

# Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

## Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Agenda of the April 6, 2020 Meeting

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

**Online only, Zoom**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call (5 Minutes)
- III. Approval of the Minutes (5 Minutes)
  - a. Minutes from March 2, 2020
  - b. Minutes from March 16, 2020
- IV. New Business (30 Minutes)
  - a. Introduction to Resolution 12: *Additional Donation from the GPSA to the Access Fund to Support Graduate and Professional Students in Need Related to COVID-19 Pandemic*
  - b. Introduction to Resolution 13: *In Support of the University Allowing International Graduate Students to TA Remotely During the Summer 2020 Session and the Fall 2020 Semester*
  - c. Introduction to Resolution 14: *Requesting that First-Year Writing Seminar Instructors be Allowed to Hold Asynchronous Discussions Only, If Appropriate for their Class*
  - d. Introduction to Resolution 15: *Demanding Cornell Fight for Fair Terms for the Remote Services Its Community is Required to Use*
- V. Old Business (30 Minutes)
  - a. Discussion on Resolution 2: *Condemning the Dismissal of Julia Feliz from the Cornell Alliance for Science's Global Leadership Fellowship*
  - b. Discussion on Resolution 5: *Support of the Development and Implementation of a Cornell Campus Circulator System*
  - c. Discussion on Resolution 7: *Condemnation of the dangerously late closure of Ithaca campus on 7*

*February 2020*

- d. Discussion on Resolution 11: *In Support of Our Graduate Student Colleagues Participating in the "Wildcat Strike"*

VI. Division Breakout (10 Minutes)

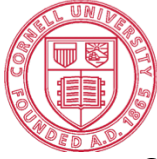
- a. Voting Member Elections

VII. Committee Q&A (5 Minutes)

- a. Executive
- b. Operations
- c. Communications
- d. Appropriations
- e. Finance
- f. Student Advocacy
- g. Diversity and International Students
- h. Programming
- i. Faculty Awards
- j. GPCI
- k. General Committee
- l. Graduate School
- m. University Assembly

VIII. Open Forum (5 Minutes)

IX. Adjournment



**Cornell University**  
**Graduate and Professional**  
**Student Assembly**

**Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly**  
**Minutes of the March 2, 2020 Meeting 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM**  
**Bache Auditorium, Malott Hall**

- I. Call to Order
  - a. 5:30pm A. Barrientos-Gomez calls meeting to order
- II. Roll Call (5 Minutes)
  - a. Present: : K. Laurent, D. Yucalan, C. Duell, N. London, E. Schoenly, M. Schoeffler, H. Xu, M. Sturgeon, A. Bidjarano, P. Cole, R. Maloney, P. Vinhage, A. Johnson, M. Keefe, L. Louis, M. Gelsinger, M. Sawey, J, Faulk, M. Cantar, A.P.D.G. Everett, M. Daly,
  - b. Absent: R. Harrison, D. (Marvin) Wang, K. Masters, E. Call
- III. Approval of the Minutes (5 Minutes)
  - a. Minutes from January 27, 2020
    - i. Motion to approve
    - ii. **Approved**
  - b. b. Minutes from February 10, 2020
    - i. Point of Clarification the vote for the divestment resolution was 17-0-9
    - ii. Motion to approve
    - iii. **Approved**
- IV. Presentation
  - a. Isabel Lu, Head of Public Relations, Collaboration, and Education at Anabel's Grocery
    - i. I. Lu: Undergraduate students noticed friends skipping meals due to lack of resources/access to food. A Previous PULSE survey showed that 28% of students at Cornell have skipped meals for financial reasons (47% of African American and 35% of Hispanic Students). The goal of Anabel's is Bringing fresh, healthy, affordable food to campus, while connecting the campus with local food producers and cultivating a conversation around sustainability, health, and food justice. We are a part of a multi-faceted effort to combat food insecurity, one of the key barriers to student success. Our current subsidy fund is \$45,000, which allows us to price local and organic produce at comparable or lower levels than Wegmans, lowers economic barriers to healthy eating, and support local distributors and farms. We want to know how we can better support graduate students.
- V. Division Breakout
- VI. Elections
  - a. Appropriations Chair
    - i. Nominations: A.P.D.G. Everett
    - ii. Results: A.P.D.G. Everett
  - b. University Assembly Delegates
    - i. Nominations: Alex Jian-Taek Hong, Cody Duell

