

# Cornell University Student Assembly

## Cornell University Student Assembly

Agenda of the Thursday, April 15, 2021 Meeting  
4:45 – 6:30 on ZOOM

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Land Acknowledgement of the Gayogohó:nø (Cayuga Nation)**
- III. **Announcements and Presentations**
- IV. **Open Microphone**
- V. **Approval of the Minutes**
  - a. [April 8, 2021 Minutes](#)
- VI. **New Business**
  - a. Resolution #41 – [Disengaging Cornell from the War in Yemen](#)
  - b. Resolution #42 – [Adding Mental Health Checks to the Daily Check](#)
  - c. SAIFC Proposal – [Rain Garden](#)
- VII. **Adjournment**



## Cornell University Student Assembly

### Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, April 8, 2021 Meeting  
4:45pm via Zoom

#### I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. C. Huang called the meeting to order at 4:46pm (EST).
- b. Roll Call
  - i. *Members Present:* L. Abd Elmagid, M. Baker, J. Bansah, K. Butler, C. Castillo, U. Chukwukere, L. Contreras, S. Kapoor, A. Lampert, E. Perez, T. Reuning, K. Santacruz, M. Shardow, L. Smith, C. Tempelman, V. Valencia, N. Watson, S. Woldai, V. Xu, R. Zohar, L. Zumpano, S. Zverev, C. Huang
  - ii. *Members Absent:* A. Gleiberman, A. Miramontes Serrano, Y. Yuan

#### 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. P. Mehler stated that the debates are today, next Tuesday, and next Thursday for the upcoming SA election. There are substantially more candidates running for office this semester than past years.
- b. Anabel's Grocery Spring 2021 Updates Presentation by K. Chan and P. Aguirre
  - i. Anabel's Grocery is a grocery store located in Anabel Taylor Hall that is dedicated to providing fresh, nutritious food that is affordable. Early in the semester, during the sales week period of March 1 to March 8, Anabel's Grocery's had a total sale of \$2,229.17, with the average order value of about \$13. The most recent sales week period, March 22 to March 29, Anabel's Grocery had a total sale of \$2,846.04, with the average order value of about \$16. The top selling items were the vegetable boxes and the fruit boxes, which are a combination of different groceries purchased. There have been a few low selling items, such as rice vinegar and cornmeal, but one solution to this that Anabel's Grocery has been experimenting is recipe boxes, where students can buy a box that has all the ingredients for a recipe. One recipe box they have created was Polenta box and it did sell out. Overall, the financial sustainability seems to be good this semester, as Anabel's Grocery is able to maintain and is making more money than what it costs to buy the groceries. Additional initiatives Anabel's Grocery has taken this semester is Cook-Along sessions over Zoom and Meal Kits. The goal of these initiatives is to teach kitchen literacy and help student cook fresh meals with affordable local ingredients. Anabel's Education and Collaboration Committee



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- volunteers lead weekly virtual cooking sessions on Saturdays at 4pm. If you are interested in co-hosting a cook-along within your community, reach out to Anabel's Grocery. Anabel's Grocery is also sending out a survey revolved around campus food and grocery insecurity and encouraged SA members to share the survey with their constituents.
- ii. C. Huang asked if there were any things on social media the SA can share to help share the survey.
    1. K. Chan stated that they will be coming out early next week.
  - c. Cornell and the War in Yemen Presentation by J. Mullen '24
    - i. The War in Yemen has been going on for several years now, but it is worth nothing that there is ongoing action right now. This week, for example, a group of Yemeni activists that are on Day 10 of a hunger strike that is demanding the Biden administration push to end the Saudi blockade. Since 2014, there has been an ongoing war between a coalition of nations that's been led by Saudi Arabia, with support from the United States and the United Kingdom, to support Abdrabbuh Mansur-Hadi, the dictator of Yemen, in a civil war against the Houthis, an opposing political faction. The Yemeni people have been cut in the crossfire, where Saudi Arabia has committed a variety of atrocities from bombing school buses and hospitals and engineering a man-made famine. In 2021, President Biden announced he would suspend American support for the Saudi coalition. As of right now, there have been 8,338 civilian war deaths, where 1,283 were children. There have been 22,701 coalition bombings. 85,000 children have dead from the engineered famine, where 130 children are dying each day and 10 million are at risk of famine. Cornell University does have partnerships in Saudi Arabia. The two most prominent are the Cornell University-KAUST Center for Research and Education, which was a \$25 million production, and the Cornell Johnson School partnership with Global Business School in Jeddah. Saudi Arabia is actively profiting off Cornell's relationship, where they are consistently posting using Cornell's logo and imagery and use to advertise using their reputation to lend more credibility to the brand of these schools. In 2018, Cornell professors and faculties asked the University to disclose all donations from Saudi Arabia and did not get a response. Another aspect of Cornell's involvement is that Cornell Engineering is partnered with weapons manufacturers that are selling to Saudi Arabia. This includes BAE (British arms manufacturer), which sold \$15 billion in arms to Saudi Arabia and is now being accused of being party to war crimes, Northrop Grumman, which had a \$2.5 billion deal with Saudi Arabia and is a major supplied to the Saudi Royal Air Force, Lockheed Martin, which supplied the bombs used by Saudi Arabia in the Dhahyan airstrike that bombed a school bus and killed 40 children, and Boeing, which received a \$2.6 billion contract in 2020 to sell missiles to Saudi Arabia but the deal was cancelled by the Biden administration. There will be a resolution coming to the SA floor that will be demanding immediately end all Cornell partnerships with Saudi institutions,



