



**Cornell University**  
**Graduate and Professional**  
**Student Assembly**

**Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly**

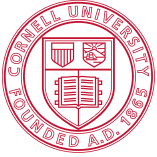
Agenda of the November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Meeting

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

**Bache Auditorium, Malott Hall**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call (5 Minutes)
- III. Presentations (20 Minutes)
  - a. Victoria Kasonde, Vice President of Operations
    - i. State of Operations
- IV. Division Breakout (15 Minutes)
- V. Committee Updates (10 Minutes)
  - a. Executive Committee
  - b. Operations
  - c. Communications
  - d. Appropriations
  - e. Finance
  - f. Student Advocacy
  - g. Diversity and International Students
  - h. Programming
  - i. Faculty Awards
  - j. General Committee
  - k. Graduate School
  - l. GPCI

- m. UA Delegates
- VI. Elections (10 Minutes)
  - a. Master's-at-Large Voting Representative
  - b. Master's in Industrial and Labor Relations Voting Representative
- VII. Old Business (10 Minutes)
  - a. Discussion of Resolution 2: *Condemning the Dismissal of Julia Felix from the Cornell Alliance for Science's Global Leadership Fellowship*
- VIII. New Business (10 Minutes)
  - a. Introduction to Resolution 3: *Demanding Mandatory Arbitration and Class Action Bans Be Removed from CASHNet and Other Community Agreements*
- IX. Open Forum (10 Minutes)
- X. Adjournment



1 Resolution 2: Condemning the Dismissal of Julia Feliz  
2 from the Cornell Alliance for Science’s Global  
3 Leadership Fellowship

4 *Sponsored by:* Arielle Johnson

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5 **Whereas**, on October 15<sup>th</sup>, Julia Feliz was dismissed from the Cornell Alliance for Science Program  
6 for “utiliz[ing] the classroom environment to discuss [their] dissatisfaction with the program”.

7  
8 **Whereas**, many details of the case are still unknown. However, given the published information, we  
9 feel that the Alliance for Science’s administrative team mishandled the situation. It is extremely  
10 concerning that the stated reason for Feliz’s dismissal is their activism. Feliz’s allegation that Alliance  
11 for Science administrators threatened to take away fellows’ visas if they missed classes, if true, is also  
12 disturbing.

13  
14 **Whereas**, as graduate and professional students who often have little power in advising  
15 relationships, we empathize with the precarity of Julia’s situation. It often seems difficult to speak  
16 up about concerns in our own programs—mental health issues, sexual harassment, racism, and other  
17 issues—when our supervisors control the futures of our careers.

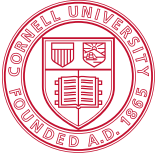
18  
19 **Whereas**, Cornell undergraduates, graduate and professional students, postdocs and fellows should  
20 be free to critique their programs without fear of retaliation.

21  
22 **Be it resolved**, the Cornell Graduate and Professional Student Assembly votes to condemn the  
23 dismissal of Julia Feliz from the Cornell Alliance for Science Program.

24  
25 Respectfully Submitted,

26 Arielle Johnson

27 Voting Member, Life Sciences



1 Resolution 3: Demanding mandatory arbitration and  
2 class action bans be removed from CASHNet and  
3 other community agreements

4 **Abstract:** Cornell's CASHNet payment system mandates arbitration to resolve disputes and bans  
5 class actions, practices condemned by our own Law and ILR faculty. These terms should not appear  
6 in any agreement Cornell presents its community.

7 **Sponsored by:** Jaron Kent-Dobias

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8 **Whereas,** making a payment to Cornell's Bursar using the online CASHNet system requires  
9 agreeing to "arbitrate all disputes and claims between you and [the Bursar's contracted service  
10 provider] before the American Arbitration Association ("AAA") under the Federal Arbitration Act,  
11 and not to sue in court in front of a judge or jury."

12 **Whereas,** Cornell Law Professor Katherine Stone and ILR Professor Alexander Colvin have written  
13 that "delegating dispute resolution to arbitration [...] permits corporations to write the rules that will  
14 govern their relationships with their workers and customers and design the procedures used to  
15 interpret and apply those rules when disputes arise."

16 **Whereas,** "[o]n average, employees and consumers win less often and receive much lower damages  
17 in arbitration than they do in court."

18 **Whereas,** use of CASHNet further requires agreeing that "you may only be able to bring a claim  
19 against us in your individual capacity and not as a plaintiff or class member in any purported class or  
20 representative proceeding."

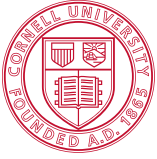
21 **Whereas,** the above amounts to a ban on class actions, "thereby preventing consumers or  
22 employees from joining together to challenge systemic corporate wrongdoing."

23 **Whereas,** the combination of mandatory arbitration and banning class actions "give corporations a  
24 "get out of jail free" card for all potential transgressions" and their proliferation is "undermining  
25 decades of progress in consumer and labor rights."

26 **Whereas,** Cornell should not subject any member of its community to these unfair terms.

27 **Be it therefore resolved,** the Office of the Bursar should ensure the mandate for arbitration and  
28 the ban on class actions be removed from the terms of CASHNet.

29 **Be it further resolved,** the University should review all other agreements to which its students,  
30 employees, and faculty are subject and ensure similar terms are not present.



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31 **Be it further resolved,** the University push any departement, office, or contracted corporation  
32 whose agreements contain such terms to remove them.

33 **Be it finally resolved,** the University must never tolerate agreements or contracts facing members  
34 of the Cornell and Ithaca communities—including those of service, employment, and housing—that  
35 mandate arbitration or ban class actions.

36 Respectfully Submitted,

37 Jaron Kent-Dobias

38 Chair of the Student Advocacy Committee