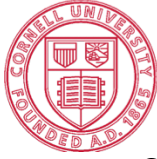
- ii. Results: Alex Jian-Taek Hong, Cody Duell
- VII. New Business
  - a. Introduction to Resolution 8: *A Resolution to Adopt the Graduate and Professional Community Initiative*
- VIII. Old Business
  - a. Discussion on Resolution 7: *Condemnation of the dangerously late closure of Ithaca campus on 7 February 2020*
    - i. Motion to table resolution when it is more appropriate
      - 1. 14-3-9
      - 2. Approved
- IX. Committee Q&A
  - a. Executive: Next meeting March 16
  - b. Operations: Reminder these meeting are recorded so it is in your best interest to remain professional. Also please remember to be respectful to presenters and your peers and abide by Roberts' Rule. If you have any other questions, please let me know.
  - c. Communications: None
  - d. Appropriations: None
  - e. Finance: We have a new website through campus groups, which has deadlines and group tiers, also we are meeting this week and please contact me if you want to assist in reviewing budgets.
  - f. Student Advocacy: none
  - g. Diversity and International Students: We have a meeting on March 12 at 9am.
  - h. Programming: none
  - i. Faculty Awards: none
  - j. GPCI: I will be sending a google form for you guys to get feedback from your constituents on the GPCI.
  - k. General Committee: none
  - l. Graduate School: None
  - m. University Assembly: none
- X. Open Forum

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashlynn Lee

Clerk of the Assembly



**Cornell University**  
**Graduate and Professional**  
**Student Assembly**

**Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly**  
**Minutes of the March 16, 2020 Meeting**  
**Zoom Meeting**

- I. Call to Order
  - a. A. Barrientos-Gomez calls meeting to order
- II. Roll Call (5 Minutes)
  - a. Present: R. Maloney, J. Faulk, L. Louis, P. Vinhage, K. Laurent, P. Cole, M. Cantar, M. Sawey, C. Duell, D. Yucalan, A. Bidjarano, M. Schoeffler, N. London, A. Johnson,
  - b. Absent: E. Schoenly, H. Xu, M. Sturgeon, D. (Marvin) Wang, R. Harrison, M. Keefe, M. Daly, M. Gelsing, K. Masters, A.P.D.G. Everett, E. Call
- III. Presentation (20 Minutes)
  - a. Dr. Bark Knuth, Dean of the Graduate School, Campus-Community Liaison and Cornell 2020 Census Liaison
    - i. Dr. Knuth: Thank you to the GPSA for donation of \$50K to Student Access Fund; Graduate School has donated \$52K; query out to professional schools for additional donations if possible – professional schools may be administering funds directly. Initial thoughts are that funding requests may be leaning more toward professional students. Decisions that affect graduate and professional students will be forthcoming and attempt to be as informative as possible
    - ii. K. Krishnan: More requests that funds that have been raised – how are you allocating the requests? International requests – how are those being addressed
    - iii. Dr. Knuth: Donation from Graduate School has helped alleviate the requests. We have no data or information about breakdown of requests.
    - iv. K. Laurent: Have you met with the departments – what’s Cornell providing to people who have been quarantined and what about vacation?
    - v. Dr. Knuth: Cornell Health can be a resource. If you need to self-isolate, it is not vacation – there will be several days of transition – flexibility is understood; however, the expectation is to get work accomplished. We think that this is the “new normal” for the next couple of months.
    - vi. A. Johnson: Sick leave policy for graduate students – what is the defined sick leave policy?
    - vii. Dr. Knuth: Official policy – if you are sick, you should not be around people. Have discussion with your supervisors if you are not able to work. We will follow up to see if it would be helpful if there was a campus wide policy; alternatives need to be worked out
    - viii. D. Yucalan: remote responsibilities – official sick leave – with all closures, what is Cornell thinking of providing during this time to graduate students in order to work remotely?