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disclosing all grants and donations from Saudi Arabia and reinvesting them in organizations fighting for the Yemeni people, immediately ending Cornell Engineering's corporate partnerships with arms manufacturers listed previously, reinvesting donations from arms manufacturers into humanitarian groups, following the ethical practices established by Resolution #39, never allowing these major arms manufacturers to recruit at Cornell again, and publicly condemning the War in Yemen and cease business with any company profiting from the war.

- ii. L. Smith stated their appreciation for this presentation and asked if administration has responded to Resolution #39.
  1. C. Huang stated there has not been a response from administration on the resolution.
- iii. K. Farhat expressed their appreciation for this presentation and stated they had never seen someone tackle it so thoroughly.

### IV. Open Microphone

- a. M. Shardow stated that they have learned that the Ivy Room is being closed and wondered if there was anyone interesting in making a resolution to try to prevent that.

### V. New Business

- a. There was a motion to table Resolution #41 indefinitely.
  - i. Motion to table – **tabled** Unanimous Consent

### VI. Approval of the Minutes

- a. April 1, 2021
  - i. Motion to approve the April 1<sup>st</sup> minutes – **approved** Unanimous Consent

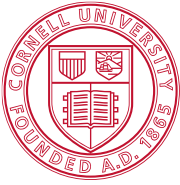
### VII. Adjournment

- a. C. Huang adjourned the meeting at 5:23pm (EST).

Respectfully Submitted,

*Ciara Shanahan*

Clerk of the Student Assembly



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Originally Presented on:	4/15/2021
Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	New Business

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## S.A. Resolution #41 Disengaging Cornell from the War in Yemen

ABSTRACT: This resolution calls for an end to Cornell’s relationship with Saudi Arabia and arms manufacturers involved in war crimes in the War in Yemen.

**Sponsored by: Joseph Mullen ’24, Laila Abd Elmagid ’21, Mardiya Shardow ’23**

**Whereas**, Cornell University’s Johnson School of Business has a [partnership](#) with the Saudi KSA Global Business School in Jeddah,

**Whereas**, the KSA Global Business School has frequently [highlighted](#) its relationship with Cornell and used it for publicity,

**Whereas**, Cornell’s Hotel School partners with the Tahseen hospitality leadership training program run by the Marriott International in Saudi Arabia,

**Whereas**, two Cornell professors [received](#) \$25 million grants from Saudi Arabia in 2008 for the Global Research Partnership of King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST),

**Whereas**, the grants were awarded to create a KAUST-Cornell center at KAUST, to further bolster KAUST’s [goal](#) of “innovation in areas of science and technology important to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia”,

**Whereas**, both the KSA Global Business School and KAUST both have [ties](#) to the Saudi government and the Saudi Ministry of Defense,

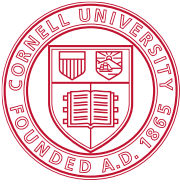
**Whereas**, Saudi Arabia [intervened](#) in the Yemeni Civil War in 2015 in an attempt to return dictator Abdrabbuh Mansur-Hadi to power and defeat the Houthi rebels,

**Whereas**, Saudi Arabia formed a [coalition](#) composed of Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Sudan, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, with support from the United States and United Kingdom, to restore Hadi to power,

**Whereas**, America was complicit in the war crimes by supporting the Saudis and [providing](#) intelligence and logistical support to the coalition under the Obama and Trump administrations,

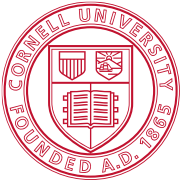
**Whereas**, Saudi Arabia has been [committing](#) human rights abuses and war crimes against the Yemeni people since 2015,

