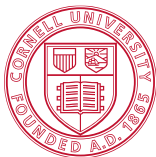


Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Agenda of the Thursday, March 18, 2021 Meeting
4:45 – 6:30 on ZOOM

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Land Acknowledgement of the Gayogohó:nq (Cayuga Nation)**
- III. Announcements and Presentations**
 - a. Student Advocate Anuli Ononye '22
 - b. DREAM Team
 - c. Dining Updates from Representative Miramontes Serrano '24
 - i. [Presentation](#)
- IV. Open Microphone**
- V. Approval of the Minutes**
 - a. [March 11, 2021 Minutes](#)
- VI. New Business**
 - a. Resolution #33 - [Winter/Summer Term Financial Aid](#)
 - b. Resolution #34 - [A Manifesto Calling Upon Cornell to Actionably Support the Asian American Community](#)
- VII. Adjournment**



Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, March 11, 2021 Meeting
4:45pm via Zoom

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. C. Huang called the meeting to order at 4:47pm (EST).
- b. Roll Call
 - i. *Members Present:* M. Baker, J. Bansah, C. Castillo, U. Chukwukere, L. Contreras, A. Gleiberman, S. Kapoor, A. Lampert, A. Miramontes Serrano, T. Reuning, K. Santacruz, M. Shardow, L. Smith, C. Tempelman, V. Valencia, N. Watson, S. Woldai, V. Xu, Y. Yuan, R. Zohar, L. Zumpano, S. Zverev, C. Huang
 - ii. *Members Absent:* L. Abd Elmagid, K. Butler, E. Perez

II. Land Acknowledgement of the Gayogohó:nq' (Cayuga Nation)

- a. Cornell University is located on the traditional homelands of the Gayogohó:nq' (the Cayuga Nation). The Gayogohó:nq' are members of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, an alliance of six sovereign Nations with a historic and contemporary presence on this land. The Confederacy precedes the establishment of Cornell University, New York State, and the United States of America. We acknowledge the painful history of Gayogohó:nq' dispossession and honor the ongoing connection of the Gayogohó:nq' people, past and present, to these lands and waters.

III. Announcements and Presentations

- a. C. Huang stated that members of the Office of Student Government Relations are present at the meeting and encouraged SA members to ask them any questions.
 - i. E. Rubin introduced themselves and stated that the OSGR has just finished recruitment. E. Rubin encouraged anyone with questions to reach out.
- b. There was a motion to confirm the members of the Office of Student Government Relations.
 - i. Motion to confirm – passed 20-0-2
- c. C. Huang stated that anyone interested in working with EARS to message in the chat and they will be added into a Slack channel.

IV. Open Microphone

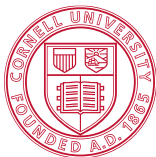
- a. No Speakers present at open microphone.

V. Approval of the Minutes

- a. March 4, 2021
 - i. Motion to approve the March 4th minutes – approved Unanimous Consent

VI. New Business

- a. SA R32: Amendments to Election Rules for Spring 2021
 - i. Abstract: This resolution updates the Student Assembly Election Rules of the Spring 2021 Election. This is necessitated by the ongoing public health



Cornell University Student Assembly

restrictions related to COVID-19, and the need to be more inclusive of all students, whether they are on campus or attending remotely.

