Resolution 57: Supporting Improvements to Outdoor Internet Access

Abstract: This resolution supports the proposed improvements to Cornell-maintained Wi-Fi networks by adding Wi-Fi access points in Blue Light phone stations.

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Type of Action: Recommendation

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Current Status: Current Status

Whereas, wireless Internet access is an essential need for all Cornell students, used for completing assignments, connecting with classmates, and more.

Whereas, wireless Internet access is especially necessary during the COVID-19 pandemic, as many events, classes, and clubs have moved to an online format.

Whereas, Wi-Fi access points are currently located inside Cornell buildings, leading to Wi-Fi outdoors to be weak or absent.

Whereas, many professors host classes outdoors during the fall and spring seasons to take advantage of the weather.

Whereas, a student would have to resort to using their personal data plan or hosting a cellular hotspot if they want to use the internet outside, which could incur additional financial costs.

Whereas, there are currently over 950 Blue Light phones¹ on campus, each of which have infrastructure to provide a Wi-Fi access point.

Whereas, adding Wi-Fi access points to some Blue Light phones would improve Wi-Fi access outdoors.

Whereas, according to Cornell’s NatureRx initiative, “Spending even a few hours each week in nature can improve mood, cognitive ability, alertness, ability to concentrate, social connection and overall sense of well-being.”²

¹ https://www.cupolice.cornell.edu/about-the-department/blue-light-services/
² https://naturerx.cornell.edu/about
Be it therefore resolved, the Student Assembly calls on the University and IT@Cornell to expand outdoor Wi-Fi access on campus through the proposed initiative to add Wi-Fi access points to Blue Light phone stations.

Respectfully Submitted,

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