**Whereas**, Saudi Arabia has [launched](#) 22,879 airstrikes since 2015, a number increasing each day,



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- 32 **Whereas**, Saudi Arabia has [bombed](#) school buses full of children,
- 33 **Whereas**, Saudi Arabia has [bombed](#) hospitals,
- 34 **Whereas**, Saudi Arabia has destroyed Yemeni [cultural](#) sites,
- 35 **Whereas**, the Yemen Data Project has [reported](#) that almost a third of all airstrikes carried out by the  
36 Saudi-led coalition hit civilian sites such as homes, hospitals, schools, weddings, farms, food stores  
37 and water wells,
- 38 **Whereas**, 17,500 Yemeni [civilians](#) have been killed during the war,
- 39 **Whereas**, 10 million Yemeni civilians are at risk of [famine](#) due to the Saudi blockade,
- 40 **Whereas**, a [child](#) under the age of 5 dies every ten minutes in Yemen due to the war,
- 41 **Whereas**, 12 million Yemeni children are desperately in [need](#) of humanitarian aid,
- 42 **Whereas**, the war has exacerbated the coronavirus pandemic in Yemen,
- 43 **Whereas**, a cholera epidemic has [spread](#) in Yemen, infecting 1.5 million people,
- 44 **Whereas**, UNICEF has [declared](#) Yemen “the world’s largest humanitarian crisis”,
- 45 **Whereas**, President Biden has officially [ended](#) American support for the war in Yemen,
- 46 **Whereas**, the United States is [seeking](#) to end the war as official policy,
- 47 **Whereas**, Cornell Professors and faculty [outlined](#) concerns with Cornell’s relationship with Saudi  
48 Arabia in a 2018 letter to President Pollack,
- 49 **Whereas**, professors asked that President Pollack, “discontinue Cornell’s institutional and financial  
50 collaboration with the KSA”,
- 51 **Whereas**, signatories noted the various other human rights abuses Saudi Arabia has committed,  
52 such as the assassination of Jamaal Khashoggi,
- 53 **Whereas**, Cornell has not disclosed entirely grants and donations coming from Saudi Arabia,
- 54 **Whereas**, Cornell’s Mario Eunadi Center hosted a speaker [event](#) with a Saudi prince, Prince Turki  
55 Al-Faisal, in 2009, who touted the “CU-Saudi bond”,



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56 **Whereas**, Cornell’s Engineering department maintains corporate [partnerships](#) with major arms  
57 manufacturers such as Northrop Grumman, BAE, Boeing, and Lockheed Martin,

58 **Whereas**, Cornell Engineering continues to [allow](#) and invite these arms manufacturers to recruit  
59 students from the University,

60 **Whereas**, Cornell’s Board of Trustees in 2016 [approved](#) a standard for divestment from companies  
61 or nations that are committing acts that are “morally reprehensible,”

62 **Whereas**, Cornell has ties to Saudi Arabia and arms companies that are committing morally  
63 reprehensible actions such as war crimes in Yemen,

64 **Whereas**, the guidelines call for Cornell to ensure that all international engagements are committed  
65 to “free and open inquiry and expression” and “justice and human rights”,

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

- 68 1. Cornell University will cut all ties to the KSA Global Business School in Jeddah, end the  
69 KAUST Cornell Entrepreneurship Program and the Hotel School-Tahseen partnership, and  
70 withdraw from the KAUST-Cornell Center for Energy and Sustainability,
- 71 2. Cornell University will end ties between the Engineering Department and arms  
72 manufacturers involved in the war on Yemen, and prevent them from recruiting on campus,
- 73 3. Cornell University will publicly disclose all gifts and donations from the Kingdom of Saudi  
74 Arabia, and repurpose them to humanitarian organizations working to aid the people of  
75 Yemen,
- 76 4. Cornell University will prevent Saudi royals and officials from delivering lectures or speaker  
77 events while the war lasts,
- 78 5. Cornell University will re-evaluate all current international collaborations and vet them  
79 carefully using the ethical guidelines on international engagement, as laid out by the previous  
80 resolution on PKU,
- 81 6. Where concerns arise within a given collaboration, Cornell University will amend its terms  
82 with the institution in question, suspend the program, or terminate the relationship  
83 altogether,
- 84 7. Cornell University will allow input from all branches of shared governance when ethical  
85 concerns arise regarding an international collaboration and take such concerns seriously,
- 86 8. Cornell University will commit to ending partnership with arms manufacturers and the  
87 military industrial complex in the future.

