



Cornell University Student Assembly

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Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #47

Guaranteeing Centralized Housing for All Transfer Students

ABSTRACT: The North Campus Residential Expansion project will create over 800 new beds for sophomore students in Fall of 2021. This resolution ensures that all transfer students will be provided centralized, on-campus housing following the completion of the NCRE project.

Sponsored by: Catherine Huang '21 and Noah Watson '22

Whereas, Cornell has historically guaranteed housing for all first-year and transfer students;

Whereas, as of Fall 2016, the University stopped providing guaranteed housing for transfer students;

Whereas, transfer students are also first-year students and should not be denied the guarantee of on-campus housing;

Whereas, in Fall 2018, 645 transfer students enrolled at Cornell;

Whereas, of those 645 new transfer students, 637 applied for on-campus housing;

Whereas, of those 637 who applied, only 436 were offered on-campus housing, leaving over 200 new students without housing;

Whereas, these remaining 201 students were forced to independently search for roommates and find their own off-campus housing for the Fall semester having never been to Ithaca;

Whereas, Cornell's failure to provide housing for first year transfer students creates enormous stress through the housing search process on top of being a new student;

Whereas, transfer students are often forced to find their own housing on the outskirts of Collegetown or in the surrounding Ithaca area;

Whereas, the lack of guaranteed housing creates problems with financial accessibility of housing for transfer students, where low-income students who were denied housing may be forced to live off-campus where financial aid may not cover their cost of housing;

Whereas, transfer students, as first-year Cornell students, should not be forced out into the margins of Cornell's campus;

Whereas, transfer students experience stress and isolation as a result of being forced out to live only in the periphery of Cornell;



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44 **Whereas**, in Fall 2018 the Student Assembly met with a panel of transfer students who discussed
45 their struggles with finding housing. These students named the lack of housing provided and
46 the living conditions they were forced into as the origin of their mental health struggles at
47 Cornell;

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49 **Whereas**, housing deeply affects a students' success and well-being;

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51 **Whereas**, "Providing students with developmentally appropriate housing during their formative
52 college years leads to more enriched living-learning experiences, and better enables them to
53 transition to college, build friendships and utilize resources that will help them be successful
54 during their time at Cornell.";

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56 **Whereas**, there are reports of lack of housing and the condition of housing transfer students have
57 to resort to, actually play a part in decreasing the transfer student retention rate;

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59 **Whereas**, former transfer students to Cornell have cited their lack of housing and inevitable housing
60 condition in the outskirts of Cornell as playing a part in their decisions to transfer back out
61 of Cornell;

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63 **Whereas**, the mission of the Office of Assemblies states that "Shared governance enables members
64 of the community to have access to information, involvement in matters of concern to them,
65 and the authority to examine these issues and make recommendations to the appropriate
66 administrative officers and the President;"

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68 **Whereas**, Article III, Section I, lines 18-19 of the Cornell University Student Assembly Charter read:
69 "The SA will have legislative authority over the policies of the Department of Campus Life
70 and the Office of the Dean of Students, and will have the authority to review the budgets
71 and actions of said departments,"

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73 **Whereas**, on-campus housing and its policies fall under the Department of Campus Life;

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75 **Whereas**, the North Campus Residential Expansion project will create over 800 more beds for
76 sophomore students;

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78 **Whereas**, the sophomore site of North Campus Residential Expansion provides more than enough
79 beds to house the number of transfer students who otherwise might be denied housing;

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81 **Whereas**, transfer students should have top priority in being guaranteed housing once the North
82 Campus housing projects are completed;

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84 **Be it therefore resolved**, once the first site of the North Campus Residential Expansion is
85 completed, transfer students will be guaranteed housing at Cornell;

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87 **Be it further resolved**, that the Department of Campus Life and Housing at Cornell will continue
88 to study placement of transfer students across North, West, and South Campus to provide
89 optimum housing placements to maximize the first-year experience for our transfer students,
90 as they do for freshmen;

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92 **Be it finally resolved**, that Cornell University provide guaranteed centralized on-campus housing
93 for all transfer students who apply;

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95 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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97 Cathering Huang '21
98 *Executive Vice President, Student Assembly*

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100 Noah Watson 'XX
101 *Transfer Representative, Student Assembly*

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103 *(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 5-0-1, 03/03/2020)*

i <https://ncre.cornell.edu/frequently-asked-questions>