

Resolution 3: Solidarity with Cornell Graduate Students United

Abstract: This resolution expresses the Graduate and Professional Students Assembly's solidarity with fellow graduate student workers and support for their and our unionization effort. We thank the Student Assembly (SA) for the creation of the basis of this resolution.

Sponsored by: Michelle Heeney & Andi Garcia-Ortiz

Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 30/10/2023

Whereas, graduate students work in research, teaching, and other capacities critical to the successful operation of the University;

Whereas, graduate students interface daily with undergraduates in classrooms, research labs, and office hours;

Whereas, graduate students occupy formal and informal roles as mentors, advisors, and collaborators to both graduate and undergraduate students;

Whereas, Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GPSA) students have a direct interest in the well-being of graduate student workers;

Whereas, Cornell graduate students earn a low fixed income, as evidenced by 62% of Cornell graduate students being unable to save the recommended 20% of their paycheck;

Whereas, Cornell graduate students face limited access to healthcare, evidenced by the high support from graduate students for the MD Gynecologist resolution and 65% of Cornell graduate students are unable to visit the dentist twice a year;

Whereas, physical health is an obstacle in degree completion for 37% of Cornell graduate students;

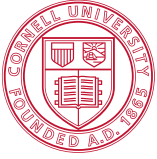
Whereas, food insecurity is an obstacle in degree completion for 15% of Cornell graduate students;

Whereas, cost of housing is an obstacle in degree completion for 72% of Cornell graduate students;

Whereas, Cornell graduate students face difficulty commuting to campus, evidenced by 65% of Cornell graduate students saying TCAT does not meet their transportation needs;

Whereas, many Cornell graduate students face additional challenges, especially those that are from other countries or caring for families with children;

Whereas, union representation will enable Cornell graduate workers to bargain collectively with the University for better wages, benefits, rights, and working conditions;



Cornell University
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30 **Whereas,** Cornell Graduate Students United (CGSU) is a student-led effort to represent graduate
31 workers at the University;

32 **Whereas,** Cornell University's 2023-2024 theme is Freedom of Expression, and its association with
33 a union is a key form of free expression;

34 **Be it therefore resolved,** that the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GPSA) at Cornell
35 University proudly stand in solidarity with CGSU in their effort to win collective bargaining rights to
36 improve the lives of graduate students;

37 **Be it further resolved,** that GPSA strongly supports graduate students' decision to exercise their
38 right to free expression by signing CGSU union cards and voting in November.

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40 Respectfully Submitted,

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42 Michelle Heeney

43 *Executive Vice-President,* Graduate and Professional Students Assembly

44 Andi Garcia-Ortiz

45 *Vice-President for Communications,* Graduate and Professional Students Assembly