated to each non-elected undergraduate member of the Cornell community present at three consecutive SA meetings.

- ii. Upon absence from two consecutive SA meetings by a non-elected undergraduate student, voting rights of the aforementioned undergraduate will be revoked until completion of the voting eligibility requirements outlined in Bylaw 3.1.d.i
- iii. Non-elected voting members, who were active in the previous academic year, shall be considered active at the start of the next academic year unless they are not a registered undergraduate student.
- iv. The community clause may only be exercised on final votes of sense-of-body resolutions pursuant to Bylaw 1.3.a.4, which excludes (1) funding and budgetary decisions, (2) amendments to the SA Charter and Standing Rules, (3) the ability to make motions, (4) creation/dissolution of committees (5) selection of officers, committee members, and liaisons from the popularly elected SA (i.e. allocation of the Student Activity Fee, SAFC appeals, approval of Parliamentarian, Liaison to the Provost, etc.).
- v. At the beginning of each Student Assembly meeting, members of the community will present their Cornell IDs to the Parliamentarian. The Parliamentarian will record all undergraduate community members present within 15 minutes of the meeting's call to order. Prior to the final vote of a resolution, qualifying members of the community will be permitted to cast their vote.

...and...

Bylaw 4.1.b

A Parliamentarian shall be nominated by the President and affirmed by a majority of the SA voting members. The Parliamentarian need 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 Parliamentarian shall advise the President on questions of parliamentary procedure. **The Parliamentarian shall enforce and administer The Community Clause of the Student Assembly charter.**

...and...

5.3 Vetoing Power

Popularly elected voting SA members reserve the right to veto the passage of sense-of-body resolutions pursuant to Bylaw 1.3.a.4 by a two-thirds majority vote of the popularly elected voting SA members present.

...and...

ARTICLE 2: Charter Amendment

2.2 By SA Voting Member

Any **popularly elected** members of the SA may present an amendment to the entire SA for consideration. Within two regularly scheduled meetings after such presentation the SA will discuss and vote on the proposed amendment(s). Under no circumstances will this Charter be amended without the consent of two-thirds of the voting members of the SA.

ARTICLE 3: Membership

3.1 Composition

The SA will consist of 23 **popularly elected** voting members **and any undergraduates who fulfill voting eligibility requirements pursuant to *Bylaw 3.1.d*** who are registered undergraduate students at Cornell University.

3.3 Student Body/Presidential Appointment

All members of the Cornell student body are considered non-voting members of the SA **unless they fulfill voting eligibility requirements pursuant to *Bylaw 3.1.d***, and are encouraged to attend and participate in meetings. The SA may designate ex-officio members. The President will appoint one member of the administration to serve as consultant to the SA at its meetings.

Bylaw 3.3.a

One member chosen by the InterFraternity Council (IFC), the Panhellenic Association (PanHel), or the Multicultural Greek Living Council (MGLC) shall be included as a non-voting ex-officio member on a rotating basis **until he or she fulfills voting eligibility requirements pursuant to *Bylaw 3.1.d***, beginning with a representative of IFC, following with PanHel, and finishing with MGLC.

Bylaw 3.3.b

One executive member shall be chosen by the Residence Hall Association (RHA) to serve as a non-voting ex-officio member **until he or she fulfills voting eligibility requirements pursuant to *Bylaw 3.1.d***.

3.4 Absentees

Any **popularly elected** voting members who are absent for three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings or for six regularly scheduled meetings cumulatively during their term, will lose their right to vote and their position will be considered vacated. The remaining **popularly elected** voting members will fill all vacancies by seating the highest ranked non-winning candidate in the last election from the same constituency....

ARTICLE 4: Officers

4.1 President/Others

The SA will, as soon as possible after the spring election, hold an organizational and planning meeting. The SA shall elect any officers it deems important to the normal operations of the SA at some time prior to June 1st. Each nominee for the respective offices shall be subject to two-thirds approval of the SA **popularly elected** voting members...

Bylaw 4.1.a

Elections for officers and the two SA **popularly elected** voting members to the UA shall be by separate secret ballots. SA voting members may have one vote for each position to be filled, but may not vote for any one individual twice on any ballot. The President may not be one of the SA representatives to the UA.

Bylaw 4.1.b

A Parliamentarian shall be nominated by the President and affirmed by a majority of the **popularly elected** SA voting members. The Parliamentarian need not be an SA member. The office of Parliamentarian holds no special voting privileges **until he or she fulfills voting eligibility requirements pursuant to *Bylaw 3.1.d***.

Bylaw 4.1.d

Two-thirds (2/3) of the seated **popularly elected** members of the SA may vote to recall any officer of the SA from his or her office. Two-thirds (2/3) of the seated **popularly elected** SA members may vote to recall any representative of the SA to the UA from his or her office.

4.2 Executive Committee

Bylaw 4.2.a

Membership:

Bylaw 4.2.a.6

In the event that the VP Internal Operations, or Finance, or Public Relations resigns from office or is unable to perform the duties of the aforementioned offices, an election shall be held to fill the position. All **popularly elected** Assembly members are eligible to run for the vacated office and existing rules governing the election of Executive Committee Officers shall be utilized.

6.3 Executive Session

With the concurrence of two-thirds of the **popularly elected** voting members in attendance, the SA or any of its committees may go into executive session only to discuss confidential matters as defined in Article 5. No policy determinations will be made in executive session.

