



Student Assembly R. 56: Creation of Student Assembly Judicial Commission – Bylaws Change

*Sponsor: Ulysses Smith on behalf of Jordan Berger and Scott Seidenberger
Propose on February 24th, 2014*

- 1 Whereas, the Student Assembly is the governing body of all undergraduate students and is
2 charged with addressing all matters of interest or concern to the student body;
3
4 Whereas, the SA has a responsibility to ensure that its policies and guidelines are effectively
5 carried out in a manner that is both consistent and fair;
6
7 Whereas, internal disputes of the SA and questions of adherence to its governing documents
8 are currently adjudicated by the Executive Board;
9
10 Whereas, this presents a conflict of interest in many circumstances and compromises the
11 fairness of the internal policies of the SA;
12
13 Whereas, the SA currently has no designated body charged with ensuring that undergraduate
14 student organizations are in compliance with SA actions and guidelines, and offers no resource
15 for resolving disputes that arise under such policies;
16
17 Be it therefore resolved, that Article II, Section 4 of the Student Assembly Bylaws be amended
18 to read as follows:
19
20 Section 4: Recalling officers
21 Two-thirds vote of the voting membership of the SA may vote to recall any officer of the SA
22 from his or her office for being unable to execute the duties of their office or for violating the
23 governing documents of the Student Assembly. Should there be a dispute regarding the
24 reasons for recalling an officer, the issue will be resolved through a formal hearing before the
25 Student Assembly Judicial Commission.
26
27 Be it further resolved, that the following clause is added to Article III, Section 9, and the
28 numbering is altered to reflect the change:
29
30 Section 9: Parliamentarian
31 The Parliamentarian may not be an SA member. The office of Parliamentarian holds no special
32 voting privileges. The responsibilities of the Parliamentarian are as follows:
33
34 1. Serve as the Head Commissioner of the Student Assembly Judicial Commission.
35
36 Be it finally resolved, that the following sections of Article VI be amended to read as follows
37 and numbering is altered to reflect the changes:
38
39 ARTICLE VI: Committees & Commissions
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1 Section 1: Creation of Committees

2 Committees will be established with the adoption of a committee charge to be included in the
3 SA bylaws. A committee's charge must be adopted and placed in the bylaws before the
4 committee's own bylaws are to be considered. Committee bylaws shall be adopted with a
5 majority vote.
6

7 Section 2: Creation of Commissions

8 Commissions will be established to carry out a specific task or function as determined by the
9 SA. Commissions shall operate under their own charter or constitution, and maintain a set of
10 bylaws or guidelines to govern their day-to-day operations. All of the aforementioned
11 documents must be approved and adopted by a simple majority vote of the SA. Additionally, all
12 commissioners and executive officers of commissions must be approved by a majority vote of
13 the SA.
14

15 Section 6: Commissions

16
17 A. Student Assembly Finance Commission (SAFC) — The SA determines the policies for the
18 allocation and use of funds for undergraduate student organizations. The SAFC by-line funding
19 allocation shall be raised only in proportion to the percentage increase in the inflation of the
20 dollar or increase in the undergraduate population of Cornell University. The SA VP of Finance
21 shall serve as a non-voting member of the executive board. The SA also hears appeals from
22 decisions of the undergraduate SAFC. The SA SAFC liaison shall serve as a full voting
23 member of the Commission and a member of the Executive Board of the SAFC. All members
24 of the Student Assembly will go through a short SAFC training session that includes a
25 summary of the SAFC's semester-long process, an overview of the SAFC guidelines Cheat
26 Sheet, and a review of the Commissioner Quiz. The SA VP of Internal Operations and the
27 SAFC Vice Chair of Internal Operations will coordinate this session.
28

29 B. Student Assembly Judicial Commission (SAJC) – The SA maintains authority over its
30 internal policies and procedures. The SAJC shall serve as the body through which matters of
31 internal disputes of the SA are resolved. These matters include matters of recall voting;
32 matters of interpretation of the bylaws and other governing documents; matters of contested
33 elections; and other matters arising under the bylaws or actions of the Student Assembly. The
34 SA President may request the SAJC to provide a preliminary interpretation of the SA Charter,
35 Bylaws, or other governing documents, though final interpretation will ultimately be decided by
36 the President of the University. Additionally, all SA resolutions shall be reviewed by the SAJC to
37 ensure that they are properly classified and fit within the bounds of the authority of the SA. The
38 SA also maintains authority over the policies of the Office of the Dean of Students (DOS),
39 where all registered undergraduate student organizations that receive funding from the SA are
40 housed. All undergraduate student organizations that are registered with the DOS via Student
41 Leadership, Engagement & Campus Activities (SLECA), and are eligible to receive funds from
42 the SA, either directly from the Student Activity Fee or indirectly by way of the SAFC, shall be
43 subject to having matters resolved by the SAJC. These matters include matters of
44 interpretation of governing documents; matters of non-Code of Conduct violations of DOS
45 policies; and matters of violations of policies set forth by the SA. No matters of law shall be
46 brought before the SAJC. Consistent with the authority of the SA, the SAJC may revoke or
47 withhold funds from any such organization found to be in violation of the aforementioned
48 policies. The Commission reserves the right to refer matters that are brought before it to other
49 entities of the University for a more appropriate method of resolution.
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51 Respectfully Submitted,
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2 Ulysses Smith '13
3 President, Student Assembly
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5 Jordan Berger '17
6 Parliamentarian, Student Assembly
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8 Scott Seidenberger '16
9 Judicial Affairs Task Force, SA Community Life Committee
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11
12 Reviewed by:
13
14 UA Codes & Judicial Committee 2/21/2014
15
16 Executive Committee 2/23/2014