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

Sponsored by: Arielle Johnson

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Arielle Johnson

Voting Member, Life Sciences
Resolution 3: Demanding mandatory arbitration and class action bans be removed from CASHNet and other community agreements

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

Sponsored by: Jaron Kent-Dobias

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

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

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

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

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

Whereas, the combination of mandatory arbitration and banning class actions “give corporations a ‘get out of jail free’ card for all potential transgressions” and their proliferation is “undermining decades of progress in consumer and labor rights.”

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

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

Be it further resolved, the University should review all other agreements to which its students, employees, and faculty are subject and ensure similar terms are not present.
Be it further resolved, the University push any department, office, or contracted corporation whose agreements contain such terms to remove them.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Jaron Kent-Dobias

Chair of the Student Advocacy Committee