



# Cornell University University Assembly

## Cornell University Assembly

Agenda of the March 16, 2021 Meeting

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

- I. Call to order - 4:30pm
- II. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda – 4:32pm to 4:35pm
- III. Business of the Day
  - a. Approval of Meeting Minutes ([Mar. 2, 2021](#))
- IV. New Business
  - a. [Resolution 14: Calling on the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America \(TIAA\) to divest funds from all fossil fuel holdings and agribusiness practices associated with deforestation and human rights abuses](#)
  - b. [Resolution 15: Calling for the Repurposing of 120 Mary Ann Wood Drive, Ithaca, New York for use as a Veterans' Support Center](#)
- V. Committee Updates
  - a. Executive Committee
  - b. Campus Infrastructure Committee
  - c. Campus Welfare Committee
  - d. Codes and Judicial Committee
- VI. Constituent Group Updates
  - a. Student Assembly
  - b. Graduate & Professional Student Assembly
  - c. Employee Assembly
  - d. Faculty Senate
- VII. Open Floor Discussion
- VIII. Adjournment at 6pm

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If you are in need of special accommodations, contact Office of the Assemblies at (607) 255-3715 or Student Disability Services at (607) 254-4545 prior to the meeting.



# Cornell University University Assembly

## Cornell University Assembly

Minutes of the March 3, 2021 Meeting

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

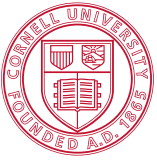
Zoom

- I. Call to Order
  - a. L. Kenney called the meeting to order at 4:32 PM.
  - b. *Members Present:* V. Aymer, U. Chukwukere, H. Depew, C. Duell, D. Dunham, J. Feit, B. Fortenberry, T. Fox, D. Hiner, A. Hong, R. Howarth, L. Kenney, C. Levine, J. Pea, L. Smith, C. Van Loan, P. Villablanca Thompson, J. Withers
  - c. *Members Absent:* C. Huang, B. Sherr
  - d. *Also Present:* S. McMullen, A. Jones
- II. Presentation regarding Cornell's COVID-19 Response and Efforts: Anne Jones DO, MPH, and Sharon McMullen RN, MPH, FACHA.
  - a. S. McMullen presented on Cornell's response to COVID, data trends, and interpretation of data.
    - i. A. Jones talked about key mitigation factors, testing (surveillance testing and testing for a cause), contact tracing, quarantine, and support be it physical or mental.
      1. They wanted to emphasize that in the process of contact tracing and quarantine medical information and is kept confidential.
      2. They touched on access to the COVID vaccine and eligibility within New York state. Cornell has received preliminary approval and they are waiting for final approval.
    - ii. S. McMullen talked about efforts on improving mental health at Cornell.
  - b. L. Kenney opened the floor for questions.
  - c. J. Feit thanked S. McMullen and A. Jones. They asked if there is transportation support in regards going to and from the hospital. They also asked for their take on daily check enforcement wording.
  - d. A. Jones affirmed that they do have transportation infrastructure in place to and from the hospital.
  - e. S. McMullen stated that they are dedicated to balancing commitments to both Cornell Health and enforcement, and that the aforementioned wording is a subject discussed.
  - f. C. Van Loan asked is they have or keep a record of who is vaccinated.
  - g. S. McMullen stated that students can upload records to Cornell Health, however they do not know if that is going to be the correct place to record data in the future as the data will be vital to understanding dedensification.



