

Originally Presented On	11/20/14
Type of Action	Recommendation
Status/Result	Business of the Day

S.A. Resolution #29 Resolution 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system is an improvement over the status quo, in which third-party sites and services aggregate polarized and outdated reviews from unverified sources,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;

12	• Quantitative results regarding class difficulty (e.g. "On a scale of 1-7, was this	
13	class easier or more difficult that the other classes you have taken at	
14	Cornell?"), workload, access to resources, etc. are published, as well as	
4 5	qualitative evaluations (e.g. "Would you recommend this course? To whom?	
46	Why or why not?");	
1 7	 Course median grades, which are already available on transcripts, should be 	
48	more readily accessible;	
19	 The Committee should investigate the possibility of leaving retrospective 	
50	evaluations;	
51	 Concerns regarding the inclusion of student teachers and faculty new to 	
52	Cornell should be addressed by the Committee;	
53	 Concerns regarding anonymity in small courses should be addressed by the 	
54 55	Committee;	
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56	Be it finally resolved, that extensive efforts are made to include all stakeholders in the	
57 58	ongoing discussion regarding open course evaluations.	
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59	Respectfully Submitted,	
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51	Joseph Fridman '17	
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54	(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 11/17/14)	