- ii. P. Mehler explained this resolution updates the SA election law. There was a bit of outdated language and items that specifically said they needed to occur in person, which due to the pandemic, will take place virtually. The resolution also changes anything that says Fall 2020 to Spring 2021. The SA Election rules used to state that you had to be in Ithaca to run for office. The language has been rewriting to state that you just need to be a fully enrolled student taking classes to run for office. Further, this resolution changes the rules for committee members of the election committee in order for the Election Committee to better represent a reflection of Cornell's diversity in background and class year. Typically, the Elections Committee is heavily dominated by seniors and upperclassmen, as it is difficult for freshman to commit to not being able to run for office for the next three years. This resolution no longer states that you cannot run in the academic year, but in the academic semester. The purpose of this to increase the diversity of the committee to include more underclassmen.
- iii. Motion to approve Resolution #32 – passed 21-0-1
- b. P. Mehler walked the Student Assembly through the upcoming elections calendar. The official announcement of the Elections and Election Committee will occur on March 22. There will be two information forums on March 23 and March 24 to best accommodate international students and students in different time zones. All people running for SA will have until April 5 at 12pm to collect all signatures. There will be a mandatory campaign meeting at 9pm on April 5 and campaigning can begin at 11:59pm on April 5. There will now be three separate debate forums, one for College Representatives on April 7, one for At-Large Representatives and UA on April 9, and one President and Vice President on April 14. The purpose of this is to increase election turnout and people running for office. Additionally, having College representatives meeting on a specific day and at a specific time will make it easier for all constituents in the respective colleges to attend and not have to sit through the entire debate. If there is 5+ candidates for the UA, there is a possible UA debate/forum on April 13. Voting will open at 12pm on April 20 and end at 2pm on April 22, all challenges and hearings occur the afternoon of April 22. The three-day window intentionally runs alongside the Board of Trustees to make it easier for students to vote.
 - i. A. Gleiberman asked if there was a special election for the four seats currently empty in the SA.
 - 1. P. Mehler stated there is not enough time for special election to occur and those seats will remain empty for the semester. Additionally, if



Cornell University Student Assembly

there was both a special election and an election following each other, there would be a drastic decrease in voter turnout.

- c. W. Treat stated the Student-Elected Trustee Election calendar is almost finalized and will more than likely be on the same ballot as the SA election.
- d. C. Huang explained that members are uncomfortable with seats remaining vacant for too long and stated they would be happy to take nominations from anyone in the SA to appoint these seats. C. Huang also stated that the P. Mehler was very intentional about making sure this calendar didn't cause any religious conflict.
 - i. P. Mehler stated that there were numerous religious holidays that occurred within the same 10-day window. To accommodate this, the signature collecting period is about four days longer than it typically is and no events occur on religious holidays. P. Mehler stated they are available if anybody has any concerns about this or questions about elections.
- e. P. Mehler asked that if anyone knew a student in the School of Hotel Administration interested in joining the Elections Committee to please reach out.
- f. C. Huang reminded members of the SA who still need to complete their policy reports to turn in reports by next week.

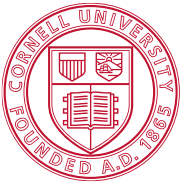
VII. Adjournment

- a. C. Huang adjourned the meeting at 5:15pm (EST).

Respectfully Submitted,

Ciara Shanahan

Clerk of the Student Assembly



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	03/18/2021
Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #33 Winter/Summer Term Financial Aid

ABSTRACT: This resolution recommends that Cornell grant-based aid is expanded to include both summer and winter session enrollment. Currently, grant-based financial aid is only available for fall/spring terms. In the summer/winter terms, students only have aid in the form of work or loans. This resolution would benefit low income students, especially in light of COVID-19, who may have had to drop courses in light of personal hardships, and students who may be behind on credits necessary to graduate on time. We are requesting this adjustment to the financial aid policy be permanently implemented.

Sponsored by: Amanda Rabin '21, Sonu Kapoor '21, Lucy Contreras '21, Andreas Psahos '24, Erik Kirakosyan '23, Julia Zimmerman '22, and Rachel Rosenthal '22

Whereas, Ezra Cornell's founding vision of a university where "any person can find instruction in any study" is not realized as many students cannot afford the cost of attendance in winter and summer sessions; and

Whereas, the university's financial aid website states, "our goal: remove financial barriers and allow students the opportunity invest in a Cornell education," which is not applicable year-round; and