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- h. A. Jones stated that they are trying to see if they have the infrastructure to make it happen and still respect HIPPA, protection of information, and collect an earnest number of those who are vaccinated.
  - i. D. Dunham asserted that the Daily Check is not HIPPA protected.
  - j. A. Jones stated that they are currently looking at how to stratify the information on multiple committees.
  - k. J. Pea asked if there were any updates regards to the staffing concerns in Cornell Health.
  - l. A. Jones stated that Cornell Health has been supported in filling positions that are needed to provide student care. In January, they received permission to have 22 temporary physicians to see Cornell through these challenges.
  - m. N. Danev asked who has access to the information on the Daily Check if it is not HIPPA protected.
  - n. S. McMullen said that the Daily Check is a self-screening to take inventory of health in the moment and if there are things that indicated necessary care then the information would be presented to the user.
  - o. D. Dunham motioned to add the slides to the minutes of the day (See Appendix B).
    - i. P. Thompson seconded the motion.
    - ii. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.
- III. Business of the Day
- a. L. Kenney recited the Land Acknowledgement.
  - b. Approval of the Meeting Minutes (11-24-2020, 12-01-2020, 12-08-20, 01-25-21, 02-16-21.)
    - i. J. Withers motioned to approve all the minutes.
      - 1. A. Hong seconded the motion.
      - 2. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.
- IV. Resolution #13: Amending the University Assembly Bylaws to allow for the Continuation of Ad Hoc Committees and Subcommittees
- a. L. Kenney stated that since it is a by-law change and it was not presented a week before they would not be able to vote on it today.
  - b. B. Fortenberry motioned to correct the resolution number from 14 to 13.
    - i. A. Hong seconded the motion.
    - ii. The motion was **passed** with unanimous consent.
  - c. J. Feit stated that while the intention of the CWC was to propose names, the committee came to the conclusion that a simple list of names would not be appropriate. They instead proposed an ad-hoc committee on this topic of naming. While on this topic, they addressed the topic of the permanence of ad-hoc



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committees. This resolution allows the ad-hoc committee to last beyond the limits of the University Assembly term.

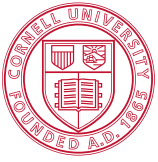
- d. L. Kenney asked why they created this By-law change rather than adding the campus' naming and renaming under the CWC in a similar way to how the CJC handled code revisions, gathering through input from town forums and public comments.
- e. J. Feit stated that they did not feel as though they, the CWC, had the authority to come up with this list of names as the committee should represent the community and different constituencies.
- f. L. Kenney amended her question. The CJC was able to gather comments and community input, and they were wondering why the CWC could not follow that model with regards to gathering comments and holding forums.
- g. J. Feit stated that they wanted the entire system to come from a diverse group of people.
- h. L. Kenney also noted a naming error in the Resolution.
- i. D. Dunham stated that it would not be feasible to have people serve on committees during the summer when it is already difficult to find those willing to serve during the semester. They do not believe that committees should be making decisions outside of the term in which the UA is in session as the UA would not have the ability to fill vacancies, remove members, or have oversight.
- j. C. Van Loan stated that ad-hoc committees should last a year, and if it lasts longer than it should be a regular committee.
- k. L. Kenney stated this topic should be under the purview of the CWC.
- l. N. Danev stated that it would be hard to staff over the summer. They also expressed that having a sub-committee that outlasts the committee is against Roberts Rules of Order. They recommend hosting community events to get opinions and then disseminate the information to other Assemblies.
- m. J. Feit stated that having people serve over the summer was not the intention. They move to table the resolution as upon listening to the concerns of the assembly members.
- n. J. Feit motioned to table Resolution 13 indefinitely.
  - i. D. Dunham seconded the motion and thanked J. Feit for his openness to tabling the resolution. They offer to help in the future if they wish to rewrite the resolution.
  - ii. The motion passed and Resolution #13 was **tabled** with 17-0-1.
- o. L. Kenney thanked J. Feit and B. Sherr for bringing up an important point to the assembly.

### V. Committee Updates



## Cornell University University Assembly

- a. Campus Infrastructure Committee
    - i. J. Feit stated that they will be discussing TIC, a bike sharing platform, lighting on the slope, changing the committees' name, and ways to facilitate communication on the impact of carbon.
  - b. Campus Welfare Committee
    - i. J. Feit said that last meeting they discussed renaming Goldwin Smith Hall. They stated that B. Sherr sent a report about the meeting and recommendations from the CWC. J. Feit stated that NAISAC joined them and weighed in on the conversation, they therefore they decided they wanted to avoid having a small committee create the names and are now investigating the best to approach.
  - c. Codes and Judicial Committee
    - i. B. Fortenberry stated they are primarily discussing ushering in the New Code of Conduct. They reported bringing in V.P. Lombardi and consultant Kevin Williams came in to discuss the next steps, especially in regard to the UHRB. They will be crafting a recommendation to V.P. Lombardi in the coming weeks.
  - d. Executive Committee
    - i. L. Kenney said that they discussed the UHRB conflict of interest, best practices to determine and handle conflicts of interest in the emergency capacity. They talked about sub-committees and ad-hoc committees. They also discussed UA By-law and Charter changes in general. For the Bylaws they need to change things for the CJC and the gendered terms within the language itself. They discussed creating an adhoc committee to address this.
  - e. B. Fortenberry motioned to extend the meeting by 10 minutes
    - i. J. Feit seconded the motion.
    - ii. The motion passed without any opposition.
- VI. Constituent Group updates
- a. Student Assembly
    - i. L. Smith stated they had a presentation on using SA funds and community organizations to address homeless needs in the community. They also talked about the re-opening of Anabel's Grocery.
  - b. Graduate & Professional Student Assembly
    - i. D. Dunham stated that GPSA met yesterday and talked about donating GPSA funds to the Access Funds. They are thinking of ways for the reserve fund to benefit graduate and professional students as their operation funds are relatively low. The Student Advocaty will come back with information on a TA issue about increased stress.



