GPSA Resolution #9

**Resolution in Support of Assistant Dean of Students for Student Activities Joseph Scaffido and in Condemnation of Efforts to Terminate his Employment**

Sponsored by: Alexander Thomson, Cara Rosenbaum, Richard Walroth, Teja Pratap Bollu, Christine Yao

**WHEREAS**, a recent undercover video, produced by James O’Keefe’s Project Veritas, purports to show Cornell Assistant Dean of Students for Student Activities Joseph Scaffido supporting the formation of an Islamic State of Iraq and Syria --also known as ISIS-- student group on campus;

**WHEREAS**, the video purporting to show Joseph Scaffido’s support for an ISIS student group is extensively edited and spliced for dramatic effect;

**WHEREAS,** the undercover videographer asks misleading and deceitful questions, using phrases like “humanitarian group,” “care packages,” and “education” to describe the activities of a proposed student group, while never referring to ISIS by its familiar acronym;

**WHEREAS,** the undercover videographer refers vaguely to inviting “freedom fighters” to speak without specifically indicating ISIS allegiance;

**WHEREAS**, no student organization supporting ISIS has ever existed at Cornell, nor are any efforts underway to create one;

**WHEREAS,** Cornell’s campus Code of Conduct Article II A.1. explicitly prohibits students from using or inciting physical force or violence or possessing dangerous weapons;

**WHEREAS**, President David Skorton released a statement saying “the notion that Cornell would allow ISIS training sessions on our campus is ludicrous and absolutely offensive” and that Project Veritas has been “repeatedly vilified for dishonest, deceitful activity;”

**WHEREAS**, state legislators Chris Friend and Brian Kolb released statements calling for the elimination of $156 million in state funding to Cornell University until Joseph Scaffido has left the school;

**WHEREAS**, Edward Cox, chair of the New York State Republican Party, has organized a fundraising campaign focusing on the uproar over alleged Cornell support for ISIS and encouraging punitive measures;

**WHEREAS,** Joseph Scaffido has a long and admirable record of service to the students of Cornell University;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that the GPSA condemns the political campaign against Joseph Scaffido as malicious, unethical, libelous, and self-serving;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the GPSA supports Joseph Scaffido’s continued employment by the university, despite the overblown political posturing encouraging his termination;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that statements by legislators encouraging defunding Cornell University are a manifestation of reckless anti-intellectualism, and defunding Cornell would have catastrophic economic, social, and educational consequences in the State of New York and beyond;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the GPSA finds allegations of Cornell support for ISIS unfounded and ludicrous, and calls upon state legislators to desist from promulgating these notions;

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,** that this resolution will be delivered to President David Skorton, Vice President for Student and Academic Services Susan Murphy, Vice President for Human Resources and Safety Services Mary Opperman, Assistant Dean of Students for Student Activities Joseph Scaffido, New York State Assembly members Chris Friend and Brian Kolb, and New York State Republican Party Chair Edward Cox.

Respectfully submitted,

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