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

1 S.A. Resolution #43
2 Opposing Re-envisioning the College of Human Ecology to the College of Public
3 Policy
4

5 ABSTRACT: This resolution expresses the student body’s disapproval of the proposed re-
6 envisioning of the College of Human Ecology to a College of Public Policy,
7

8 **Sponsored by: Masa Haddad '21**
9

10 **Whereas**, the Social Sciences Implementation Committee was tasked with establishing a “world
11 class” entity for public policy at Cornell¹;
12

13 **Whereas**, the Social Sciences Implementation Committee proposed two models for establishing a
14 public policy school: a cross-college School of Public Policy between the College of Arts and
15 Sciences and a proposed “College of Public Policy” (CPP), which would fully rebrand the
16 College of Human Ecology²;
17

18 **Whereas**, the Social Sciences Implementation Committee offered its recommendation in a final
19 report submitted to President Martha E. Pollack and Provost Michael I. Kotlikoff and
20 released publicly Jan. 16;
21

22 **Whereas**, the final report included several recommendations on how to “enhance the visibility and
23 impact of the social sciences at Cornell”;
24

25 **Whereas**, the majority of the committee (6 members) concluded that re-envisioning the College of
26 Human Ecology into a College of Public Policy is the best way to elevate public policy at
27 Cornell, and 4 members were in support of creating a shared school of public policy instead³;
28

29 **Whereas**, the final report makes a recommendation on the establishment of a public policy entity
30 and strengthening social sciences departments across the university;
31

32 **Whereas**, approximately 70 percent of current College of Human Ecology students are not in
33 policy-related majors⁴, and approximately 72 percent of the College of Human Ecology’s
34 faculty are not in the Policy Analysis and Management department⁵;
35

¹ “No More HumEc? Students Slam Proposal to Reinvent as School of Public Policy | The Cornell Daily Sun.” n.d. Accessed February 25, 2020. <https://cornellsun.com/2019/09/25/no-more-humec-students-slam-proposal-to-reinvent-as-school-of-public-policy/>.
² “SOCIAL SCIENCES IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE FINAL REPORT.” n.d. Accessed February 25, 2020. <https://cpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.cornell.edu/dist/e/5276/files/2020/01/soc-sci-implementation-committee-final-20200116.pdf>.
³ “SOCIAL SCIENCES IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE FINAL REPORT.” n.d. Accessed February 25, 2020. <https://cpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.cornell.edu/dist/e/5276/files/2020/01/soc-sci-implementation-committee-final-20200116.pdf>.
⁴ “GUEST ROOM | Any Person, Any Study: In Defense of the Excellence in Cornell’s College of Human Ecology | The Cornell Daily Sun.” n.d. Accessed February 25, 2020. <https://cornellsun.com/2020/01/28/guest-room-any-person-any-study-in-defense-of-the-excellence-in-cornells-college-of-human-ecology/>.
⁵ “Students and Faculty Push Back Against Human Ecology Name Change | The Cornell Daily Sun.” n.d. Accessed February 25, 2020. <https://cornellsun.com/2020/01/23/students-and-faculty-push-back-against-human-ecology-name-change/>.



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- 36 **Whereas**, the College of Human Ecology has a century-long record of being the center of
37 interdisciplinary, community engaged and diverse research excellence⁶;
- 38 **Whereas**, the College of Human Ecology has constructed their own set of academic policies and
39 multi- and inter-disciplinary programs that best serves its unique student population;
40
- 41 **Whereas**, the committee recognized in their report that “the coexistence of policy and non-policy
42 elements within the CPP obviously creates significant tension and uncertainty about what
43 CPP would look like and when and how it would best serve policy over time”⁷;
44
- 45 **Whereas**, the report states that “the feedback from non-policy College of Human Ecology faculty,
46 staff, students, and alumni toward the idea of transforming CHE into CPP was mostly
47 negative, with a non-negligible share of stakeholders vehemently opposed to the “college”
48 option”⁸;
49
- 50 **Whereas**, the committee did not include any undergraduate, graduate, or professional students nor
51 did it include any employees;
52
- 53 **Whereas**, the College of Human Ecology has strong alumni who would oppose this change and
54 cease their support of a new school, which was shown through multiple Cornell Daily Sun
55 articles and op-eds⁹;
- 56
- 57 **Be it therefore resolved**, that Student Assembly strongly rejects the notion of re-envisioning the
58 College of Human Ecology as a College of Public Policy;
59
- 60 **Be it therefore resolved**, that Provost Kotlikoff and President Pollack adopt the opinion of the
61 Student Assembly on re-envisioning the College of Human Ecology as a College of Public
62 Policy and review the suggestion of creating a shared school of public policy deeply;
63

⁶ “GUEST ROOM | Any Person, Any Study: In Defense of the Excellence in Cornell’s College of Human Ecology | The Cornell Daily Sun.” n.d. Accessed February 25, 2020. <https://cornellsun.com/2020/01/28/guest-room-any-person-any-study-in-defense-of-the-excellence-in-cornells-college-of-human-ecology/>.

⁷ “SOCIAL SCIENCES IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE FINAL REPORT.” n.d. Accessed February 25, 2020. <https://cpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.cornell.edu/dist/e/5276/files/2020/01/soc-sci-implementation-committee-final-20200116.pdf>.

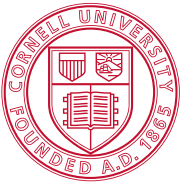
⁸ “SOCIAL SCIENCES IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE FINAL REPORT.” n.d. Accessed February 25, 2020. <https://cpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.cornell.edu/dist/e/5276/files/2020/01/soc-sci-implementation-committee-final-20200116.pdf>.

⁹ “College of Human Ecology Should Remain Intact, Faculty Senate Recommends | The Cornell Daily Sun.” n.d. Accessed February 25, 2020. <https://cornellsun.com/2020/02/18/college-of-human-ecology-to-remain-intact-faculty-senate-recommends/>.

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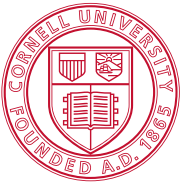
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64 **Be it finally resolved,** that Cornell University continue to solicit community feedback, engage with
65 all shared governance organizations, and set up at least three town-hall forums so that all
66 University constituencies may comment on the set of suggestions from the initial report.
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99 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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104 Cat Huang ‘21
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110 *(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 5-0-1, 2/26/2020)*