

Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Agenda of the Thursday, May 13, 2021 Meeting
4:45 – 6:30 on ZOOM

I. Call to Order

II. Land Acknowledgment of the Gayogohóˀnoˀ (Cayuga Nation)

III. Announcements and Presentations

- a. Director of Elections Patrick Mehler '23
- b. Class of 2021 Convocation Chair Hassaan Bin Sabir

IV. Swearing in of the New Assembly

V. Open Microphone

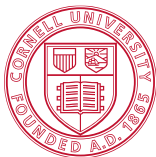
VI. Approval of the Minutes

- a. [May 6, 2021 Minutes](#)

VII. New Business

- a. Resolution #47 – [ILR SGA x SA Relations](#)
- b. Resolution #48 - [Establishing Conflict Resolution Training and Code of Conduct Adherence as Requirements for Serving in the Student Assembly](#)
- c. Resolution #49 - [Support of the Choice-Based Grading System for the Remainder of the Spring 2021 Semester](#)
- d. Resolution #50 - [Establishing Automatic Professor Updates on Check-in at Cornell Health](#)
- e. Resolution #51 - [Donation of the SHAC Funds to the Cornell Student Access Fund](#)
- f. Resolution #52 - [Amending Leave of Absence Policies](#)

VIII. Adjournment



Cornell University
Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, May 6, 2021 Meeting
4:45pm via Zoom

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. C. Huang called the meeting to order at 4:47pm (EST).
- b. Roll Call
 - i. *Members Present:* L. Abd Elmagid, M. Baker, J. Bansah, K. Butler, U. Chukwukere, L. Contreras, A. Lampert, A. Miramontes Serrano, E. Perez, K. Santacruz, L. Smith, V. Valencia, N. Watson, S. Woldai, V. Xu, Y. Yuan, R. Zohar, L. Zumpano, S. Zverev
 - ii. *Members Absent:* C. Castillo, A. Gleiberman, S. Kapoor, T. Reuning, M. Shardow, Claire Tempelman

II. Land Acknowledgement of the Gayogohó:nq' (Cayuga Nation)

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

III. Announcements and Presentations

- a. N. Watson stated that the Class of 2021 Commencement Chair will be announcing who they are inviting to speak at commencement at the next SA meeting.
- b. L. Abd Elmagid read a statement from P. Mehler, the Director of Elections, which stated that almost all of the results of the elections were released at 4pm today. All challenge hearings have been completed, but the challenge process has not been completed for the Presidential and the ILR representative races. P. Mehler stated they will share a full report at the next meeting after all the challenges are completed.

IV. Approval of the Minutes

- a. April 22, 2021
 - i. Motion to approve the April 22nd minutes – **approved** Unanimous Consent
- b. April 29, 2021
 - i. Motion to approve the April 29th minutes – **approved** Unanimous Consent

V. Open Microphone

- a. There were no speakers present at open microphone.

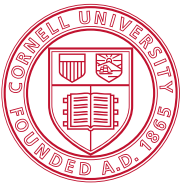
VI. Adjournment

- a. N. Watson adjourned the meeting at 4:54pm (EST).

Respectfully Submitted,

Ciara Shanahan

Clerk of the Student Assembly



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	05/13/2021
Type of Action:	Legislation & Internal Policy
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #47 ILR SA x SGA Relations

ABSTRACT: This resolution aims to establish the formal and necessary connection between the ILR. Schools' Student Government Organization ("SGA") and the ILR. School's Student Assembly Representative. In summary, the ILR. School is the only college within the university that has procured an organization with the intellectual and legislative characteristics of the SGA. It should be noted, this organization is unique in the sense that it has developed into a focal point for student activity within the ILR. School: the entity formally in charge of facilitating ILR. student activity.

Sponsored by: Lucas Zumpano '22, Cat Huang '21, Daniel James II '22, Mohammed Islam '23, Alexa Cooper '24, Jude Martini '22, Salima Ali '23, Nicole Overton '23, Ariel Zbeda '23, Margaret Smith '21

Whereas, the SGA has undergone a restructuring process in light of effectively representing its constituents – ILR. undergraduate students.

Whereas, the ILR SGA serves as the chief mechanism in terms of administrating undergraduate student relations within the ILR School, and as such, it is the SGA's role to effectively communicate and coordinate shared activities between ILR students and faculty.