- ix. Dr. Knuth: Cornell is not shutting down and facilities will still be provided. Guidance is that if you are not conducting essential or critical research, you should not be on campus. If the only way you have reliable WiFi and can conduct your teaching responsibilities, as long as you are practicing appropriate social distancing, it would be acceptable. Access Fund would be applicable for students to purchase WiFi hubs as needed.
- b. J. Pea: Services on campus – impact as to what Graduate Students might need – libraries or physical consulting units.
- c. Dr. Knuth: Library have been closed yesterday and today to give staff an opportunity to regroup and see what they are capable of providing. Understanding is that Cornell Health is planning on staying open. Not sure about Statistical Consulting Unit. Recommended to check appropriate websites for updates. Work should still be getting accomplished remotely
- d. M. Cantar: As an international student, if they have any symptoms, what should they do and what is Cornell Health going to provide? There are many international students who will be staying.
- e. Dr. Knuth: Student Health Insurance Plan includes coverage by Cornell Health. General recommendations are to call a health provider first before going to Cornell Health, any urgent care facility or emergency room.
- f. M. Cantar: Use Cornell services for transportation to Cornell Health if they don't have a vehicle?
- g. Dr. Knuth: Not sure if that is an option
- h. K. Krishnan: New normal to continue working – is this really a normal for students to leave as this is an unprecedented move – same productivity as normal?
- i. Dr. Knuth: We are not suggesting that we would go back to our old ways – just different ways. Conversations with senior leadership and faculty leaders – grading changes (potentially more use of “S/U” grading, etc.)
- j. J. Simon: Any plans for Cornell to do any tele-health options?
- k. Dr. Knuth: We looked into it and we are ready to implement
- l. K. Krishnan: Dining services available?
- m. Dr. Knuth: Dining will be staying open – limited options – check on dining website for updates and what is open and what isn't open
- n. A. Johnson: Undergrads – had to apply to stay on campus – have decisions already been made?
- o. Dr. Knuth: Decisions are underway – not all have been handled. First wave has been relayed to students as of Friday afternoon – more to come as the applications are being processed for exemption.
- p. A. Barrientos-Gomez: Some students on West Campus have already received word that they can stay. GPSA Executive Committee is meeting with Dean Knuth tomorrow – please send any follow up questions to them so they can bring them to meeting with Dean Knuth.
- q. Dr. Knuth: Please wash your hands, cough into sleeve/elbow, practice social distancing, stress to undergrads that the partying/Greek life/bar going is unacceptable behavior – it affects not just Cornell community but local community as well.

#### IV. New Business (10 Minutes)

- a. Introduction of Resolution 11: In support of our Graduate Student Colleagues Participating in the “Wildcat Strike”: Support by the GPSA for our graduate colleagues striking at UC Santa Cruz, some of whom have been fired by their administration for participating in strike – strike is related to fact that they are not being paid a reasonable amount to provide for their basic needs and/or a cost of living adjustment
  - i. K. Krishnan: In support of Arielle and everything she said, this is imperative for international students as they must be employed to stay in US
  - ii. A representative: in addition to what Kayva stated, it is more difficult for international students to obtain loans that may be necessary to cover the difference between salary and cost of tuition
  - iii. A. Barrientos-Gomez: What would happen if something similar happened at Cornell? A: Stand in solidarity, condemn actions taken by administrators and other ways to support
  - iv. V. Kasonde – I am not comfortable with supporting this resolution –it looks as if we are using students as pawns. Can we add items of what we would recommend if this were to happen here at Cornell.
  - v. A representative: Throughout strike, accommodations made for students who need grades released for funding or scholarships; not necessarily performative – desire to promote this information and be more supportive for these students; actionable item – feel free to provide this information to Arielle
  - vi. K. Krishnan – Students don’t hold much power and this is the most effective way for change

