



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	10/29/2020
Type of Action:	Internal Policy
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #8 Cayuga Land Acknowledgement

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4 ABSTRACT: This resolution calls for the Student Assembly to amend the Standing Rules to include
5 a land acknowledgement of the Cayuga Nation, on whose territory the University occupies. This
6 land acknowledgement will be issued before all SA-affiliated events.
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9 **Sponsored by: Colin Benedict '21**

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11 **Whereas**, the Gayogohó:no (Cayuga) Nation of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy have inhabited the
12 Finger Lakes region of New York since immemorial;
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14 **Whereas**, the Gayogohó:no people were displaced and forcibly removed from this region by an
15 attempted act of genocide enacted by the United States in 1779 widely known as the
16 Sullivan-Clinton Campaign;
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18 **Whereas**, Cornell currently occupies the territory of the Cayuga Nation;
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20 **Whereas**, Cornell prides itself on Diversity and Inclusion, where any person can study any subject,
21 yet still refuses to publicly acknowledge the history of the territory that the University's
22 Ithaca campus occupies;
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24 **Be it therefore resolved**, that as an academic institution that occupies this land, Cornell has a
25 responsibility to acknowledge this history of violence, the Cayuga Nation's history with this
26 land, and support the Cayuga Nation as they seek to recover from this history of violence
27 and reclaim their territory;
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29 **Be it further resolved**, that the Student Assembly will amend Section 6, Line 200 of the Standing
30 Rules to include the following:
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32 "Rule 1: The Student Assembly will issue a land acknowledgement of the of Gayogohó:nq'
33 (Cayuga Nation) before all affiliated meetings and events";
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35 **Be it finally resolved**, that the Student Assembly will issue the land acknowledgement approved by
36 the American Indian and Indigenous Studies Program (AIISP) cited in Appendix A before
37 all affiliated meetings and events. (including all affiliated committee meetings). This land
38 acknowledgement will be updated and revised in accordance with the release of the final
39 version by the AIISP.
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44 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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46 Colin Benedict '21

47 *Former Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion, Student Assembly*

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49 *(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 5-0-2, 10/28/2020)*

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52 *Appendix A:* Cornell University is located on the traditional homelands of the Gayogohó:nq' (the
53 Cayuga Nation). The Gayogohó:nq' are members of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, an alliance of
54 six sovereign Nations with a historic and contemporary presence on this land. The Confederacy
55 precedes the establishment of Cornell University, New York State, and the United States of
56 America. We acknowledge the painful history of Gayogohó:nq' dispossession, and honor the
57 ongoing connection of Gayogohó:nq' people, past and present, to these lands and waters.