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S.A. Resolution #34

Accessibility & Affordability of Cornell's Fitness Centers

ABSTRACT: This resolution calls for the administration to address student concerns facing the accessibility and affordability of the fitness centers on our campus.

Sponsored by: Alex Iglesias '17, Justin Selig '17, Ashwin Viswanathan '20

Whereas, annual membership fees for the fitness centers total \$145 which is more expensive than most peer institutions;

Whereas, even if the membership fee could be reduced, it wouldn't be feasible given the existing space concerns the facilities face;

Whereas, the existing facilities are operating at, or above, capacity during the times of the day when most students go to the gym;

Whereas, renovation and expansion plans for Helen Newman Hall have been discussed in the past, however, they have not been executed;

Whereas, the expansion of recreation facilities into Appel Community Center has resulted in a space which does not contain all the equipment students desire, and this space is frequently used by physical education programs, and therefore students end up going to Helen Newman, which further exacerbates the problem of overcrowding;

Whereas, the proposed expansion of housing on North campus, per the housing master plan, would further exacerbate existing issues facing availability of recreation facilities for students as the existing facilities are not sufficient to meet the need from the Cornell community;

Whereas, many students residing in Collegetown do not have access to recreation facilities in their immediate community which forces them to traverse to Noyes on West Campus or Teagle which are distant walks and these facilities operate above capacity;

Whereas, recreation and fitness facilities have an essential role in supporting the health and wellbeing of the Cornell community;

Be it therefore resolved, we request that Vice President Lombardi work with students, recreation staff members, and the community to address the accessibility and affordability of fitness centers and other recreational services on campus;

Be it further resolved, the Student Assembly recommends that the Division of Student and Campus Life immediately explore the feasibility of acquiring space, or using existing space, to develop a fitness center in Collegetown;

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45 **Be it further resolved**, the Student Assembly asks that the administration plan to develop a community  
46 center in Collegetown, or work with private developers to address such need, to include a fitness  
47 center, recreation space, and dining unit to improve the student experience;  
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49 **Be it further resolved**, the Division of Student and Campus Life should establish plans to renovate and  
50 expand Helen Newman, or construct a new recreation facility, to meet the growing needs of  
51 North Campus, while taking into consideration Cornell University Sustainable Design’s proposal  
52 for a “Beebe Lake Redevelopment”;  
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54 **Be it further resolved**, we ask that the Division of Student and Campus Life recognize that fitness  
55 centers should serve, to some degree, as community centers as Noyes Community Center does  
56 on West Campus and that centralized facilities are more conducive toward community-building  
57 than satellite facilities;  
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59 **Be it finally resolved**, we ask that this resolution be sent to Provost Michael Kotlikoff, Vice President  
60 for Student and Campus Life Ryan Lombardi, Dean of Student Vijay Pendakur, and any others  
61 deemed appropriate.  
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64 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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66 Alexander Iglesias '17  
67 *Human Ecology Representative, Student Assembly*

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69 Justin Selig '17  
70 *Engineering Representative, Student Assembly*

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72 Ashwin Viswanathan '20  
73 *Freshman Representative, Student Assembly*

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75 *(Reviewed by: Health & Wellness Committee, March 21, 2017)*