#### V. Committee Q&A (5 Minutes)

- a. Executive – no updates
- b. Operations – none at this time – be a resource to anyone that may need assistance related to responsibilities they are delegated to do by the charter and bylaws
- c. Communications – working on newsletter
- d. Appropriations – none at this time
- e. Finance – apply to Access Fund if you have needs; Tier 4 needs to send rep to virtual meetings
- f. Student Advocacy – none at this time
- g. Diversity and International Students – none
- h. Programming – activities put on hold
- i. Faculty Awards – a couple of individuals are working with Cody – reach out to Cody re: any other interest in participating with this. Suggestion to send email out to departments
- j. GPCI – no updates
- k. General Committee – no updates
- l. Graduate School – check announcements tonight and more ad-hoc announcements tomorrow – anticipated change in deadline and grading
- m. University Assembly – will be meeting virtually for remaining 3 meetings. Update on Campus Code of Conduct. Mention that TCAT will be offering reduced services – check website for updated information.

VI. Open Forum (5 Minutes)

- a. Discussion regarding remaining GPSA meetings – keep 3 meetings as is or combine into 2 meetings (elections meeting and a wrap up)
  - i. D. Yucalan: reminder that a resolution was skipped last week due to sponsor not being there. Response - Can be resolved in upcoming meetings. If resolutions are left unattended, they would need to be brought back before new GPSA in the fall
  - ii. K. Krishnan: any consideration for individuals who would not be able to attend meeting live due to time differences. Response – poll
  - iii. J. Simon: food budget – what is being done with that money.
  - iv. A representative: Not sure if those funds come from GPSA budget.
  - v. J.Faulk – field rep: events on campus to be cancelled – what happens to those funds that have already been requested/approved. Also, are we allowing any other requests for funds?
  - vi. A representative: no approvals for new events or reallocating funding. Reach out to Arielle if you have any further questions. Tier status will not be affected.
  - vii. A representative: what about virtual events – can funding be reallocated to those types of events?
  - viii. A representative: reach out to Arielle to discuss options. FC rules still apply – submit before actual event occurs
  - ix. A. Johnson: regarding Feliz resolution – possible to table permanently?
  - x. M. Cantar: possible to have a 24 hour window for questions taking into consideration for international students?
  - xi. A representative: Andy to check with OA to see if possible to have comment section open on resolutions? Potential for opening up discussion prior to meeting. Suggestion to utilize Slack for resolutions
  - xii. A. Poon: Forum to discuss resolutions in advance – recant forum before vote to open up for discussion.
  - xiii. A representative: Will look into that.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashlynn Lee

Clerk of the Assembly





# Resolution 12: Additional Donation from the GPSA to the Access Fund to Support Graduate and Professional Students in Need Related to COVID-19 Pandemic

**Abstract:** This resolution approves the transfer of funds from the Graduate and Professional Student Programming Board (GPSPB) as well as additional funds from the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Finance Commission (GPSAFC) to the Access Fund to support students' urgent needs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This resolution also calls on the University to look for additional funds to support financial relief to professional students and guarantee graduate student funding.

**Sponsored by:** Andy Leonel Barrientos-Gómez, President, GPSA; Alexa Cohn, Executive Vice President, GPSA; Victoria Kasonde, Vice President of Operations; Taylor Tejada, Vice President of Communications, GPSA; Alex Loiben, Counsel, GPSA; Kasey Laurent, Chair, Graduate and Professional Student Programming Board; Arielle Johnson, Chair, GPSA Finance Commission

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**Whereas**, many graduate and professional students left campus to comply with University-wide restrictions and/or to protect their personal health and the health of the Cornell community during the COVID-19 pandemic, and

**Whereas**, the GPSA previously approved an allocation of \$50,000 to the Access Fund to support the unforeseen financial burdens that these graduate and professional students incurred, and

**Whereas**, the graduate school donated \$50,000 to the Access Fund to match the GPSA contribution, and

**Whereas**, [\[\[list other contributors to Access Fund\]\]](#), and

**Whereas**, the GPSA applauds all of these contributions, which have greatly helped graduate and professional students in need, and

**Whereas**, as of the most up-to-date estimates on 4/6/2020, the Access Fund had given over [\[\[number1\]\]](#) to graduate and professional students in need, and

**Whereas**, as of the most up-to-date estimates on 4/6/2020, the total amount of donated funds was [\[\[number2\]\]](#), and the amount of funds requested by students was [\[\[number3\]\]](#), and