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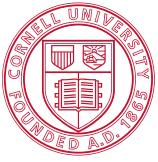
- c. Employee Assembly
  - i. H Depew stated that next week there would be an open forum which would be “COVID, a Year Later” with senior leadership. They have mapped out steps forward from their priorities poll.
- d. Faculty Senate
  - i. C. Van Loan stated that they will have a meeting on international joint degree program. They want to make the process more transparent and consistent, address how free speech and political factors of other countries might impact the program, and discuss the distinctions between joint-degree programs and individual research projects.

### VII. Open Floor Discussion

- a. L. Kenney noted to tell P. Thompson if committees have vacancies.
- b. L. Kenney stated that this is C. Duell’s last session in the UA. They thank C. Duell for serving on the U.A.
- c. P. Thompson motioned to adjourn.
  - i. D. Dunham seconded the motion.
  - ii. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:0PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kassandra Jordan  
Clerk of the Assembly



Cornell University  
University Assembly

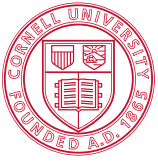
APPENDIX A

Chat Text

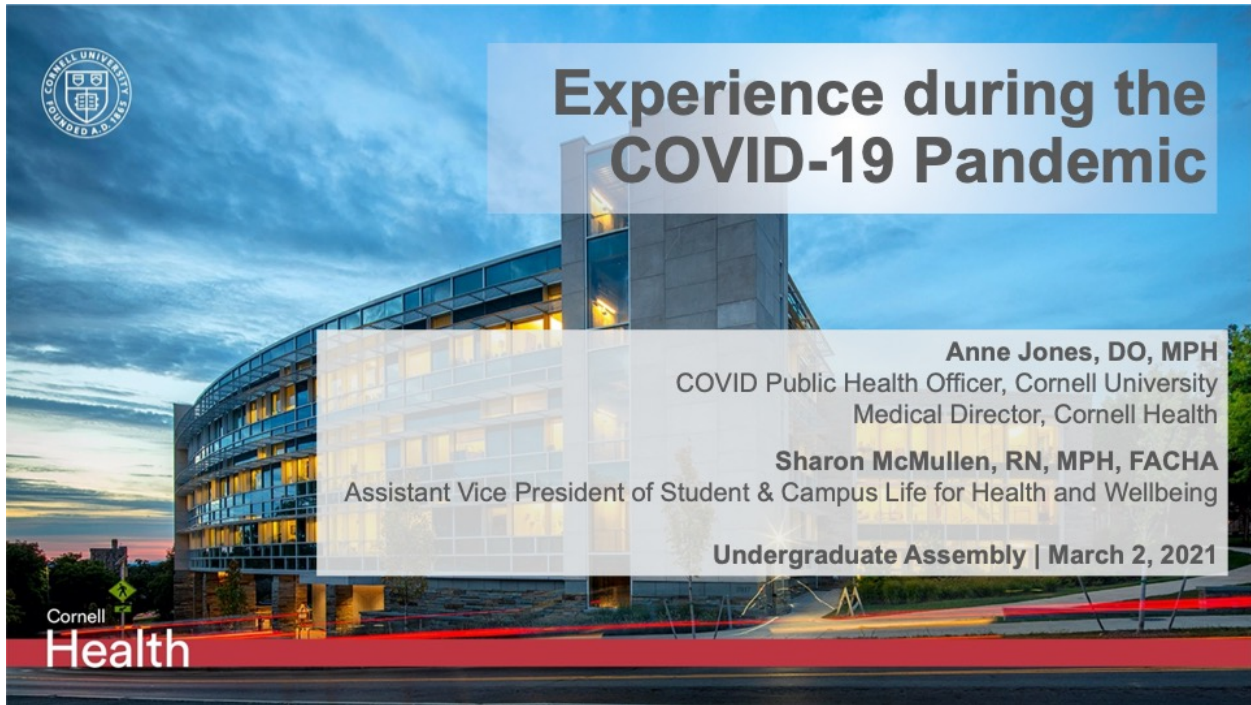
01:19:22UA Chair - Logan Kenney (she, her): Nik, can you please point us to the Robert's Rules section?

