



Cornell University Student Assembly

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Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #15 Demanding Cornell to Support the Black Lives Matter Movement

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this resolution is to have Cornell University and the Student Assembly to be in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter Movement.

Sponsored by: Selam Woldai '23, Uche Chukwukere '21, Harry Ducrepin '24, Maia Lee '24, Youssef Aziz '22, Lissan Bagayoko '22, Nnaemeka Nwankpa '22

Whereas, Cornell University prides itself in the mantra “any person, any study”, emphasizing the fact this is meant to be an inclusive environment.

Whereas, Cornell University has proposed initiatives in the name of increasing diversity and inclusion. Cornell University sponsored a community-wide read of Ibram X Kendi’s “How to Be an Antiracist”. The Public Safety Advisory Committee was reconstituted to make recommendations to improve campus security policies, in addition to reviewing issues that affect the “overall safety and wellbeing of Cornell’s diverse community”.

Whereas, the proposed initiatives do not address issues on a systemic level.

Whereas, Black students are over 2.5 times more likely to feel dissatisfied with the feeling of security on Cornell campus.

Whereas, Black students are over 5 times more likely to feel very dissatisfied with the climate for ethnic and racial minorities on Cornell campus.

Whereas, Black students were over 2.5 times more likely to disagree that Cornell demonstrates a strong institutional commitment to diversity.

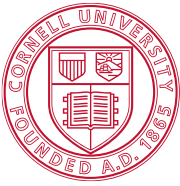
Whereas, higher education contributes to systemic racism to oppress Black people due to factors such as access to opportunity, representation, and acceptance rates, which are exemplified at Cornell University.

Whereas, Black students are over 1.5x more likely to forgo non-paid research and internships, extracurriculars, or study abroad due to lack of money.

Whereas, as of 2018, Cornell’s 19 highest paid employees do not include any Black or Latinx employees.

Whereas, only 8.6% of Cornell faculty members identify as an underrepresented minority.

Whereas, the Cornell class of 2023 is 6.7% Black while the United States population (aged 18-24) is 14% Black.



Cornell University Student Assembly

Whereas, out of 16 members, there are zero Black individuals in Cornell's senior administration.

Whereas, the retention rate of Black students is significantly lower than other races. At private, four-year colleges the retention rates for Black students is 63.3%. This is a result of various factors of systemic racism, including, but not limited, to financial barriers and mental health.

Whereas, financial aid is a large factor in retention rates as 88% of Black students receive grants and 71% of Black students receive loans, the highest out of all races.

Whereas, the mental health of Black students deteriorates in higher education due to racial trauma, lack of representation, financial barriers, and lack of a support system.

Whereas, the Black Lives Matter movement was created in July 2013 as a response to the acquittal of George Zimmerman, the murderer of Trayvon Martin by three Black women Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi.

Whereas, the Black Lives Matter movement is not to just address police brutality. The Black Lives Matter movement is meant to encompass the fact Black people are victims to systemic racism.

Whereas, Black people have been victims of police brutality and after the murder of George Floyd, the Black Lives Matter movement expanded into a global support as protests erupted internationally demanding for an end to police brutality.

Whereas, Black students were forced to watch the deaths of people in their community throughout the pandemic, while also being expected to be good students and complete their schoolwork. The mental strain and desensitization that this has caused has never been fully resolved.

Whereas, the Black Students United, as the acting umbrella organization of over 30 Black student organizations and representing approximately 1,500 students support and urge the need for this resolution.

Be it therefore resolved, that the Student Assembly unequivocally supports Black lives and the Black Lives Matter movement.

Respectfully Submitted,

Selam Woldai '23

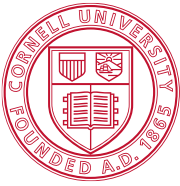
Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion, Minority Student Liaison At-Large

Uche Chukwukere '21

Vice President for Finance

Maia Lee '24

Diversity and Inclusion Committee Member



Cornell University Student Assembly

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89	Harry Ducrepin '24
90	<i>Diversity and Inclusion Committee Member</i>
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92	Youssef Aziz '22
93	<i>Diversity and Inclusion Committee Member</i>
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95	Lassan Bagayoko '22
96	<i>Co-Chair of The Black Students United</i>
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98	Nnaemeka Nwankpa '22
99	<i>Co-Chair of The Black Students United</i>
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103	<i>(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 6-0-1, 11/18/2020)</i>
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