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<sup>1</sup> [https://assembly.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/resolution\\_10-\\_donation\\_from\\_the\\_gpsa\\_in\\_support\\_of\\_the\\_access\\_fund\\_to\\_support\\_graduate\\_and\\_professional\\_students\\_in\\_need\\_related\\_to\\_covid-19\\_pandemic.pdf](https://assembly.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/resolution_10-_donation_from_the_gpsa_in_support_of_the_access_fund_to_support_graduate_and_professional_students_in_need_related_to_covid-19_pandemic.pdf)



## Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

30 **Whereas**, this indicates graduate and professional student need exceeding the current resources of  
31 the fund, and

32 **Whereas**, the Graduate and Professional Student Programming Board (GPSPB) will no longer be  
33 hosting major events including Grad Ball, and

34 **Whereas**, the GPSPB therefore has \$10,000 available to contribute to the Access Fund, and

35 **Whereas**, the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Finance Commission has additional  
36 resources available.

37 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly shall make an  
38 additional donation to the Access Fund in the amount of **[[amount1]]**, **[[amount2]]** from the GPSPB  
39 and **[[amount3]]** from the GPSAFC, and

40 **Be it further resolved**, these additional funds shall be administered through the Office of the Dean  
41 of Students in the same manner as the previously donated funds, and shall be used to financially  
42 support graduate and professional students in need, and

43 **Be it further resolved**, that graduate and professional students in need shall be able to access the  
44 funds by submitting an application at [https://scl.cornell.edu/identity-resources/first-generation-](https://scl.cornell.edu/identity-resources/first-generation-low-income-support/access-fund)  
45 [low-income-support/access-fund](https://scl.cornell.edu/identity-resources/first-generation-low-income-support/access-fund), and the approval process shall be expedited so that students can  
46 receive grants within a few days of applying, and

47 **Be it further resolved**, that the COVID-19 pandemic is a time of unprecedented need for the  
48 graduate and professional community, and this community's needs exceed what the GPSA,  
49 Graduate School, Professional Schools, or Access Fund can provide; therefore the GPSA urges the  
50 University, specifically President Martha Pollack, Provost Michael Kotlikoff, Executive Vice  
51 President Joanne DeStefano, Vice President Paul Streeter, Vice President Ryan Lombardi, and the  
52 Board of Trustees, to find additional funding to support the needs of the graduate and professional  
53 community, and

54 **Be it finally resolved**, that these additional funds from the University be used for financial relief  
55 opportunities for professional students whose financial situation has changed due to the COVID-19  
56 pandemic, extension of SHP Health Benefits for graduating graduate and professional students who  
57 are unable to find employment due to the pandemic, and to ensure that all graduate students who  
58 depend on the university for a stipend receive either fellowship funding or assistantships providing  
59 full funding for both the 2020 Summer Session and 2020 Fall Semester.

60 Respectfully submitted,

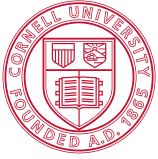
61 Andy Leonel Barrientos-Gómez, President, GPSA

62 Alexa Cohn, Executive Vice President, GPSA

63 Victoria Kasonde, Vice President of Operations

64 Taylor Tejada, Vice President of Communications, GPSA

65 Alex Loiben, Counsel, GPSA



**Cornell University**  
Graduate and Professional  
Student Assembly

- 66 Kasey Laurent, Chair, Graduate and Professional Student Programming Board
- 67 Arielle Johnson, Chair, GPSA Finance Commission



1 Resolution 13: In Support of the University Allowing  
2 International Graduate Students to TA Remotely  
3 During the Summer 2020 Session and the Fall 2020  
4 Semester

5 **Abstract:** Graduate students who are currently abroad and depend on assistantships for financial  
6 support do not know whether they will be able to return to the US in time for the start of the  
7 Summer 2020 session or the Fall 2020 semester. This resolution encourages the University to find  
8 legal ways to provide these students with, in effect, remote teaching positions during the Summer  
9 2020 session and the Fall 2020 semester.

