

## Resolution 16: Condemning Greek Life

**Abstract:** The resolution condemns Greek life at Cornell after the recent events of sexual assault and drugging and their lack of action thereof.

**Sponsored by:** Sanvi Bhardwaj '24, Valeria Valencia '23, Bahram Mehretu '26, Kelly Chan '24, Morgan Baker '23, Amisha Chowdhury '23, Amari Lampert '24

**Type of Action:** Recommendation

**Originally Presented:** 12/01/2022

**Current Status:** New Business

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**Whereas,** there have been 5 reported cases of drugging and 2 reports of sexual assault at Cornell University from November 3rd through 9th, all of which occurring at fraternity addresses;

**Whereas,** the Interfraternity Council (IFC) is primarily governed by students in fraternities, creating an inherent conflict of interest when disciplining fraternities and individual members. Further, students are not professionals equipped with the skills and knowledge to handle such serious issues such as sexual assault;

**Whereas,** there have been no significant consequences to Cornell fraternities since IFC's ban on all events was announced on November 7th;

**Whereas,** Cornell University extended the ban on all fraternity events until the end of the semester, similar to the ban on events after the passing of Antonio Tsialas '23 in 2019;

**Whereas,** fraternities are still planning formals and hosting parties despite the ongoing ban on events;

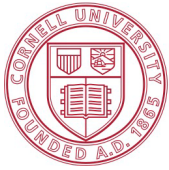
**Whereas,** Cornell has a known rape culture where victims are silenced and perpetrators are often never held accountable for their actions;

**Whereas,** there are many victims who do not report their assault, especially at Cornell;

**Whereas,** 11% of students have experienced nonconsensual sexual contact and 44% of students have experienced any sexual or gender-based harassment since entering Cornell;

**Whereas,** 21% of undergraduate women and 25.7% of non-binary students have experienced nonconsensual sexual contact since entering Cornell;

**Whereas,** fraternities are misogynistic, racist, and transphobic institutions that perpetuate sexual assault and harassment;



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30 **Whereas**, 24% of undergraduate women who experienced nonconsensual sexual contact  
31 reported the most serious incident occurred at a fraternity chapter house or annex;

32 **Whereas**, a President of Psi Upsilon, Wolfgang Ballinger, was charged with first-degree  
33 attempted rape, first-degree criminal sex act with a helpless victim, and sexual misconduct after  
34 raping a girl at his fraternity residence in 2016;

35 **Whereas**, brothers of Psi Upsilon assaulted a Black student, repeatedly calling him the N-word  
36 and other expletives in 2017;

37 **Whereas**, multiple chapters of Sigma Alpha Epsilon had a chant “There will never be an n\*\*\* in  
38 SAE. You can hang him from a tree, but he can never sign with me”;

39 **Whereas**, brothers of Zeta Beta Tau conducted a “pig roast” in 2018, a game where brothers had  
40 sex with women for points, with the winner having sex with the heaviest woman;

41 **Whereas**, fraternities have nicknames like “Thumpty” (from the sound of bodies hitting the floor  
42 after victims have been roofied at Theta Delta Chi), “Sexual Assault Expected” (the national  
43 nickname for Sigma Alpha Epsilon, which was recently allowed back on campus after a 10-year  
44 ban following the murder of George Desdunes), and “Spike” (a play on Pike, or Pi Kappa  
45 Alpha);

46 **Whereas**, IFC used to mandate all fraternities attend consent trainings, although this has not  
47 occurred since the COVID-19 pandemic;

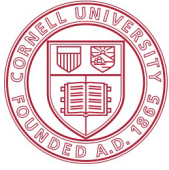
48 **Whereas**, the Multicultural Greek and Fraternal Council (MGFC) is an entirely different  
49 organization than IFC with a different set of values, culture, and practices;

50 **Whereas**, IFC made the decision to suspend events unilaterally, excluding the Panhellenic  
51 Council (Panhel) and MGFC and reinforcing the power dynamic IFC has in situations of sexual  
52 assault;

53 **Whereas**, Resolution 34, passed March 19th, 2021, requested “Cornell University review  
54 policies and action items over fraternity system, including reform, disband or abolish” and have  
55 the “Office of Sorority and Fraternity Life to perform a yearly review of all fraternities and any  
56 fraternity accused of sexual harassment or assault will be placed on probation or have its  
57 recognition revoked”;

58 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Cornell Student Assembly strongly condemns Greek life and  
59 the lack of consequences imposed on fraternities;

60 **Be it further resolved**, that fraternities regulating themselves through the IFC is unacceptable  
61 and a separate body from the IFC continue to hold fraternities accountable to the consequences  
62 of the actions by individual brothers and the chapter as a whole;



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63 **Be it finally resolved,** that Cornell needs to do better in supporting survivors and fighting the  
64 persistent rape culture on campus.

65 **Respectfully Submitted,**

66 Sanvi Bhardwaj '24

67 *College of Human Ecology Representative, Student Assembly*

68 Valeria Valencia '23

69 *President, Student Assembly*

70 Bahram Mehretu '26

71 *Freshman Representative, Student Assembly*

72 Kelly Chan '24

73 *VP of External Affairs, Student Assembly*

74 *LGBTQIA+ Students Liaison At-Large, Student Assembly*

75 Morgan Baker '23

76 *Womxn's Issues Representative At-Large, Student Assembly*

77 Amisha Chowdhury '23

78 *Student Advocate, Student Assembly*

79 Amari Lampert '24

80 *Executive Vice President, Student Assembly*