01:21:00GPSA EVP - Nikola Danev: Yes, I'm not sure I'll find the exact section right now but will send it to you Logan if the meeting ends before I can find the section

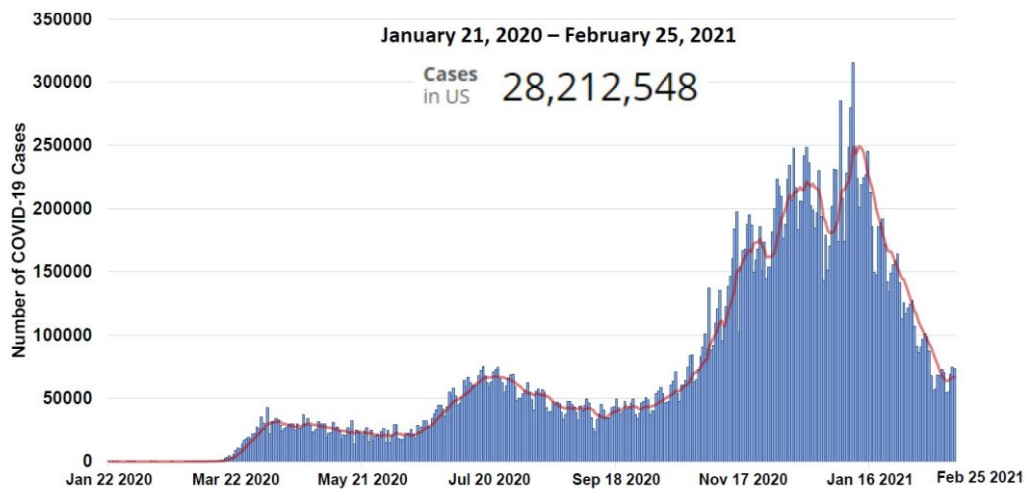
01:21:10UA Chair - Logan Kenney (she, her): Thank you!



APPENDIX B  
Experience During the COVID-19 Pandemic

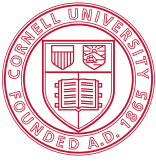


# Incidence



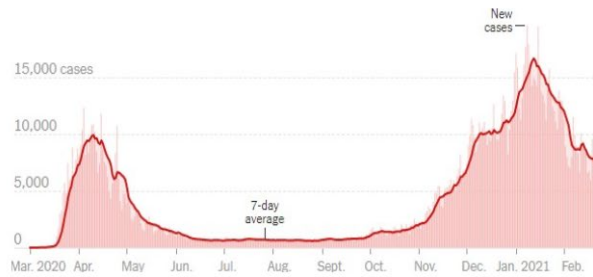
[https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#trends\\_dailytrendscases](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#trends_dailytrendscases)





# Incidence: NYS & Tompkins County

## NYS

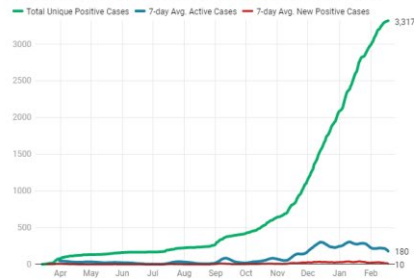


New York Coronavirus Map and Case Count. The New York Times. 2021. Available online: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/new-york-coronavirus-cases.html>

## Tompkins County

### Total Cases + Avg. Active Cases + Avg. New Cases

COVID-19, Tompkins County, N.Y. Data from 3/14/20 to the present. Active cases are calculated as total positive cases minus the totals of both released cases and deaths.