88 **Respectfully submitted,**

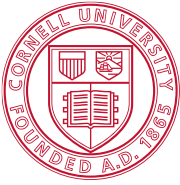
89 Laila Abd Elmagid ‘21



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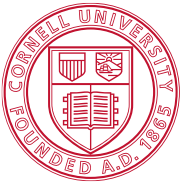
- 90 *College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Representative, Student Assembly*  
91  
92 *Mardiya Shardow '23*  
93 *Dyson School of Business Representative, Student Assembly Committee*  
94  
95 *Joseph Mullen '24*  
96 *Chair, Cornell Progressives Anti-War Committee*  
97  
98 *Cornell Progressives*  
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100 *Cornell Arab Student Association*  
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102 *Eric Cheyfitz*  
103 *Ernest I. White Professor of American Studies and Humane Letters*  
104  
105 *Darlene Evans*  
106 *Knight Institute Writing Outreach Director*  
107  
108 *Aziz Rana*  
109 *Richard and Lois Cole Professor of Law*  
110  
111 *Richard Bensel*  
112 *Gary S. Davis Professor of Government*  
113  
114 *Joseph Margulies*  
115 *Professor, Law and Government*  
116  
117 *Alexander Livingston*  
118 *Department of Government Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies*  
119  
120 *Rayna Kalas*  
121 *Associate Professor, Literatures in English*  
122  
123 *Eli Friedman*  
124 *Associate Professor, Chair of International & Comparative Labor*  
125  
126 *Matthew Evangelista*  
127 *President White Professor of History and Political Science*  
128  
129 *Derek Chang,*  
130 *Associate Professor, History and Asian American Studies*





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132 Kenneth Roberts  
133 *Richard J. Schwartz Professor*  
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135 Cynthia Grant Bowman  
136 *Dorothea S. Clarke Professor of Law*  
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138 Russell Rickford  
139 *Associate Professor of History*  
140  
141 Mostafa Minawi  
142 *Associate Professor, Director of the Ottoman & Turkish Studies Initiative*  
143  
144 Julia Chang  
145 *Assistant Professor, Romance Studies*  
146  
147 Seema Golestaneh  
148 *Assistant Professor, Near Eastern Studies*  
149  
150 Paul Sawyer  
151 *Professor Emeritus & Stephen H. Weiss Presidential Fellow*  
152  
153 Richard W. Miller  
154 *Philosophy Professor Emeritus*  
155  
156 Claudia Verhoeven  
157 *Associate Professor, History*  
158  
159 David Bateman  
160 *Associate Professor, Government*  
161  
162 Sandra Babcock  
163 *Clinical Professor of Law*  
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165 *(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 4-0-2, 4/15/2021)*



# Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	4/15/2021
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

## S.A. Resolution #42

### Adding Mental Health Checks to the Daily Check

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4 ABSTRACT: This resolution calls for the addition of a mental health and wellbeing related question  
5 on the Daily Check portal to better connect students with mental health resources during the  
6 COVID-19 pandemic.

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8 **Sponsored by: Anuli Ononye '22, Sam Caplan '23, Cat Huang '21, Uche Chukwukere '21,**  
9 **Selam Woldai '23**

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11 **Whereas**, the Daily Check has provided a resource for students to communicate their health and  
12 wellbeing with the university daily throughout the pandemic;

13  
14 **Whereas**, as a component of Cornell's pandemic response, community members are required to  
15 complete a Daily Check, in which people can report symptoms of COVID-19 and access  
16 immediate follow-up care from Cornell Health and the Tompkins County Health  
17 Department;

18  
19 **Whereas**, Cornell has committed to prioritizing student's mental health and wellbeing, taking  
20 additional steps such as extending the course drop date this semester and providing  
21 additional resources for students mourning and grieving during the 2020-21 academic year;

22  
23 **Whereas**, symptoms of mental health crises are not easily detectable and recognized through  
24 distanced learning;

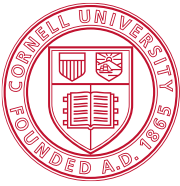
25  
26 **Whereas**, Cornell EARS (Empathy, Assistance, and Referral Service) recently announced and will  
27 no longer be providing peer counseling to the Cornell community;

28  
29 **Whereas**, Cornell's Mental Health Review Final Report (March 2020) calls for the "increase [of]  
30 help-seeking behavior and identifying people in need of care" in order to improve students'  
31 wellbeing on campus;

32  
33 **Be it therefore resolved**, Cornell administration will incorporate a mental health related question to  
34 student questions on the Daily Check form (e.g. Would you like to be connected with a  
35 CAPS Counselor?);

