

Appendix to R. 33 - Ivy Council Report

History of Ivy Council

The Ivy Council was founded in 1993, when student government leaders from the Ivy League colleges and universities met to discuss issues and problems at their respective schools. In the course of meeting, they discovered that they faced similar issues. They concluded that an organization should be formed to facilitate the exchange of ideas and promote student growth at each and all of the Ivy League institutions, ushering in The Ivy Council's conception.

Ivy Council delegations, led by the school's head delegate, now exist at each of the Ivy League universities. In addition, the head delegates as well as members of the Executive Board, who are elected from among the eight universities, form the Ivy Council's Steering Board, which exists as the Ivy Council's ultimate student authority, overseeing the programming and direction of the organization as a whole. In 1998, the Ivy Council also established the Board of Governors, which consists of Ivy Council alumni and serves in an advisory role to the organization.

Altogether, the Ivy Council's structure allows for its delegations to harness their students' distinct qualities and talents to create a variety of programs at each school that further the Ivy Council's overarching mission. At the same time, the Ivy Council brings together all Ivy League students multiple times throughout the academic year with its flagship programs, such as the Ivy Leadership Summit, in order to promote unity and facilitate the exchange of ideas among students.

Current Functions

Ivy Council is involved with several programs that have been created to develop student leadership development and engage students in public service and global exchange.

The Ivy Leadership Summit, for example, is a Ivy Council initiative that was originally created to promote the exchange of ideas between students of the Ivy League and today's leaders on subjects of public policy such as globalization, health care, and ethics. The main activities of the conference were keynote speakers, panels, and roundtable discussions. Since then, the Ivy Council has held six conferences each focusing on a differing policy topic.

Ivy CORPS (Community Outreach & Public Service) is an Ivy Council enterprise devoted to realizing Franklin's vision of service within the Ivy League. IvyCORPS unites students, faculty, alumni, and staff from the eight Ivy League schools with their local community in an effort to increase volunteerism, strengthen school and community ties, and foster life-long connections with service groups.

The Ivy Policy Conference has been established to bring together the student leaders from the eight Ivy League universities in order to discuss and gain insight on common policy challenges and achievements within their respective schools. The conference's location rotates among the eight campuses. At the conference, students engage in roundtable discussions on topics such as advising, housing, diversity awareness, and campus sustainability. Following each conference, the Ivy Council publishes a Final Policy Report which includes findings and recommendations collected from the students' conversations.

Ivy-China Exchange Program:

Finally, initiated by students at Cornell University in 2008, the Ivy Council established a partnership with the All-China Students' Federation (ACSF) in order to strengthen the relationship between American and Chinese student leaders, in what is now called **Ivy-China** Research, Mentorship, and Exchange program. In both the United States and China, visiting student delegations participate in student discussions, meet business and government leaders, gain new perspectives, and establish lifelong friendships.

During the Ivy-China trip, the Ivy Council's holds three objectives in its involvement with China: (1) To establish a platform of discussion and exchange between student leaders at Ivy League schools and their Chinese counterparts. (2) Provide a glimpse of society, politics, business, culture, and university life in one country to student in the other. (3) Introduce students on both sides of the exchange to new and differing perspectives.

Future of the Organization

Cornell University would benefit greatly from affiliation with the Ivy Council chapter. First and foremost, our organization is specifically tailored to the development of student leadership and public service. In addition, Ivy Council would be able to have a committee of students that would compromise the delegation of the Cornell Ivy Council. Ivy Council would then have strong representation through a selected group of students (resembling SAFC committee where students have to apply) that would attend conferences at the other Ivy League institutions.

This would include a policy liaison, which would serve the Student Assembly by not only attending the Ivy Policy conference in the spring, but would be responsible for bringing what has been learned from the other schools back to Cornell's student government.

The Ivy Leadership Summit would also be an excellent opportunity for the Cornell Ivy Council and the committee to develop their leadership through a guest speaker series and collaboration with other student leaders. The Ivy Corps initiative is also one in which Cornell could support a local organization through student efforts and philanthropy. Having students work for a philanthropic organization that serves the greater Ithaca community would be beneficial to Cornell's student body and Ithaca in general.

Ivy Council would then seek to have strong representation through a selected group of students (resembling SAFC committee where students have to apply) that would attend conferences.

Reasons Ivy Council Should Be Part of Cornell's Student Assembly

1. Legislative Research Body for the SA

- Cornell Ivy Council will have policy liaisons responsible for maintaining correspondence with the student governing bodies of the other Ivy League schools
- Two Recent Examples: Blue Light Shuttle & gender-neutral housing both based on legislation from other Ivy League schools

2. Funding

- Transportation for the two conferences Ivy Council sponsors each year (Leadership Summit & Policy Conference)
- Not a registered student organization otherwise

3. Purpose of the Organization

- Ivy Council started at Cornell University in the early 1990's
- Cornell is currently the only Ivy League school without Ivy Council affiliated with student government; founded for the purpose of uniting student governments
- A Cornell student sits on the Ivy Council Executive Board, but has no school chapter to report to