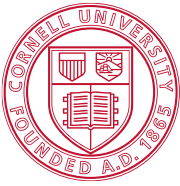
Whereas, 44% of all undergraduate students in the 2016-2017 academic year received Cornell grant-based financial aid; and

Whereas, low-income students who ordinarily qualify for grant-based financial aid are not eligible for winter or summer session aid, resulting in

- higher course credit loads during the academic year,
- students having less time to dedicate per class resulting in lower grades
- interference with other types of aid such as federal work study due to time restrictions,
- difficulty graduating on time,
- added academic stress that may jeopardize overall mental health; and

Whereas, winter and summer class can lighten the fall/spring workload, reduce stress, and act as a resume booster, making students more competitive candidates in the job recruiting and graduate school application process, and thus increasing the value of a Cornell degree; and

Whereas, low-income students are at an academic disadvantage compared to their more affluent counterparts who can afford to take courses during the summer and winter session; and



Cornell University Student Assembly

Whereas, Cornell can be a leader and example by providing financial aid for winter and summer classes and holding up the values of equity. A few peer institutions have implemented grant-based financial aid for winter/summer sessions:

- Yale provides up to 50% of tuition for summer/winter terms
- Emory provides up to 75% of grants/aid for summer/winter terms; and

Whereas, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has drastically limited opportunities for Cornell students, disproportionately impacting those who need financial aid; and

Whereas, many students enroll in courses at local community colleges or use transfer credits given the more affordable cost of tuition, which in turn can create discontinuities in academic tracks; and

Whereas, reducing the cost of tuition through Cornell grant-based aid would make summer/winter classes more accessible to students. This could potentially increase the net revenue from winter and summer term and prevent the waste of resources from under enrollment; and

Be it therefore resolved, that Cornell University should provide need-based financial aid to students proportional to the amount of aid they receive during typical semesters; and

Be it further resolved, that students who are able to take summer or winter classes can reduce fall/spring course loads; and

Be it finally resolved, that students who were forced to drop courses due to unforeseen circumstances including COVID-19 may enroll in summer/winter courses to avoid falling behind or having to take excess courses above their respective college credit limits; and

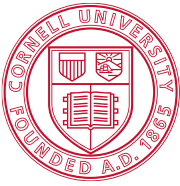
Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Rabin '21
Academic Policy Committee Chair, Student Assembly

Sonu Kapoor '21
College of Engineering Representative, Student Assembly

Lucy Contreras '21
First Generation Student Representative At-Large, Student Assembly

(Reviewed by: Academic Policy Committee, 7-0-4, 03/07/2021)



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(03/18/2021)
Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #34

A Manifesto Calling Upon Cornell to Actionably Support the Asian American Community

ABSTRACT: Calling upon Cornell to actionably support the Asian American community at Cornell by delivering on the recommendations from the Mental Health Review Final Report, reaffirming funding and academic promises to the Asian American Studies Program (AASP) and ethnic studies at Cornell, reviewing the role of Greek Life and fraternities on campus, reviewing Title IX and the Bias Reporting process, and reconsider the disarmament of the CUPD.

Sponsored by: Catherine Huang '21

Whereas, On March 16th, 2021, a white male gunman shot and killed eight people in Atlanta, Georgia, murdering six Asian American women and massage parlor laborers;

Whereas, the gunman testified to the police that he had specifically [targeted](#) Asian massage parlors;

Whereas, Asian American students make up almost [20% of the student population](#) at Cornell;

Whereas, releasing a statement condemning Anti-Asian violence is much appreciated, but also the bare minimum needed to actually support Asian American students at Cornell;

Whereas, Asian American students and communities across the country are grieving the deaths of Delaina Ashley Yaun, Paul Andre Michels, Xiaojie Tan, Daoyou Feng, Julie Park, and Hyeon Jeong Park;

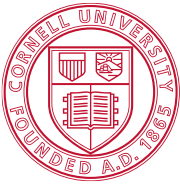
Whereas, one of the recommendations from the [Mental Health Review's Final Report](#) recommend that Cornell should "require that faculty and staff attend at least one mental health training opportunity every two years."