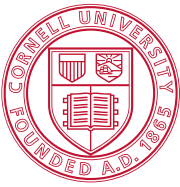
Whereas, SGA acts as a liaison and hub for ILR student clubs with delegates from each of the organizations that exist currently within the school including those that may form and develop hereafter: ILR Ambassadors, ILR Global Affairs Club, ILR Sports Business Society, ILR Women's Caucus, Minority ILR Student Organization, People's Organizing Collective, Scheinman Conflict Resolution Club, The Society for Human Resource Management, Undergraduate Labor Institute.

Whereas, the ILR SGA co-sponsors student events, discusses and implements policy in response to student feedback, achieved by the processes relevant to the ILR SGA's 'Idea Lab', unique to the ILR School, this serves as a think tank for generating proposals to improve: a student sense of community, academic resources, and student-faculty rapport.

Whereas, the ILR SGA acts as the student policy-making body for ILR undergraduates. In pursuit of promoting inclusion, student well-being, and general consensus, the aforementioned relationship is sought to be solidified.

Whereas, the ILR SGA and the SA have historically been considered separate entities; consequentially, this has lead to consistent miscommunication errors between ILR constituents and the ILR rep, inadvertently rendering misrepresentation for ILR students.

Whereas, resolution #11 revealed and exacerbated the lack of communication between the SGA and the ILR representative in terms of student voice; necessitating a legitimate connection going forward.



Cornell University Student Assembly

Whereas, the SGA and the SA rep would mutually benefit from formalizing this relationship, signaled and made evident by quantifiable improvements in terms of: sharing of ideas, sentiments, and proposals that address ILR constituent concerns.

Be in therefore resolved, the necessary legitimization of the ILR SGA – SA representative relationship; this seeks to address the harms articulated in the aforementioned clauses.

Be it further resolved, that the ILR representative acts as voting member of the SGA board; as recently prescribed in the SGA amended constitution. This relationship is concertized in the following expectations of the ILR representative member to: attend weekly SGA meetings, receive and act on feedback from ILR constituents, assist with the planning of events and other relevant operations.

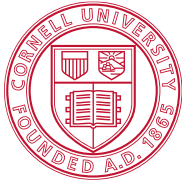
Be it finally resolved, that the failure of the ILR representative to act in accordance with mandates set forth by the SGA shall be views as a violation of their obligations as ILR representative, as articulated in sec. ___ of the Student Assembly Charter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lucas Zumpano '22

ILR Representative, Student Assembly Communications Committee member

(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 5-0-1, 5/12/2021)



Cornell University Student Assembly

May, 13, 2021

Student Assembly Resolution #48 Establishing Conflict Resolution Training and Code of Conduct Adherence as Requirements for Serving in the Student Assembly

ABSTRACT: This recommendation advises amending the S.A. bylaws to reflect: conflict resolution training and signing the R&A-drafted code of conduct as requirements for serving as an elected S.A. member.

Sponsored by: Frank J. Lexa '23, Chair - Research and Accountability Committee

Whereas, Members of the Student Assembly (S.A.) represent their constituencies through their actions, words, and contributions to the Cornell Community.

Whereas, to preserve the honor and dignity of holding an S.A. position, the Research and Accountability Committee (R&A) is recommending that a mandatory conflict resolution training program and signing an R&A-drafted code of conduct be conditions of serving in the S.A.

Be it therefore resolved, R&A is recommending that S.A. bylaws be amended to reflect conflict resolution training and signing an R&A-drafted code of conduct as conditions of service for elected members.

Be it further resolved, a conflict resolution training course should be designed per the guidance in Appendix A of this recommendation by R&A.

Be it further resolved, R&A will review and adjust the course curriculum with an annual vote.

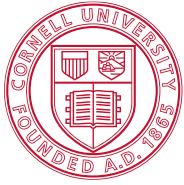
Be it further resolved, R&A will collaborate with the Executive Cabinet to draft a code of conduct that governs the actions of S.A. members while performing their obligations related to their elected role.

Be it further resolved, the General Body will have the opportunity to provide recommendations following the proposed code of conduct following its introduction to the Assembly.

Be it further resolved, the General Body will adopt or reject the proposed code of conduct through a majority vote of those present.