Bylaw 6.3.a

~~The SA shall abide by the "Open Meetings" law and the spirit of its intent.~~ **Non-elected undergraduate members of the Cornell community will be excluded from all Executive Sessions.**

6.4 Quorum

A quorum shall consist of a majority of the seated **popularly elected** voting members of the SA.

Bylaw 6.4.a

Proxy votes shall be cast exclusively as follows.

Bylaw 6.4.a.1

Only excused **popularly elected** voting members shall be permitted to cast proxy votes.

ARTICLE 7: Committees

7.1 Creation

7.1.1 Committees will be established with the adoption of a committee charge and an appropriate bylaw. The charge and bylaw must be moved by a voting **popularly elected** member of the SA, but they

7.2 Dissolution

If the SA no longer needs the services of a committee, and there is no student interest for that committee, the SA may dissolve that committee by a majority vote of the **popularly elected** SA members present.

7.3 Guidelines

Committee Guidelines

7.3.6 All SA committees will be chaired by a **popularly elected** SA member unless otherwise specified in the charge to the committee as approved by the SA. All members shall serve one-year terms and may reapply for additional terms.

Bylaw 7.3.a

Committee Appointment of Voting SA Members

Bylaw 7.3.a.1

Uncontested positions – **Popularly elected** voting SA members seeking unoccupied, uncontested committee positions for which **popularly elected** voting SA members are required shall be granted the positions upon notification to the **popularly elected** SA voting body present and the VP Internal Operations.

Bylaw 7.3.a.2

Contested Positions - SA voting members committee positions sought by more **popularly elected** SA voting members than required shall be filled according to a ballot vote, one vote for each vacant position, by a plurality vote of SA **popularly elected** voting members present.

Bylaw 7.3.a.3

Additional Appointments – **Popularly elected** SA voting members seeking committee positions for which the minimum number has already been reached shall be required to obtain approval from the **popularly elected** SA voting body by a majority ballot vote of those **popularly elected** SA voting members present. In no case shall the total number of **popularly elected** SA voting members on a committee exceed the minimum required number by 2.

7.4 Procedures

Committee Procedures

7.4.1 Upon consultation with the **popularly elected** SA members of the committee, the Executive Vice President shall select a chairperson for SA Review Committees and Student Interest Committees...

7.5 Review

Bylaw 7.5.a

Review Committee Apportionment

Bylaw 7.5.a.1

Committee on Dining Services - ... The committee will consist of two Dining student workers, one **popularly elected** voting SA member, one graduate/professional student, four undergraduate students (at least one of whom is a member of a Co-Op Dining plan), two faculty members, one non-management employee, and one management employee. Two students will be appointed as committee "alternates"...

Bylaw 7.5.a.2

Committee on Residence and Community Life - ... The Committee will consist of one chair who shall be appointed by the SA and at least two **popularly elected** voting SA members (at least one Freshman-at-large), one off-campus undergraduate-at-large representative, two representatives from the RHA (one being a resident of a traditional residence hall and one being a resident of a program house), one representative from the Inter-Fraternity Council, one representative from the Pan Hellenic Council (Panhel), one representative from the Africana and Latino Greek Letter Council, one representative from the undergraduate Co-ops, one representative involved in the Faculty Fellows/Advisers or Faculty-In-Residence Programs, and one employee (ex. Residence Hall Directors).

Bylaw 7.5.a.4

Joint Assemblies Financial Aid Review Committee - The committee shall consist of five undergraduate students, at least four of whom receive some form of institutionalized financial aid, one graduate/professional student to be appointed by the GPSA, two faculty members, one counselor from the Office of Financial Aid, and two **popularly elected** SA members. The Associate Provost for Admissions and Enrollment, the Director of Financial Aid and Student Employment and the Vice President for Student and Academic Services shall serve as ex officio non-voting members. The committee is chaired by a **popularly elected** SA member and can be convened by either the UA or SA. The committee, however, reports regularly to both Assemblies.

Bylaw 7.5.a.6

Committee on Information and Technologies - ... The committee will consist of one Chair who is a **popularly elected** member of the SA, with voting members being three **popularly elected** SA members, one student staff member from CIT, one full time staff member from CIT, one delegate from the GPSA, and five students from the community at large.

7.6 Operational

Bylaw 7.6.a

Operational Committee Apportionment

Bylaw 7.6.a.1

Appropriations Committee - ... The Committee shall consist of 8 **popularly elected** voting members of the SA, to be selected by the **popularly elected** Assembly at large during their organizational meetings; the VP Finance, who shall serve as Chair; and 7 undergraduates at-large to be selected by the Staffing Committee.

Bylaw 7.6.a.3

Elections Committee - ... Membership shall only include **popularly elected** SA and UA members who are graduating seniors, unless otherwise specified by the undergraduate election rules.

Be it further resolved that all undergraduate members of the Cornell community receive e-mail notification of this charter change following the passage of this resolution.

Be it finally resolved, that the implementation and impact of the community clause will be revisited by the SA at the end of the Fall 2009 semester.

Respectfully submitted,

Rammy Salem '10

At-Large Representative

Student Assembly, President

Ola Williams, '10

At-Large Representative

Student Assembly Executive Vice President