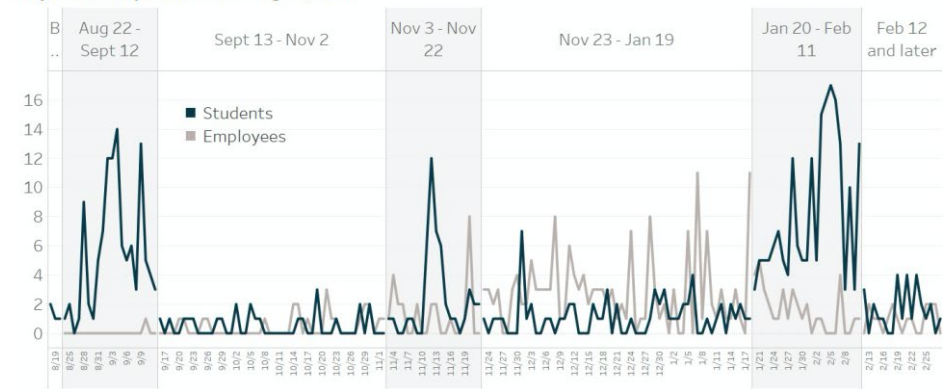
(These graphs may not update every day)

Chart: TCHD - Source: Tompkins County Health Department - Get the data - Created with Datawrapper

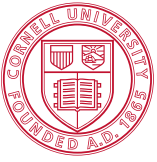
2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Local Data. Tompkins County Health Department, 2021. Available online: <https://tompkinscounty.ny.gov/health/bulletins/coronavirusdata#trendgraphs>

# Incidence: Cornell

## Daily confirmed positives since Aug 16, 2020



	Aug 22 - Sept 12	Sept 13 - Nov 2	Nov 3 - Nov 22	Nov 23 - Jan 19	Jan 20 - Feb 11	Feb 12 and later
Students	111	23	47	63	191	27
Employees	1	22	25	161	36	16
Total	112	45	72	224	227	43



## Key Mitigation Factors

### Community Wide Collaboration & Data-Driven Approach

- Taskforces, committees, Public Health Campaign, and a sense of community
- Predictive modeling, adaptive testing, dashboards, and staffing models



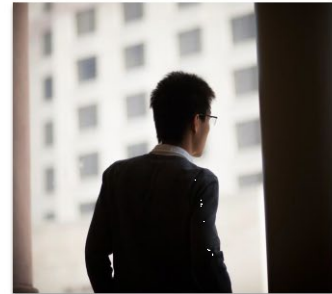
## Key Mitigation Factors (cont.)



COVID-19  
Testing



Contact  
Tracing



Isolation & Mandatory  
Quarantine



## COVID-19 Vaccine

### Eligibility

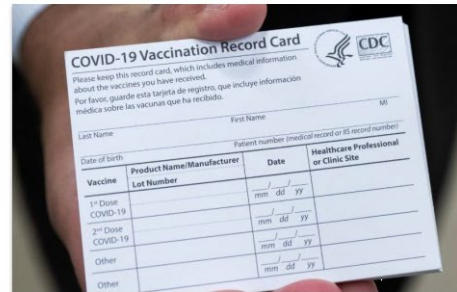
- Phased process through NYSDOH:  
[covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov](https://www.health.ny.gov/covid19vaccine)
- Currently in Phase 1b

### Supply

- Local availability for specific clinics & eligibility groups:
  - [COVID19 Vaccines Protect Us](#)
  - [tompkinscountyny.gov](https://www.tompkinscountyny.gov)
- State-run sites for self-attestation:  
[am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov](https://www.health.ny.gov/covid19vaccine/am-i-eligible)

### Distribution

- Cornell currently awaiting approval as a Point of Dispensing (POD) from NYSDOH

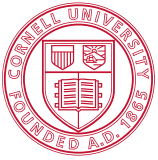


## Mental Health Review

- In 2018 President Pollack called for a comprehensive review of student mental health as part of the Presidential Task Force on Campus Climate
- Scope: campus environment & clinical services
- Review process included an internal and external review team
- Final report and implementation process launched in October 2020
- Visit [mentalhealthreview.cornell.edu](https://mentalhealthreview.cornell.edu) for updates



