S.A. Resolution #29
Calling for Implementation of Open Course Evaluations

Sponsored by: Joseph Fridman '17

Whereas Cornell University's peer institutions, and several colleges within Cornell, have successfully implemented an open course evaluation system, through which students and other members of the university community enjoy access to the results of previous course evaluations,

Whereas open course evaluations offer students and other members of the university community access to academic guidance and critical information about course selection,

Whereas the implementation of an open course evaluation system is an improvement over the status quo, in which third-party sites and services aggregate polarized and outdated reviews from unverified sources,

Whereas valid concerns about an open course evaluation system exist and should be deliberately addressed with due consideration,

Whereas a campus-wide conversation about pedagogy, evaluation, and academic decision-making offers Cornellians a unique opportunity to join the conversation about the contemporary educational climate, improve existing methods and practices, and realize the meaning of "Any person, any study",

Be it therefore resolved that the Student Assembly calls upon the University and the Office of the President to create and charge an Open Course Evaluation Implementation Committee with the planning, development, and roll-out of an open course evaluation system,

Be it further resolved that the Implementation Committee should present a Open Course Evaluation Implementation Report before the close of the academic year outlining a roll-out process,

Be it further resolved that the Student Assembly adopt the following recommendations regarding the open course evaluation system:
- **Preliminary course syllabi are made available for pre-enroll when possible;**
- **Previous class sizes (incl. # of students enrolled before add-drop) are made available when possible;**

43   • **Quantitative results regarding class difficulty (e.g. "On a scale of 1-**
44   **7, was this class easier or more difficult that the other classes you**
45   **have taken at Cornell?"), workload, access to resources, etc. are**
46   **published, as well as qualitative evaluations (e.g. "Would you**
47   **recommend this course? To whom? Why or why not?") ;**
48   • **Course median grades, which are already available on transcripts,**
49   **should be more readily accessible;**
50   • **The Committee should investigate the possibility of leaving**
51   **retrospective evaluations;**
52   • **Concerns regarding the inclusion of student teachers and faculty**
53   **new to Cornell should be addressed by the Committee;**
54   • **Concerns regarding anonymity in small courses should be**
55   **addressed by the Committee;**
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57 **Be it finally resolved that extensive efforts are made to include all stakeholders**
58   **in the ongoing discussion regarding open course evaluations.**
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60 **Respectfully Submitted,**
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62 **Joseph Fridman '17**
63 *Undesignated at-Large Representative, Student Assembly*
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65 *(Reviewed by: Executive Committee 6-0-0, 11/11/14)*