Be it finally resolved, we, the undersigned, believe that the above recommendations will preserve the integrity and dignity of this body for future generations of Cornellians.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Frank J. Lexa '23

Chair - Research and Accountability Committee, Student Assembly

Kayla Butler '24

Freshman Representative, Research and Accountability Committee

Victor Besse '21

Community Member, Research and Accountability Committee

James Northey '23

Community Member, Research and Accountability Committee

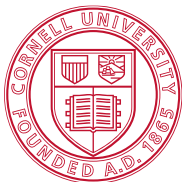
Rocco Scarselletta '23

Community Member, Research and Accountability Committee

Devin Alderman '22

Community Member, Research and Accountability Committee

(Reviewed by: Research and Accountability Committee, 6-0-1, 05/12/2021)



Cornell University Student Assembly

Appendix A

The Research and Accountability Committee has made the following recommendations regarding the medium, content, implementation of the proposed conflict resolution seminar for S.A. Members:

Medium: *For practical and accessibility reasons, we recommend that course content be delivered using Canvas with asynchronous modules. Each module should include a video lecture for each content category, followed by a brief quiz. Quizzes should be multiple-choice questions and graded on completion. Following the five content modules, users should be required to electronically affirm their completion of the course and submit a screenshot with the affirmation to the Office of the Assemblies.*

Content: *The Committee has recommended an adaptation of the syllabus for ILR Dean Colvin's Introduction to Conflict Resolution and Negotiation (ILRLR 2040) course to focus on five content areas:*

- *Understanding Conflict (types of conflict)*
- *Theories of Conflict*
- *Conflict Resolution Processes (rights-based, power-based, interest-based, third-party methods)*
- *Power Dynamics (recognizing inequities between people and groups; understanding how inequities may lead to conflict situations)*
- *Appropriate Conduct and Responses to Conflict (strategies for respectful—yet effective—responses to conflict situations)*

Means of Implementation: *The Research and Accountability Committee shall be responsible for developing the course. Associated development costs shall not exceed \$100.00 and will unlikely be accrued. A completed Canvas course shall be presented to the General Body no later than August 1, 2021, or four months following the adoption of this resolution.*



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	May 13, 2021
Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #49

Support of the Choice-Based Grading System for the Remainder of the Spring 2021 Semester

ABSTRACT: This resolution supports implementing the Choice-Based Grading System for the remainder of the Spring 2021 semester in response to the unprecedented burdens associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and recent events that have left students mourning and grieving.

Sponsored by: Dillon Eisman '22, Morgan Baker '23

Whereas, the circumstances of the pandemic have made it increasingly challenging for students to both participate in and succeed in academic course work during the entire semester;

Whereas, increasing concerns related to mental health crises have not been adequately resolved and are difficult to recognize in a virtual learning environment;

Whereas, the Mental Health Review Final Report states that the percent of students who found themselves unable to function academically due to depression, stress, or anxiety increased from 33% in 2015 to 42% in 2019;

Whereas, it is believed that students are experiencing more depression, stress, and anxiety in the spring 2021 semester than they were reported to in 2019 as a result of the unprecedented burdens associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and recent events that have left students mourning and grieving;

Whereas, Cornell Administration has previously acknowledged concerns related to mental health and has made adjustments throughout the semester such as extending the course drop date to promote mental well-being;

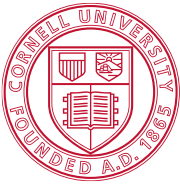
Whereas, Cornell Administration announced on April 5, 2020 that it would maintain a choice-based grading system that offers maximum flexibility for struggling students;

Whereas, in the spring 2020 semester, the drop deadline was extended to the last day of instruction and students were able to petition to change the grading basis on any course until the end of the semester;

Whereas, Cornell Administration should commit to prioritizing student mental health and well-being by implementing a similar policy in the spring 2021 semester;

Be it therefore resolved, the Cornell Student Assembly supports the 'Choice-Based' system and strongly encourages the University to adopt the proposed grading model;

Be it further resolved, all courses (regardless of degree requirements) will offer a "S/U" grading option and allow students to change their grading basis until the last day of the semester, May 25;



Cornell University Student Assembly

Be it finally resolved, this resolution is to be immediately conveyed not only to President Pollack, but also to the respective leadership at each College and School;

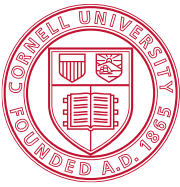
The Cornell Faculty Senate, Executive Committee
Cornell University Provost, Michael Kotlikoff
Cornell College of Arts & Sciences, Dean Ray Jayawardhana
Cornell College of Art, Architecture and Planning, Dean Meejin Yoon
Cornell College of Engineering, Dean Lynden Archer
Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Dean Benjamin Z. Houlton
Cornell College of Human Ecology, Dean Rachel Dunifon
Cornell School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Dean Alexander Colvin
Cornell SC Johnson College of Business, Dean Andrew Karolyi