*"Help Us Grow Campus Mental Health!" Succulents became the unofficial emblem of the Mental Health Review.*



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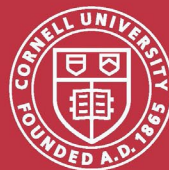
Cornell Health

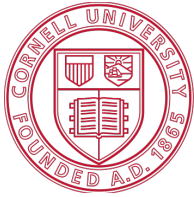
# Mental Health Review

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Cornell University  
University Assembly

**U.A. Resolution #14**

**Calling on the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America (TIAA) to divest funds from all fossil fuel holdings and agribusiness practices associated with deforestation and human rights abuses**

[03/16/2021]

1 **Sponsored by: Cornell University Assembly Campus Infrastructure**  
2 **Committee, Dr. Caroline Levine, Faculty Representative**

3  
4 **Whereas**, the climate emergency threatens human civilization as we know it, with  
5 effects including massive displacements of populations, hunger, disease, droughts, and  
6 floods around the world, and the collapse of ecosystems; and

7  
8 **Whereas**, warming trends and their devastating consequences are happening more  
9 quickly than many predicted, prompting over 11,000 scientists to declare a “climate  
10 emergency” in November 2019; and

11  
12 **Whereas**, the latest UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports that the  
13 earth has only 11 years to quickly shift from a fossil fuel-based energy economy if it is to  
14 avoid disastrous tipping points; and

15  
16 **Whereas**, 195 nations reached a global agreement in Paris in December of 2015 to keep  
17 planetary warming under 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue a  
18 limit of 1.5 degrees in order to avoid catastrophic and irreversible damage to society and  
19 the environment; and

20  
21 **Whereas**, on January 20th, 2021, President Joseph Robinette Biden Jr., accepted the  
22 Paris Climate Agreement, including “every article and clause thereof,” on behalf of the  
23 United States of America, and

24  
25 **Whereas**, Cornell is a global leader in climate change research, ranked the first in the  
26 Ivy League for sustainability and awarded a “Platinum rating” from the Sustainability  
27 Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS); and

28  
29 **Whereas**, in response to a Campus Infrastructure Committee Resolution and White  
30 Paper from 2019-20, Cornell has ceased all direct investment of endowment funds in  
31 fossil fuels; and has pledged to grow its investments in alternative energy technologies;  
32 and

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**Whereas**, the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America-College Retirement Equities Fund (TIAA) is one of the two major retirement funds available to Cornell University faculty and staff; and

**Whereas**, TIAA has an estimated \$8 billion invested in industries promoting fossil fuel production, distribution and consumption; and

**Whereas**, TIAA has \$508 million invested in agribusiness companies associated with deforestation, indigenous rights violations, and severe climate impacts; and

**Whereas**, TIAA has directly financed the construction of a fracked-gas powered electric generating station known as Cricket Valley Energy in Dover, New York – an economically disadvantaged community, adjacent to one of the largest freshwater wetlands in the Northeastern United States; and

**Be it therefore resolved**, Cornell University should serve as a model of responsible and sustainable investment to university systems across the United States.

**Be it further resolved**, the Cornell University Assembly supports and advocates for the divestment of TIAA funds from all fossil fuel holdings; and

**Be it further resolved**, that the Cornell University Assembly supports and advocates for an end to TIAA investment in agribusiness companies associated with deforestation and human rights abuses that have been particularly destructive to indigenous communities; and

**Be it further resolved**, the Cornell University Assembly supports and advocates for the investment of TIAA funds in renewable energy;

**Be it finally resolved**, the Cornell University Assembly urges the University to publicize its support for divesting TIAA funds from the fossil fuel industry and its support for investing in renewable energy.

***PASSED IN COMMITTEE (CIC) ON 3/3/2021 {5-0-1}***

**No signature block is present until the resolution has been disposed of by the Assembly (Passed, Failed, Withdrawn, etc.) Then a block with the certifying member (customarily Chair/Vice-Chair) verifying the authenticity and vote tally of the resolution.**



Cornell University  
University Assembly

**U.A. Resolution #15**  
**Amending the University Assembly Bylaws' Title of the Standing 'Campus Infrastructure Committee' (CIC)**  
**[03/02/2021]**

**Sponsor: Jacob Feit, Chair of the Campus Infrastructure Committee**

**Abstract:** The resolution proposes an amendment to the body's bylaws in order to more accurately reflect the expansive jurisdiction of the University Assembly's Campus Infrastructure Committee (CIC) procedures and authority, specifically as it relates to environmental sustainability.