10 **Sponsored by:** Arielle Johnson, Life Sciences Voting Member

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11 **Whereas**, many graduate students, encouraged by the University to do so, left campus to return to  
12 their home in another country to wait out the COVID-19 pandemic before they knew that their  
13 graduate funding would be at risk, and

14 **Whereas**, many of these graduate students may not be able to return to the United States in time for  
15 the fall semester due to travel restrictions or visa and immigration delays, thus potentially preventing  
16 them from accepting an in-person teaching assistantship or other in-person assistantship in Summer  
17 2020 and/or Fall 2020, and

18 **Whereas**, these students are a key part of the Cornell graduate and professional community, and  
19 represent members of the next generation of innovators in science, the humanities, and other fields,  
20 and

21 **Whereas**, continued financial support is key to maintaining these graduate students as part of the  
22 Cornell community, so that they can return to the University and continue to discover, teach, and  
23 innovate after the COVID-19 pandemic is over, and

24 **Whereas**, the transition to remote learning at Cornell for the remainder of the 2020 Spring semester  
25 has increased the virtual teaching capabilities of both professors and graduate instructors, and

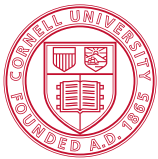
26 **Whereas**, many courses at Cornell have multiple TAs, each of whom have both in-person duties  
27 and some remote duties (e.g. grading), and

28 **Whereas**, those courses could be reorganized with minimal effort to have TAs who focus solely on  
29 remote duties, and

30 **Whereas**, other courses' in-person TA duties, for example lectures, could be conducted virtually on  
31 Zoom, and

32 **Whereas**, the Graduate School is looking into ways to allow international graduate students to TA  
33 remotely and the GPSA applauds these efforts.

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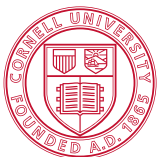
34 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the University should dedicate significant legal resources to find a  
35 way to, in effect, allocate virtual TA positions to graduate students living internationally, and

36 **Be it finally resolved**, that the University and Graduate School allow all graduate students who are  
37 stranded abroad and cannot receive their typical TA, RA, GRA, or GA funding to receive a full-  
38 semester remote TA position (or a legally permissible similar position) during the Summer 2020  
39 session and Fall 2020 semester.

40 Respectfully Submitted,

41 Arielle Johnson

42 Life Sciences Voting Member



# Resolution 14: Requesting that First-Year Writing Seminar Instructors be Allowed to Hold Asynchronous Discussions Only, If Appropriate for Their Class

**Abstract:** Some First-Year Writing Seminar (FWS) instructors have concerns about the privacy, equity, and logistical implications of recording synchronous discussions which will then be viewed asynchronously by students who cannot attend. This is especially an issue for FWS instructors who have internet connectivity issues or who cover sensitive topic matter. This resolution asks that FWS instructors be given the freedom to hold discussions in whichever way they deem is most appropriate for their class.

**Sponsored by:** Arielle Johnson, Life Sciences Voting Members

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**Whereas,** First-Year Writing Seminars (FWSs) are an integral, and required, part of the Cornell experience for undergraduate students<sup>1</sup>, and

**Whereas,** these courses are taught by graduate student instructors, who generally have flexibility in designing the courses, allowing them to provide individualized instruction and highlight the strengths of their subject matter, and

**Whereas,** FWS instructors have had to revise their course format in order to accommodate the transition to online learning due to COVID-19, and many instructors started planning as soon as possible, and

**Whereas,** the Faculty Senate<sup>2</sup> and Graduate and Professional Student Assembly<sup>3</sup> have endorsed the document entitled *An S20 Commitment to Academic Integrity, Equitable Instruction, Trust, and Respect*, and

**Whereas,** many FWS instructors used these guidelines and/or similar principles of equity, privacy, and fairness when redesigning their courses, and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://as.cornell.edu/First-Year-Writing-Seminars>

