

EA R4: In Support of President Pollack

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3 **Abstract:** In response to the open letter calling for President Pollack’s resignation from Jon Lindseth
4 ’56, emeritus member of the Cornell Board of Trustees and donor to the University, to Board of
5 Trustees Chair Kraig Kayser MBA ’84 and the entire Board of Trustees; the Employee Assembly
6 officially affirms strong, unwavering support for President Pollack and her leadership. We strongly
7 reject calls for a change of leadership at Cornell University.
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9 **Sponsored by:** Hei Hei Depew, Employee Elected Trustee, ex-officio EA Representative and
10 former Chair of the Employee Assembly (2020-2021), Craig Wren Wiggers, former EA
11 Representative and former Chair of the Employee Assembly (2017-2018, 2018-2019), Adam Howell,
12 former EA Representative and former Chair of the Employee Assembly (2019-2020), Jana
13 VanHouten, Chair of the Employee Assembly, Marcella Benda Executive Vice Chair of the
14 Employee Assembly, Wendy Treat, Parliamentarian, Kate Supron, Vice President of Operations
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16 **Reviewed by:** Executive Committee

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18 **Whereas,** President Pollack took office on April 17, 2017 as Cornell University’s 14th President;
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20 **Whereas,** President Pollack has consistently supported staff and stated publicly the important role
21 staff have played in helping the University advance, achieve its goals and further the institution’s
22 core values;
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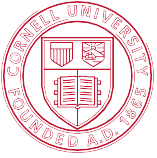
24 **Whereas,** President Pollack declared our university-wide theme for the 2023-2024 academic year,
25 “The Indispensable Condition: Freedom of Expression at Cornell”;
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27 **Whereas,** President Pollack has made declarations standing against all forms of hate, stating on
28 November 1, 2023, “We will not tolerate antisemitism at Cornell; indeed we will not tolerate hatred
29 of any form, including racism or Islamophobia.”;
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31 **Whereas,** during President Pollack’s January 11, 2024 Annual Address to Staff, the president stated
32 “My thanks to all of you for everything you do to make Cornell a place for ‘any person ... in any
33 study,’ where our imagination is matched by our innovation, and our ethos by our excellence.”;
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35 **Whereas,** during President Pollack’s October 20, 2023 State of the University Address, she stated,
36 “Our success in reaching our ambitions...is made possible by the ethos that connects our entire
37 community: faculty and staff, students and alumni. That ethos is what makes us Cornellians.”;
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39 **Whereas,** during President Pollack’s February 6, 2023 Annual Address to Staff, the president lauded
40 staff, stating “Thank you all for the truly vital work that you do. Whatever your role at Cornell, each
41 of you has played a part in the success of our academic enterprise, and I truly appreciate all of your
42 contributions.”;



Cornell University Employee Assembly

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44 **Whereas**, during President Pollack’s November 12, 2021 5th annual Address to Staff, President
45 Pollack stated to the Cornell staff community, “Cornell is Cornell because of all of you, who’ve done
46 your work every day, who’ve brought so much dedication, skill and commitment to keeping this
47 incredible institution up and fulfilling its mission.”;

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49 **Whereas**, during COVID-19 with President Pollack at the helm, senior leadership worked diligently
50 to address fiscal challenges while minimizing staff lay-offs and furloughs;

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52 **Whereas**, President Pollack’s leadership to the University and her appreciation of staff
53 contributions has been well documented and well-received by staff;

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55 **Whereas**, On the occasion of an open letter calling for President Pollack’s resignation from Jon
56 Lindseth ’56, emeritus member of the Cornell Board of Trustees and donor to the University, to
57 Board of Trustees Chair Kraig Kayser MBA ’84 and the entire Board of Trustees;

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59 **Be it resolved**, The Employee Assembly stands with President Pollack;

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61 **Be it finally resolved**, the Employee Assembly would like to provide our strong, unwavering
62 support for President Pollack and her leadership. We believe that President Pollack continues to
63 represent the best interests of our community of students, faculty, and staff in navigating the
64 complexities of current social and political times and in supporting the academic mission of our
65 university where “...any person...any study” is our lived motto. We strongly reject calls for a change
66 of leadership at Cornell University.

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68 **Adopted by Vote of the Assembly 22-0-0, February 7, 2024.**

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70 **Respectfully Submitted,**

71 Hei Hei Depew, Employee Elected Trustee, ex-officio EA Representative and former Chair
72 of the Employee Assembly (2020-2021)

73 Craig Wren Wiggers, former EA Representative and former Chair of the Employee
74 Assembly (2017-2018, 2018-2019)

75 Adam Howell, former EA Representative and former Chair of the Employee Assembly
76 (2019-2020)

77 Jana VanHouten, Chair of the Employee Assembly

78 Marcella Benda, Executive Vice Chair of the Employee Assembly

79 Wendy Treat, Parliamentarian

80 Kate Supron, Vice President of Operations