Whereas, this recommendation should have been a requirement ever since the start of the pandemic and it should have been implemented immediately;

Whereas, grief changes and the way it affects students and communities continues to evolve. Issues are never suddenly just resolved over summer or winter break or with the beginning of a new academic year;

Whereas, requiring faculty attend only one mental health training opportunity every two years is not enough;

Whereas, faculty should be required to attend a mental health training opportunity at the beginning of every academic semester;



Cornell University Student Assembly

Whereas, Andrew Dickson White, the first President of Cornell, testified in front of Congress about Chinese immigration saying, “I confess to a very deep-seated dread of this influx of Asiatics” (Feb. 1879);

Whereas, the Cornell Asian American Studies Program (AASP) and its faculty members, such as Professor Derek Chang, teach the invaluable histories of Asian Americans at Cornell and across the country, which students would receive nowhere else;

Whereas, the Cornell AASP Program and faculty members serve so many Asian American students, creating [safe spaces](#) for the AAPI student community, and the AASP deserves more support;

Whereas, Cornell administration must craft and declare its plans to continue supporting the Cornell AASP, whether through funding, hiring, or academic support;

Whereas, students have advocated for Asian American Studies, Latino/a Studies and American Indian studies to be offered as majors since [2016](#).

Whereas, these demands have recurred year after year but have been stymied for years, with repeated arguments from administration that there supposedly just isn’t enough student demand for these studies;

Whereas, how can there ever going to be enough student demand if these programs are underfunded, undersupported and underpublicized because of the fact that they are restricted to minors?

Whereas, this argument is a blatantly and frustratingly cyclical one that shows that Cornell simply does not care enough to invest in its ethnic studies programs and its students of color;

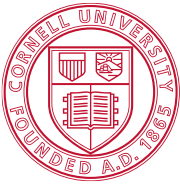
Whereas, Cornell should reconsider the investment in and creation of Asian American studies, Latino/a Studies, and American Indian Studies majors;

Whereas, six of the victims killed by the white male shooter were Asian American women;

Whereas, the women were massage parlor workers which directly relates to the sex work industry and the lack of protections for working class Asian American women laboring in lower-paid jobs;

Whereas, in an article in The New York Times, [it reads](#), “The gunman told the police that he had a “sexual addiction” and had carried out the shootings at the massage parlors to eliminate his “temptation,” the authorities said on Wednesday. He also said that he had frequented massage parlors in the past and launched the attacks as a form of vengeance. All but one of the victims were women, the police said.”

Whereas, Asian women have been disproportionately targeted in anti-Asian violence;



Cornell University Student Assembly

Whereas, Asian women are 2.3x more likely to report victimization and accounts of interpersonal violence.

Whereas, Asian American women everywhere suffer from the racialization of our bodies and the disgusting fetishization of the white male gaze that so easily turns into white male violence;

Whereas, Asian American female students at Cornell are also subject to these violent racializations;

Whereas, deadly white male violence begins at home, on college campuses, dorm rooms and [fraternity houses](#) (fraternity men are three times more likely to commit rape than their non-Greek peers);

Whereas, Cornell is even letting a fraternity that's nationally nicknamed [Sexual Assault Expected](#), and who killed a student through hazing in [2011](#), back onto campus;

Whereas, Cornell has an obligation to protect its Asian female students and survivors of sexual harassment and assault;

Whereas, a [2019 survey](#) found that over 25% of undergraduate women reported an incident of sexual assault. For the majority of that demographic, the most common location for the "most serious incident of nonconsensual sexual contact" was an on-campus fraternity house;

Whereas, fraternities at Cornell perpetuates misogyny, transphobia, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and rape;

Whereas, even if victims of bias and survivors of sexual harassment or assault report to the Bias Reporting or the Title IX Office, a [national study](#) has found that "Seventy percent of student survivors who report to their school experience adverse effects on their safety and privacy. Thirty-nine percent of survivors who report to their school are forced to take a leave of absence, transfer to a new school, or drop out of school altogether."

