

## **U.A. Resolution 2: Enhancing Constituency Representation in Policy Making**

## **University Policy 4.1 – Formulation and Issuance of Policies**

1	Sponsored by: [S. Williams, SA, UA Chair; A. Broad, GPSA, UA Vice Chair of
2	Operations; E. Crawley, EA, Executive Vice Chair; B. Milles, Faculty Senate, UA Ranking
3	Member]
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5	Whereas, the University Assembly (UA) represents a critical component of Cornell University's
6	governance structure, embodying the diverse perspectives of its constituencies;
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8	Whereas, the Formulation and Issuance of University Policies (Policy 4.1) outlines a comprehensive
9	procedure for developing, reviewing, and approving university policies, yet does not explicitly
10	include UA or constituency representation in the policy-making process;
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12	Whereas, the absence of UA representation in policy-making committees has led to policies that may
13	not fully consider the insights, needs, and concerns of all university constituencies, thus
14	impacting community trust and policy efficacy;
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16	Whereas, the engagement of UA leadership and constituency presidents or chairs in the policy
17	development process can significantly contribute to creating policies that are inclusive, well-
18	informed, and reflective of the university community's values and needs.
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20	Be it therefore resolved,
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The University Policy Office (UPO), responsible executives, and policy development committees shall engage in deep consultation with UA leadership at the onset of the policy development process. This engagement shall include discussions on policy scope, impact, and considerations specific to various constituencies;

In addition to deep consultations with UA leadership, brief consultations shall be conducted with all constituency presidents and chairs to gather a broad spectrum of insights and recommendations on pending policies. This step ensures that diverse perspectives are considered, enhancing the policy's relevance and acceptance across the university;

To institutionalize the representation of different university constituencies in the policy-making process, each policy development committee shall include at least one University Assembly elected representative,



who will report back to the University Assembly in a manner consistent with the requirements of the University Policy Office committee guidelines;

The University Assembly Chair should be briefed at least one time per semester on significant policy and procedural changes that will impact the University community;

The overarching goal of this resolution is to foster a healthier, more inclusive community by ensuring that UA involvement is integral to the policy development process. Recognizing the significant role that UA and its constituencies play in the university ecosystem, their active involvement is essential to crafting policies that are equitable, effective, and reflective of our collective values and goals.

## Resolved,

The University Policy Office (UPO), in collaboration with the UA, shall develop and implement mechanisms to ensure the effective integration of this resolution's provisions into the policy development process;

An annual assessment shall be conducted by the University Assembly, in coordination with the University Policy Office and the Ombuds Office, to assess the effectiveness of UA and constituency involvement in policymaking and to make adjustments as necessary to improve collaboration and policy outcomes, by January 30 of each University Assembly term;

**Be it finally resolved,** this resolution shall be communicated to all relevant parties within the university, including policy development committees, the University Policy Office, and the university community at large, to ensure widespread awareness and compliance.

Passed by the Assembly 11-0-1
April 23, 2024
Shelby Williams, Chair of the University Assembly