<sup>2</sup> <https://theuniversityfaculty.cornell.edu/faculty-senate/next-online-senate/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://assembly.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/resolution\\_12\\_-\\_an\\_s20\\_commitment\\_to\\_academic\\_integrity\\_equitable\\_instruction\\_trust\\_and\\_respect.pdf](https://assembly.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/resolution_12_-_an_s20_commitment_to_academic_integrity_equitable_instruction_trust_and_respect.pdf)



## Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

28 **Whereas**, some FWS instructors received a communication from Dean Rachel Bean on March 31st  
29 requesting that FWS instructors provide synchronous discussions for students who can participate  
30 and record these sessions for students who cannot<sup>4</sup>, and

31 **Whereas**, this is an unreasonable request for several reasons, and

32 **Whereas**, this method of teaching would create a two-tiered hierarchy of students receiving  
33 synchronous instruction and asynchronous instruction, and

34 **Whereas**, providing unequal learning experiences to students based on time zone and internet  
35 connectivity directly contradicts principle 3 for faculty of *An S20 Commitment to Academic Integrity,*  
36 *Equitable Instruction, Trust, and Respect*: “I will promote classroom equity by taking steps to ensure that  
37 no student is disadvantaged because they have to work in a challenging environment or one that has  
38 limited resources and internet connectivity”, and

39 **Whereas**, this method of teaching would also create privacy concerns because students registered  
40 for FWS courses with the expectation that none of their comments during class discussions would  
41 be recorded, and

42 **Whereas**, this method of teaching would additionally compromise the privacy of instructors, and

43 **Whereas**, this is especially disturbing given that distributing recordings of class discussions has been  
44 used as a tool by alt-right organizations such as Professor Watchlist to target and harass professors  
45 multiple times over the past four years<sup>5</sup>, and this could be done by a single individual with  
46 password-protected access to the video, and

47 **Whereas**, these privacy concerns for both students and instructors relate to principle 2 for students  
48 of *An S20 Commitment to Academic Integrity, Equitable Instruction, Trust, and Respect*: “I will respect  
49 principles of academic freedom for instructors and classmates and will maintain the privacy of the  
50 virtual classroom environment: I will not record, photograph, or share online interactions that  
51 involve classmates or any member of the teaching team”, and

52 **Whereas**, some instructors have internet connectivity issues that preclude their teaching  
53 synchronously, and

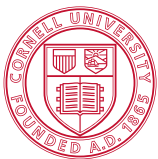
54 **Whereas**, having a mandatory requirement that FWS instructors provide both synchronous and  
55 asynchronous teaching increases the pressure that is already being put on instructors who are  
56 working hard to adapt their classes to a virtual format in stressful times.

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<sup>4</sup> Specifically, Dean Rachel Bean wrote, “FWS instructors should plan to provide synchronous teaching starting next week. To do otherwise would go counter to what the university is telling students/and what students are expecting. We anticipate that some of our students will be seeking synchronous instruction, and instructors should provide that to maintain continuity and clarity. To accommodate those students who can’t participate synchronously, FWS instructors should record their synchronous instruction sessions and post them on canvas and also provide asynchronous discourse opportunities (e.g. discussion boards).”

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.professorwatchlist.org/index.php/watch-list-directory/search-by-name/48-brent-terry>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.latimes.com/socal/daily-pilot/tn-dpt-me-professor-watchlist-20161213-story.html>



**Cornell University**  
Graduate and Professional  
Student Assembly

57 **Be it therefore resolved**, that FWS instructors be allowed the freedom to hold their discussions in  
58 whichever manner they feel works best with the logistical, privacy, and equity needs of their class.

59 Respectfully Submitted,

60 Alice Wolff

61 Medieval Studies PhD Student

62 Arielle Johnson

63 Life Sciences Voting Member





1 Resolution 15: Demanding Cornell fight for fair terms  
2 for the remote services its community is required to  
3 use

4 **Abstract:** Because of the coronavirus pandemic, students and instructors are required to use tools  
5 like Zoom and CASHNet. Despite privacy and security risks, both services mandate that users waive  
6 their right to sue in court or as part of a class action. Cornell must contact third-party vendors and  
7 fight to ensure their terms do not strip these essential legal rights. If Cornell cannot negotiate the  
8 removal of unfair terms from a service, it must commit to provide legal support for anyone harmed  
9 by use of that service.

