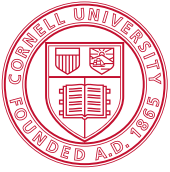


**Cornell University**  
Graduate and Professional  
Student Assembly

44  
45 **WHEREAS**, the Board, President Garrett, and Provost Michael Kotlikoff failed to consult  
46 the GPSA “to make recommendations to the appropriate bodies and University  
47 administrators concerning these matters” and “with respect to the modification and  
48 development” of such policies;  
49  
50 **WHEREAS**, the GPSA passed 2011-2012 Resolution 5 in Fall 2011 to express its  
51 dissatisfaction that “From 1971 until 1984, the Cornell Board of Trustees had five student-  
52 elected members“ and “In 1984, the Board was contracted from 62 to 42 members, reducing  
53 the number of student-elected members from the Ithaca campus to two,” and to call on the  
54 Board to work collaboratively with the GPSA on addressing these issues of graduate student  
55 representation;  
56  
57 **WHEREAS**, the GPSA passed 2014-2015 Resolution 7 in Spring 2015, stating, “the  
58 Graduate and Professional Student Assembly is opposed to decision making by the Cornell  
59 University administration that precludes substantive discussion with the larger body of  
60 graduate and professional students, as we believe it violates the principles of shared  
61 governance within the University” and “the GPSA recommends that the University consider  
62 a policy of public notice and an open public comment period whenever a policy is being  
63 considered that would change student support, benefits, tuition rates, or any other changes  
64 to academic policy that would constitute a substantive departure from current policy”;  
65  
66 **WHEREAS**, the GPSA also passed 2014-2015 Resolution 8 in Spring 2015, stating, “the  
67 University should involve communities more broadly in decisions that affect them before  
68 making unilateral decisions”;  
69  
70 **WHEREAS**, Article XIII, Section 2, of the Bylaws of Cornell University states: “The  
71 functions of the University Faculty shall be to consider questions of educational policy  
72 which concern more than one college, school or separate academic unit, or are general in  
73 nature; and to recommend to the Board of Trustees, with the approval of the appropriate  
74 college or school faculty, the establishment, modification or discontinuance of degrees”;  
75  
76 **WHEREAS**, the agglomeration of three existing schools into a single new college  
77 constitutes a “question[-] of educational policy which concern[s] more than one college,  
78 school or separate academic unit”;  
79  
80 **WHEREAS**, the Faculty Senate Committee to Review Faculty Governance’s “Final Report  
81 and Recommendations” of March 7, 2007, outlined multiple instances in which the Faculty  
82 Senate had not been consulted for important academic decisions made by the Board of  
83 Trustees and administration;  
84  
85 **WHEREAS**, the Board, President Garrett, and Provost Kotlikoff did not seek input from  
86 the University Faculty concerning the creation of the College of Business;  
87



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

88 **WHEREAS**, the Board, advised by President Garrett and Provost Kotlikoff, voted for the  
89 creation of the Cornell College of Business and thereby ignored: 1., University Assembly  
90 Resolution 5, approved 9-0-2, to “table the motion to create a College of Business until their  
91 March 24th, 2016 meeting” (lines 43-44) and “to solicit further community feedback and  
92 engage shared governance with all University constituencies on the proposal” (lines 46-47);  
93 2., the Student Assembly’s recommendation, approved 20-0-3 after an open forum at their  
94 meeting on Thursday, January 28, 2016, to “table the proposal for the College of Business to  
95 allow more time for community feedback”; and 3., the unanimously passed resolution by  
96 The University Faculty that “the University Trustees table consideration of the creation of  
97 the College of Business until the Faculty Senate can deliberate on the proposal”;

98  
99 **BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that the following statement expresses the Sense of  
100 the Body:

101  
102 We formally express our severe disapproval of the process by which the Board  
103 of Trustees unanimously approved the creation of the College of Business. In the  
104 failure to consult any of the university’s shared governance bodies, and in the tacit  
105 rejection of three assemblies’ requests for more time to examine the proposal, the  
106 Board’s decision was unapologetically undemocratic. While the GPSA expresses  
107 neither support nor disagreement with the content of the decision, we condemn the  
108 anti-democratic process of making the decision as well as the ad hoc explanations for  
109 the decision, which frame it as inclusive and open after the fact. President Garrett’s  
110 indication that the Board’s decision was “the beginning of an inclusive and crucial  
111 process” demonstrates flagrant disregard for how “inclusive” decision-making works,  
112 or what counts as an appropriate “beginning,” as provided by the university’s own  
113 governing documents. This decision has both serious academic and non-academic  
114 implications for undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, and employees;  
115 therefore, the Board should have consulted all assemblies to seriously consider input  
116 from their constituents early in the planning process. To the extent that the power  
117 granted to the GPSA and SA is derived solely from the respective assemblies’  
118 charters, and that neither the University Bylaws nor the University Charter mentions  
119 the student assemblies, we are ultimately dissatisfied that the President and the  
120 Board of Trustees have few structural incentives to take seriously advisory policy  
121 resolutions passed in the shared governance system.

122  
123 **RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**  
124 **Alex Brown,**  
125 *GPSA Field Representative, German Studies*