



Cornell University Student Assembly

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Type of Action:	Sense of the Body
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #46

Opposing the Merger of the College of Human Ecology and ILR School

ABSTRACT: This resolution expresses the student body’s disapproval of the proposed merger of the College of Human Ecology, the ILR School, and the Department of Developmental Sociology and Department of Communications from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS).

Sponsored by: Alexis Pollitto ‘18, Nathanael Cheng ‘20, Joe Anderson ‘20, Omar Din ‘19

Whereas, the Committee on Organizational Structures in the Social Sciences submitted their final report on February 28, 2018;

Whereas, the final report included several recommendations on how to “Develop concrete models of potential organizational structures for the social sciences that might be put in place at Cornell.”;

Whereas, one of the recommendations included in the final report suggested the combination of the College of Human Ecology and the ILR School, and potentially the Department of Developmental Sociology and Department of Communication from CALS;

Whereas, the College of Human Ecology and the ILR School have vastly different cultures and differ in size, which has caused each school to construct their own academic policies and programs that best serve their unique student populations;

Whereas, the committee recognized in their report that the “resulting college might not be a good fit for all units,” that “some might need to move elsewhere,” that the merger has the “potential to harm the unique external identities of both units,” and that “both units have loyal alumni that may not support a new college,”

Whereas, the committee further stated that “it was not evident what problems exist with the existing structure that this is meant to cure,”

Whereas, the committee did not include any undergraduate, graduate, or professional students nor did it include any employees;

Whereas, Cornell University practices shared governance and the undergraduate student body, in conjunction with the faculty, staff, graduate and professional students, do not see the overall benefit of a merger,

Whereas, both the College of Human Ecology and the ILR School have strong alumni who would oppose any merger and cease their support of a new school, which is noted in the report stating, “both units have loyal alumni that may not support a new college”;



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44 **Be it therefore resolved,** that Student Assembly strongly rejects the notion of a merger between
45 the College of Human Ecology and the ILR School;

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47 **Be it further resolved,** that Provost Kotlikoff and President Pollack adopt the opinion of the
48 Student Assembly on a merger between the College of Human Ecology and the ILR School and
49 review other higher rated suggestions;

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51 **Be it further resolved,** that Cornell University continue to solicit community feedback, engage with
52 all shared governance organizations, and set up at least three town-hall forums so that all University
53 constituencies may comment on the set of suggestions from the initial report,

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55 **Be it finally resolved,** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Chairman of the Board
56 of Trustees, the Alumni-Elected Trustees, the Community-Elected Trustees, and the Provost.

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58 Alexis Pollitto ILR '18
59 Chair, Student Assembly Academic Policy Committee

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61 Omar Din Human Ecology '19
62 College of Human Ecology Representative, Student Assembly

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64 Nathanael Cheng ILR '20
65 Chair, Student Assembly Environmental Policy Committee

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67 Joseph Anderson ILR '20
68 Undergraduate Representative, University Assembly
69 Incoming Executive Vice President, Student Assembly

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71 Shivani Parikh CALS: DSOC '19
72 Residential Student Congress Liaison, Student Assembly

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74 *(Reviewed by: Academic Policy Committee, 10-0-1, 04/17/2018)*