EA R6: Support for Student Assembly Leadership from Racism, Threats and Harassment

Abstract: This resolution is a statement of support for Student Assembly Leadership in the face of racism, threats and harassment.

Sponsored by: Executive Committee: Hei Hei Depew, Chair; K. Michelle LoParco, Executive Vice Chair; Jamie Duong, Vice Chair for Operations; Ellen Miller, Vice Chair for Communications; Rigel Lochner, Parliamentarian

Reviewed by: Executive Committee, January 14, 2021

Whereas, the assemblies serve as advisory bodies to the administration, representing matters of concern and constituent interests to University leadership, and;

Whereas, the assemblies formally advise the administration and recommend changes to policies through legislative processes articulated in their respective charters and;

Whereas, the three constituent assemblies–representing undergraduate students, graduate and professional students, and staff–and the all-constituency University Assembly, along with the Faculty Senate, comprise shared governance at Cornell, and;

Whereas, the fundamental mission of the assemblies is to obtain extensive involvement of community members in the formulation and review of non-academic policies, recommendations and decisions impacting daily lives on campus and;

Whereas, belonging at Cornell is a framework designed to continue the progress towards making Cornell a more diverse and inclusive environment, and;

Whereas, multiple members of the Student Assembly received an influx of violent, sexist, and racist comments, including the publishing of students’ names and photos on prominent social media accounts, as well as articles sent to news sources with intentionally edited transcripts and quotes to fabricate false narratives, and;

Whereas, racist and violent harassment has no place on our campus or in our public discourse.

Be it therefore resolved, we, the Employee Assembly, condemn any and all racist, violent, sexist or threatening messages directed at Student Assembly members, and;

Be it further resolved, we, the Employee Assembly, call on the University Senior Leadership to support all Student Assembly members who have been the target of these messages.

Adopted by Vote of the Assembly (22-0-1), February 3rd, 2021,

Respectfully Submitted,
Hei Hei Depew, Exempt Employee EA Representative
K. Michelle LoParco, Graduate School, Law School, and Johnson School EA Representative
Jamie Duong, SC Johnson College of Business, EA Representative
Ellen Miller, Research, Technology Transfer and Information Technology EA Representative
Rigel Lochner, Health & Safety EA Representative