10 **Sponsored by:** Jaron Kent-Dobias

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11 **Whereas,** in Resolution 3 of the 2019–2020 term the GPSA recognized the harmful nature of user  
12 terms that mandate arbitration and ban class action in disputes with third-party vendors, and in  
13 particular the Bursar’s CASHNet service for bill pay.<sup>1</sup>

14 **Whereas,** the president declined to act on that resolution and highlighted the alternative payment  
15 options available for Cornell community members who do not want to agree to those terms.<sup>2</sup>

16 **Whereas,** with the onset of the coronavirus pandemic the Bursar has suspended in-person payment  
17 and they “strongly encourage paying your bill on line via CASHNet,” with only wire transfers and  
18 check payments by mail as alternatives.<sup>3</sup>

19 **Whereas,** while the president’s response noted that “many vendors are unwilling to create special  
20 terms and conditions in exchange for providing a targeted service,” the president told the GPSA that  
21 Cornell made no attempt to contact CASHNet and have those terms changed.<sup>4</sup>

22 **Whereas,** on 10 March 2020 Cornell announced a move to virtual instruction starting 6 April 2020,  
23 explicitly mentioning the Zoom virtual meeting service as a principle remote access technology.<sup>5</sup>

24 **Whereas,** Zoom is the University’s only synchronous remote instruction tool, making its use by  
25 students and instructors implicitly required where it is not explicitly required.<sup>6</sup>

26 **Whereas,** item twenty of Zoom’s terms read

27 *Agreement to Arbitrate; Waiver of Class Action. If You are located in the United States, You*  
28 *agree to resolve disputes only on an individual basis, through arbitration pursuant to the provisions of*  
29 *Exhibit B. **The parties expressly waive any right to bring any action, lawsuit, or***  
30 *proceeding as a class or collective action, private attorney general action, or any*  
31 *other proceeding in which any party acts or proposes to act in a representative*  
32 *capacity.*



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33 (emphasis original). These terms mandate arbitration and ban class action.<sup>7</sup>

34 **Whereas**, these terms are especially troubling given Zoom’s access to the audio and video recording  
35 functions on personal devices and its history of privacy and security problems so severe—one  
36 patched in July “could force Mac users that have (or ever had) Zoom installed on their device to join  
37 Zoom meetings with their cameras automatically activated”—that some organizations are banning  
38 its use.<sup>8,9</sup>

39 **Whereas**, the required use of Zoom by teaching assistants and students poses them a significant  
40 privacy and security risk while stripping them of meaningful legal recourse if Zoom’s purposeful or  
41 negligent actions lead to their harm.

42 **Be it therefore resolved**, Cornell must use its influence as an institutional customer to actually  
43 contact third-party services like CASHNet and Zoom and request fair terms for its community.

44 **Be it further resolved**, Cornell must commit to fund the legal challenges of any community  
45 member harmed by their required use of third party services that ban legal recourse through public  
46 courts or class action.

47 Respectfully Submitted,

48 Jaron Kent-Dobias

49 Chair of the Student Advocacy Committee

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1 <https://assembly.cornell.edu/resolutions/gpsa-r3-demanding-mandatory-arbitration-and-class-action-bans-be-removed-cashnet-and>

2 <https://assembly.cornell.edu/resolution-actions/gpsa-r3-demanding-mandatory-arbitration-and-class-action-bans-be-removed-2>

3 <https://www.dfa.cornell.edu/bursar/students-parents/paying-your-bill>

4 <https://assembly.cornell.edu/meetings/cornell-university-graduate-and-professional-student-assembly-meeting-03022020-0530pm>

5 <https://statements.cornell.edu/2020/20200310-coronavirus-update.cfm>

6 <https://teaching.cornell.edu/teaching-resources/planning-remote-teaching>

7 <https://zoom.us/terms/>

8 <https://www.vox.com/recode/2020/3/31/21201019/zoom-coronavirus-privacy-hacks>

9 <https://www.aljazeera.com/ajimpact/spacex-bans-video-conferencing-app-zoom-privacy-concerns-200402011458917.html>