36  
37 **Be it further resolved**, Students who self-report mental health concerns will be provided additional  
38 administrative resources including preference for CAPS counseling;

39  
40 **Be it finally resolved** Resources should be provided immediately upon completion of the Daily  
41 Check (after indication of self-reported mental health concerns).  
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- 43 **Respectfully Submitted,**  
44  
45 Anuli Ononye '22  
46 *Undergraduate Student Advocate, Student Assembly*  
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48 Sam Caplan '23  
49 *Industrial & Labor Relations*  
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51 Uche Chukwukere '21  
52 *VP Finance, Student Assembly*  
53  
54 Cat Huang '21  
55 *President, Student Assembly*  
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57 Selam Woldai '23  
58 *Minority Student Liaison at Large, Student Assembly*  
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60 *(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 4-0-2, 4/15/2021)*



**Estimates for Costs of Improvements**

Items	Units	Unit Price	Price
Container grown trees, shrubs and perennial flowering plants from Prides Corner's Nursery			\$2,707.56
Nursery liner/quart size/quick start shrubs from Spring Meadows Nursery			\$2,536.36
Stone screenings/Crushed Stone			\$250.00
Soil amendments and materials: Compost	590 yds	1/yd	\$590.00
Soil amendments and materials: Mulch, 14 yards @ \$21, delivered to site, placed	260 yds	21/14yd	\$390.00
Site preparation and earthwork: Treat sod, spray 1 hr.			\$105.00
Site preparation and earthwork: Equipment Operator/Excavator/Truck/trailer, 6hr			\$960.00
Site preparation and earthwork: Compacted fill at seating area, 5 yards @ \$27	5 yds	27/5yd	\$225.00
Additional Labor, 3 staff, 2 hr.			\$450.00
Site Appurtenance: Natural stone benches, placed, \$1300 ea., Qty 3	3 benches	1,300/3yd	\$3,900.00
Site Appurtenance: CU Sustainability Trail sign and post installed, rough estimated cost			\$500.00
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST, INCLUDING LABOR</b>			<b>\$12,613.92</b>

**Administrative Contacts and routing number**

Administrative contacts	Project name	Account number
Nina Bassuk	Class Rain/Pollinator garden	Internal Transfer

**Rationale of the Commission**

The Student Assembly Infrastructure Fund Commission (SAIFC) is a committee that provides small scale funding through the Student Assembly Infrastructure Fund (SAIF) to minor infrastructure improvements on campus that contribute to the undergraduate experience. The SAIF acts as an endowment and is independent of byline and SAFC funding.



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On April 13, 2021 the SAIFC voted [7,0] to approve the allocation of \$12,612.92 for the construction of the Corson Hall Rain and Pollinator Garden. The project is the culmination of two semesters of coursework for students in the cross listed course Landscape Architecture (LA)/Horticulture Sciences (PLHRT) 4920 led by Dr. Nina Bassuk, Prof. Department of Horticulture and Zac Rood, lecturer Department of Landscape Architecture. An award of \$12,612.92 of the SAIFC 2020-2021 operating budget while utilizing additional reserve funds from previous SAIFC budgets.

Students in the LA/PLHRT 4920 learned about key aspects of urban design and utilization of natural plants to reimagine landscapes. At the conclusion of the fall 2020 term, students prepared and presented designs for a rain and pollinator garden adjacent to Corson Hall. Students, in collaboration with professors specializing in several different disciplines as well as members of the SAIFC, selected an appropriate project to move forward with. The cost estimates for the project are based on the selected design and sourcing of materials from local vendors as well as Cornell affiliated entities.

The rain and pollinator garden project will make use of an area that is currently entirely managed turf. Installation will occur at the end of the Spring 2021 term and will involve soil remediation and water diversion in addition to planting of vegetation. Visitors will enjoy a spectacular showcase of modern urban landscape design elements that besides being aesthetically pleasing, also harnessing rainwater channeling it towards vegetation and providing natural filtration while also attracting and supporting pollinators species.

In conclusion, the SAIFC strongly believes that funding the construction of the Corson Hall Rain and Pollinator Garden is a productive use of funds as it supports an educational experience for students while also directly improving the Cornell campus landscape. The rain and pollinator garden will provide new life to an otherwise underutilized and underappreciated part of Cornell's campus and support the interest of many students in increased environmental innovation on campus.

Submitted by:  
Amari Lampert '24  
Ellie Month '21  
Lucas Smith '22

on behalf of The Student Assembly Infrastructure Fund Commission.