



## Resolution 17: Demanding Cornell compensate students for fees paid for unfinished Physical Education courses

**Abstract:** Because of the coronavirus pandemic, students were unable to continue receiving instruction for physical education courses that, by their nature, are required to be taught in person. Despite this abrupt end to instruction, Cornell's policy is that students will not be partially reimbursed or otherwise compensated for the fees they paid on top of their standard tuition to participate in those physical education courses. This policy is unfair since students are not being provided with the services for which they paid. Cornell must commit to reimbursing or otherwise compensating students for the fees associated with unfinished physical education courses.

**Sponsored by:** Patricia Heye & Jaron Kent-Dobias

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**Whereas,** Cornell University suspended all in-person classes on March 13<sup>th</sup> due to the coronavirus pandemic after 8 weeks of instruction in the Spring Semester

**Whereas,** this policy effectively ended all physical education courses since the nature of those courses necessitates an in-person presence with instructors in Cornell facilities or other locations.

**Whereas,** students paid additional fees on top of their standard tuition for participation in many of those physical education courses and expected them to last for the full duration of the 15-week semester.

**Whereas,** per information shared in an email conversation with the Associate Director of Physical Education, Cornell University has implemented a policy which refuses partial refunds, financial credit for future courses, or any other compensation for the unfinished PE courses. Instead, Cornell considers the class "complete" and is assigning students a grade despite failing to provide 7-weeks of instruction for which the students paid.

**Whereas,** Cornell University has failed to share this publicly publish this policy. The Cornell coronavirus website addresses refunds for Spring Semester PE classes that have not started yet, but does not share that students whose classes were cut short will not be receiving a partial refund or financial credit.<sup>1</sup>

**Be it therefore resolved,** Cornell must provide students partial refunds, financial credit, or other compensation for students whose physical education courses were cut short by the suspension of

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cornell.edu/coronavirus/teaching-learning/students.cfm#finance>



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30 in-person classes in the amount of 7/15ths of the semester's physical education fee, while allowing  
31 students to retain their final grades and PE credits for those courses on their transcripts.

32 **Be it further resolved,** Cornell must publish this policy publicly in order to affirm their  
33 commitment to charging students fees only for the educational services which they provide.

34 Respectfully Submitted,

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