**Whereas,** Section 4.1 of the Bylaws of the Cornell University Assembly references a standing committee tasked with "review[ing] and approv[ing] any proposed motion related to... environmental impact and sustainability" as well as infrastructural motions related to transportation, "information technology," and "any other topic deemed relevant to campus welfare by the Executive Board," and

**Whereas,** over the course of both the previous and present sessions, the activity of the committee has assumed an increasing focus on energy efficiency and sustainability, minimizing ecological impact, and promoting sustainable resource usage, and

**Whereas,** scientific evidence related to global climate change continues to substantiate the mounting environmental threat perpetuated by governing inaction related to sustainability, clean energy efficiency, and increased anthropogenic ecological destruction,

**Be it therefore resolved,** the title of the standing Campus Infrastructure Committee (CIC) shall be amended in order to reflect an increasingly important focus of the Committee's activities,

**Be it further resolved,** the Committee still possesses jurisdiction over the imperative Assembly motions relevant to campus-wide infrastructural and technological initiatives,

**Be it further resolved,** the University Assembly will amend its Bylaws by changing the existing language on line 174 of Section 4.1 to read:

"Section 4.1: The Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology, and the Environment"

**Be it finally resolved,** the Cornell University Office of Assemblies will update the title "Campus Infrastructure Committee" on all official University documents and websites, consistent with the Committee's new title: "The Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology, and the Environment"

***PASSED IN COMMITTEE (CIC) ON 3/3/2021 {5-0-1}***

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# Cornell University University Assembly

## **U.A. Resolution #16 Calling For a Veterans Support Center [03/16/2021]**

**Sponsor: Logan Kenney, Graduate & Professional Student Representative; Jacob Feit, Undergraduate Representative; Mitchell Hoy, Veteran Association Liaison to the Cornell University Student Assembly; Daniel Meyer '87, Government and Naval Science**

**Abstract:** This resolution calls for a support center for members of the Cornell University community who have served or plan on serving in the Armed Forces of the United States of America (ideally the designation of former Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity House (120 Mary Ann Wood Drive)).

**Whereas,** the Cornell University community, a private and land-grant research institution, seeks to promote an inclusive campus environment “where any person can find instruction in any study;” and

**Whereas,** Cornell University must fully recognize and support the unique needs of the Cornell veteran community; and

**Whereas,** veterans of the Armed Forces risked their lives and livelihoods serving the United States, thus maintaining a global trading system that not only protects University assets and investments, but defends the values of democracy and promotes the security necessary for the sustainability of our community; and

**Whereas,** given the wide breadth of financial obstacles facing those recently deployed, many student veterans have historically been forced to resort to extreme measures for obtaining human essentials, such as dumpster-diving for food and seeking residence in basements of fraternity houses; and

**Whereas,** since approximately 2013, Cornell University has made great efforts to improve processing G.I. Bill benefits to ensure that veterans returning from deployment have sufficient means of meeting costs of room and board through a Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH); and

**Whereas,** the alumni Sponsoring Group of the former New York Alpha Chapter of the Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity have proposed the repurposing of their former chapter house, The Gables of New York Alpha, Phi Kappa Psi (120 Mary Ann Wood Drive, Ithaca, New York, 14850) to meet the diverse and unique needs of Cornell’s veteran community,

**Be it therefore resolved,** the former New York Alpha chapter house of the Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity, or a similarly appropriate location, be repurposed as a Veterans Resource and Support Center; and

**Be it finally resolved,** this Center will provide Cornell’s veteran community with a wide array of specifically tailored services (including service-related counseling) in order to address veterans’ unique needs, both facilitating veterans’ return to life at home and promoting an increasingly equitable University environment by which all members have greater access to reach their full academic, professional, and personal potential(s).

**No signature block is present until the resolution has been disposed of by the Assembly (Passed, Failed, Withdrawn, etc.) Then a block with the certifying member (customarily Chair/Vice-Chair) verifying the authenticity and vote tally of the resolution.**