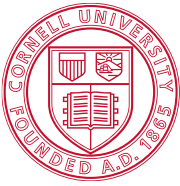
Whereas, Cornell needs a complete review of its Title IX Office and Bias and Response Team and procedures, to ensure that victims of racial bias and sexual harassment or assault get the accountability they receive;

Whereas, President Pollack rejected the student call to disarm the CUPD last semester;

Whereas, Cornell is overly reliant on the CUPD and its weapons;

Whereas, in the Atlanta shootings, the police did not save the Asian American women who were shot and killed;

Whereas, Georgia officials are declaring that it's "[too early](#)" to tell if this shooting was a hate crime (despite the fact that he told them that he specifically [targeted](#) Asian massage parlors);



Cornell University Student Assembly

Whereas, the police officers involved with the case are quick to defend the killer and justify his actions, extending him empathy that they never offered to the victims;

Whereas, [Police Captain Jay Baker](#) of the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office attempted to excuse the actions of the Atlanta killer by saying the killer was "fed up" and just had "a really bad day."

Whereas, this same Police Officer, the [Police Captain Jay Baker](#), was [found](#) to have posted racist images of China and coronavirus on his Facebook;

Whereas, the events of the past year, the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and so many others, the deaths of Delaina Ashley Yaun, Paul Andre Michels, Xiaojie Tan, Daoyou Feng, Julie Park, and Hyeon Jeong Park, all serve to remind us that the police do not protect or serve marginalized communities;

Whereas, the death of [Sarah Everard](#), whose death at the hands of a [police officer](#) in the UK is sparking [global conversations](#) about gender justice, shows that the police do not protect women either;

Whereas, [Christian Hall](#) was a 19 year old Chinese American boy, suffering from a mental health crisis. He was killed when he was shot by the police 19 times;

Whereas, [Angelo Quinto](#) was a Filipino American man, and a Navy veteran who sustained a head injury and needed mental health support. His mother hugged him on the floor until the police arrived. When they arrived, the cops killed him. One put a knee on his neck for 5 minutes, while another officer held his legs and he suffocated to death;

Whereas, Cornell's refusal to even consider disarming its police is a clear statement that Cornell will prioritize the supposed comfort of white students over the literal safety and lives of women, Asian American women, and its BIPOC students;

Whereas, the Student Assembly supports Asian American students and the AAPI community at Cornell by advocating for the following changes;

Be it therefore resolved, the Student Assembly formally calls upon Cornell University to implement the following changes:

1. Following the many recommendations of the Mental Health Review's Final Report, Cornell University will require all faculty to attend a mental health training opportunity at the beginning of every academic semester, effective immediately.
2. Cornell administration must craft and declare its plans to support the Cornell AASP, whether through funding, hiring, or academic support, to be delivered to the Student Assembly by the end of the 2021 academic year.
3. Cornell University and the Provost will reconsider the investment in and creation of Asian American studies, Latino/a Studies, and American Indian Studies majors;



Cornell University Student Assembly

4. Cornell University should revoke Sigma Alpha Epsilon's return to campus, effective immediately;
5. Cornell University will consider abolishing fraternities on campus to protect women and survivors of sexual assault;
6. Cornell University will perform a complete review of its Title IX Office and Bias and Response Team and procedures, to ensure that victims of racial bias and sexual harassment or assault get the accountability they receive;
7. Cornell University will reconsider disarming the Cornell University Police Department (CUPD).

Be it finally resolved, Cornell administration respond to these demands and explain how it will make the changes needed to take action and support the Asian American community at Cornell University.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Huang '21
President, Student Assembly

(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 5-0-1, 03/18/2021)