



**Date presented**

04/29/2024

**Type of action:**

Act

**Final vote**

8-0-2

## 2324-0004: Fostering an Alliance between SGC and NSTP to Assist First-Year and Transfer Students

Sponsored by: Pigford-Fomby, Tufino, Sen

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*Recognizing* the importance of welcoming new students to Ithaca College as they transition into being full or part time students and the New Student and Transition Programs office's [website](#), and their mission statement to "help students transition to college life at IC..[by].. creating meaningful orientation and semesterly programs designed to introduce (new students) to lifelong friends, critical perspectives, and essential resources".

*Recognizing* the importance of ensuring that new students are aware of student organizations & clubs, sports, activities, academic resources, and events around campus; and are fully introduced to these things through fun, engaging, and interactive activities during new student orientations.

*Recognizing* the long-lasting social and academic impact that new student orientations have on new first year and transfer students including specialized populations such as First-Generation, BIPOC, students with disabilities, and any other social group that's underrepresented in the Ithaca College community.

*Recognizing* the comprehensive onboarding and orienting processes conducted every year by New Student and Transition Programs, to ensure the smooth transition of incoming first-year and transfer students, and their mutual interest in collaborating with SGC to include current student leader perspectives in the planning of these initiatives.

Recognizing the unique perspectives from certain SGC positions (such as Transfer Senator, International Senator, First-Generation Senator, and Vice President of Academic Affairs), and the value they would have in contributing to orientation planning.

With support from, Juneau Sheridan, Administrative Assistant for NSTP, Shadayvia Wallace, Associate Director and Program Director of the BIPOC Unity Center and First-Generation Programs, and Caryanne Keenan, Director of New Student and Transition Programs.

It is resolved that an ad-hoc committee is formed under the Ithaca College Student Governance Council named the “New Student & Transition Programs (NSTP) Ad-Hoc Committee”, with the purpose of forging a collaboration between SGC and NSTP. The goal of this committee will be to discuss initiatives and measures that can be taken to make orientation as effective as possible in order to support new students as they adjust to life at Ithaca College, particularly those from underrepresented groups. This committee will incorporate current student feedback into the new student onboarding process, as well as orientation programming, carried out by NSTP.

It is resolved that this committee shall be composed of the Director of NSTP, and up to four (4) student and staff representatives of the NSTP office, internally chosen. The Director of NSTP will serve as a Co-Chair of the committee, alongside the Vice President of Academic Affairs. The following members of the Ithaca College Student Governance Council will also serve on this committee:

- Vice President of Academic Affairs, Co-Chair: Given the academic challenges faced by underrepresented populations in their navigation of higher education systems, the Vice President of Academic Affairs will bring expertise as well as direct collaboration with the Provost of the College.
- Transfer Senator, Member: This member will bring their unique perspective as a transfer student, given their non-traditional timeline for integration into the IC community.
- International Senator, Member: This member will bring their unique perspective as an international student to the committee.
- First-Generation Senator, Member: This member will bring their unique perspective as a first-generation student, and will bring expertise as well as direct collaboration with the Program Director of First-Generation Programs at Ithaca College.
- Two (2) First-Year Class Senators (e.g. for the 2024-2025 academic year, the Class of 2028 Senators), Member: These two members will bring their unique perspectives as first-year students.

*It is resolved that* this committee shall meet only once per semester, in October and March, to discuss the next orientation for the next academic semester. The Co-Chairs are responsible for setting a date for the committee to meet at the beginning of each semester, and ensuring clear communication with each other.

*It is resolved that* the New Student and Transition Program Ad-Hoc Committee is responsible for generating a formal report, to review the effectiveness of orientation and/or the structures and procedures that the Committee considered. The formal report should be shared with the Senate Chair and presented by the Vice President of Academic Affairs during open agenda. The report is to be shared and presented within one month of each committee meeting.