

EA R9: In Recognition and Appreciation of Leon Lawrence

Abstract: This resolution recognizes the passing of Leon Lawrence, and honors him for his contributions to Cornell University as a dedicated employee and member of the Employee Assembly.

Sponsored by: Ulysses J. Smith, LGBTQ Representative and Chair Employee Assembly

Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 1/30/2017

Whereas, the assemblies are shared governance bodies chartered by the Trustees of the University with delegated authority from the president; and are established to serve as vehicles of communication between the administration of the university and broader campus community; and

Whereas, the Employee Assembly (hereinafter, “the Assembly”) is charged with the authority and the responsibility to examine any matters which involve the interests or concern the welfare of the non-academic employee community and to make proposals concerning those issues to the appropriate officers or decision-making bodies of the University. The Assembly also provides a mechanism for the informal exchange of information and views between employees and the university president; and

Whereas, Leon Lawrence passed away peacefully at the age of 74 on January 20, 2017; and

Whereas, Lawrence came to Cornell as the director of multicultural affairs in the College of Architecture, Art, and Planning in 2001 and directed the college’s Office of Diversity and Inclusiveness for eight years; and

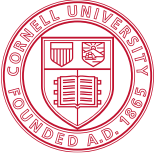
Whereas, Lawrence continued his passions for creating a welcoming environment for all and for mentoring students by becoming the associate director of Cornell’s Office of Minority Educational Affairs (OMEA) and serving as the director of the State Programs Office; and

Whereas, Lawrence was a beloved advisor and advocate for minority students as demonstrated through his time as advisor to the National Organization of Minority Architect Students and as a co-leader on the pilot of Scholars Working Ambitiously to Graduate (SWAG); and

Whereas, Lawrence served as a division deputy for the Cornell United Way Campaign and served as a member of the Employee Assembly from 2004-2010; and

Whereas, Lawrence retired from Cornell in 2011 and remained active in the Ithaca community by serving as chair of the Tompkins County Human Rights Commission and most recently becoming the executive director of Ithaca’s Southside Community Center in July 2016.

Be it therefore resolved, the Assembly hereby publicly recognizes and thanks Leon Lawrence for his support of, and participation in, shared governance at Cornell University, as a member of the Assembly, and for his extensive work in advising, mentoring, and advocating for underrepresented students and staff in an effort to create a welcoming and inclusive campus and community.



Cornell University
Employee Assembly

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44 **Be it further resolved**, the Assembly and the Cornell community extend to Lawrence's family its
45 sincere sympathy upon his passing.

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47 **Be it finally resolved**, a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Interim President Rawlings, Vice
48 President and Chief Human Resources Officer Opperman, Dean Kent Klienman, and the family of
49 Leon Lawrence.

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51 **Adopted by Vote of the Assembly (16-0-0), February 1, 2017,**

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53 **Respectfully Submitted,**

54 Ulysses Smith, *LGBTQ+ Representative and Chair*

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