

## **Judicial Commission Charter**

### **Preamble:**

The Student Assembly Judicial Commission is a commission established by the Student Assembly (SA) to:

- Provide an objective method of resolution for internal disputes of the SA
- Provide counsel and guidance on the governing documents of the SA
- Provide a peer-to-peer method of dispute resolution for undergraduate student organizations
- Ensure that all undergraduate student organizations uphold the policies and guidelines established by the SA and the Office of the Dean of Students.

### **Name**

The name of this organization shall be the Student Assembly Judicial Commission of Cornell University, hereafter referred to as SAJC.

### **Quorum**

Quorum is defined as 3/5 of the seated voting commissioners.

#### **I. Attendance Policy**

Attendance is essential to the operation of the SAJC. The following attendance policy will be in effect and refers to attendance during one semester:

Any 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.

#### **II. Membership**

##### Section 1

THE SAJC will consist of 5 commissioners. One additional individual shall also be selected to serve in an advisory position. This person shall be either a graduate student, staff member, or a member of the faculty.

##### Section 2

To be eligible for membership, a person must be registered as an undergraduate student at Cornell University. No member of any university assembly, the SA Appropriations Committee, SAFC, or student trustee can participate as an SAJC commissioner. If a SAJC commissioner is elected to any of the above listed positions, that commissioner must resign from the SAJC.

##### Section 3

A slate of new members of the SAJC shall be elected on the basis of interviews conducted by the existing group of commissioners before the position is vacated. This process is to take place during the spring semester. The SA VP of Internal Operations will join in the interview process in an advisory, non-voting capacity. In the founding year of the SAJC, the Executive Board of the Student Assembly will prepare the slate. The list of commissioners will be submitted to the SA prior to the last meeting of the semester or as needed for final approval. All commissioners and executive officers must be approved by a majority vote of the SA.

Interview procedures:

All students interested in becoming a commissioner must fill out an application to be submitted via the shared governance database or other application method determined by the Office of the Assemblies. Application questions may include, but are not limited to: questions regarding SA governing documents, mock scenarios, and extended responses. Candidates may be selected for an interview based on initial review of their completed applications.

After interviews are completed, the commissioners shall use the hare system of voting to select the new commissioners. Candidates will rank each candidate in order of preference. Each number will be assigned a value. The candidates receiving the highest total value will be the new commissioners.

Section 4

Selection of new members must take place as soon as a vacancy arises.

Section 5

Members of the SAJC shall serve two-year staggered terms unless they resign or are removed from office (for attendance or other policy violations). Commissioners can be re-appointed after two years. Due to the limited size of the commission, commissioners must resign if they need to take a leave of absence. They may reapply if a position becomes available.

To be excused from the attendance requirement at any meeting during the semester, a member must present their reason to the Head Commissioner. Excused absences include academic obligations (classes, tests, and field trips), employment (on campus jobs or employment interviews), personal emergencies (ex. health and family), and those absences excused by the University.

### **III. Officers**

Section 1

The Parliamentarian of the Student Assembly shall serve as the Head Commissioner of the SAJC and shall be responsible for coordinating all activities of the Commission.

Section 2

The Commission may create any other officer positions, if deemed necessary, and approved by a majority vote of the SA. All officers shall be elected through an internal election process.

#### **IV. Amendments**

##### Section 1

This Charter may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the SAJC voting members subject to the approval of the SA by majority vote. The Assembly may make amendments through majority vote.

##### Section 2

This Charter may be amended at any meeting provided that the SAJC members have received previous notification that the amendment is to be considered.