Respectfully Submitted,

Dillon Eisman '22
Student Health Advisory Committee Member, Student Assembly

Morgan Baker '23
Vice President of External Affairs, Student Assembly

(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 4-0-2, 05/13/2021)



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	05/13/2021
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #50 Establishing Automatic Professor Updates on Check-in at Cornell Health

ABSTRACT: The Student Assembly recommends that the **Cornell Health and the Faculty Senate** consider implementing a policy to automatically inform professors of a walk-in, visit, or appointment with the patient's informed consent.

Sponsored by: Carlo Castillo '22, Benedict Ho '22, Christopher Arroyo '24, Samuel Zverev '21

Whereas, in Cornell University faculty handbook 6.1, "Cornell Health does not provide excuses for routine illnesses, injuries, and mental health problems that may lead to missed classes, labs, studios, exams, or deadlines" and "The University expects that students...communicate their accommodation request in a timely fashion. Professors are expected to work with students on these issues;"

Whereas, on Cornell Health's website, the Mental Health Initiative includes to "foster a healthy educational environment" and "increase help-seeking behavior;"

Whereas, Cornell Health currently provides documentation of a visit upon request;

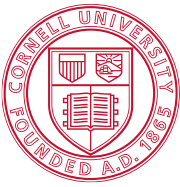
Whereas, Cornell Health's service call hours range from 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM to 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM;

Whereas, on Cornell Health's website, "walk-in traffic is currently restricted to pharmacy visitors only;"

Whereas, the Daily Check restricts access to campus, Canvas, and the university network, an automatic system exists that communicates student health with professors. This framework can be repurposed such that students who visit Cornell Health can opt in to notifying specified professors of their visit;

Therefore resolved, the student assembly recommends of this change that the Faculty Senate and Cornell Health create an automated process upon check-in at Cornell Health of communicating to professor's documentation that complies with the HIPAA guidelines but reduces obstacles and increases ease of access for students to a healthy educational environment;

Be it resolved, that this documentation only state existence of a walk-in, visit, or appointment and not any information about the cause of the walk-in, visit, or appointment;



Cornell University Student Assembly

Be it resolved, that this information is only communicated with the student's informed consent to opt-in, with this consent asked for upon each walk-in, visit, or appointment.

Be it finally resolved, that the Faculty Senate and Cornell Health review this change and implement it

Respectfully Submitted,

Carlo Castillo '22

College of Agriculture of Life Sciences Representative, Student Assembly

Student Health Advisory Council, Patient Care Committee Chair

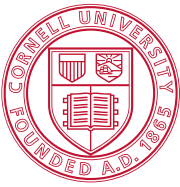
Benedict Ho '22

Student Health Advisory Council, Patient Care Committee Member

Christopher Arroyo '24

Student Health Advisory Council, Patient Care Committee Member

(Reviewed by: Student Health Advisory Chair Committee, 5-0-0, 05/11/2021)



Cornell University
Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	05/13/2021
Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #51
Donation of the SHAC Funds to the Cornell Student Access Fund

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this resolution is to allow for the Student Health Advisory Committee to transfer its funds to the Cornell Access Fund.

Sponsored by: Samuel Zverev '21, Alexa Slyman '22, Carlo Castillo '22, Jay Doshi '23, Arsen Omurzakov '22

Whereas, the Cornell Access Fund provides enrolled full-time undergraduate, graduate, and professional Cornell students with access to financial support, up to \$500, to help mitigate on-campus barriers, access basic necessities, and cover emergency expenses not covered through financial aid or other university resources,

Whereas, the Student Assembly finance committee allotted \$750 to the Student Health Advisory Committee for the academic year,

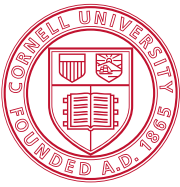
Whereas, due to COVID-19, the funds were not used and will better serve the student population of Cornell contributing to the Cornell Access Fund.

Be it therefore resolved, that the Student Health Advisory Committee donates its funds of \$750 to the Cornell Access Fund

Respectfully Submitted,

Samuel Zverev '21
College of Human Ecology Representative, Student Assembly
Chair, Student Health Advisory Committee

(Reviewed by: Student Health Advisory Committee, 05/11/2021)



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	05/13/2021
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #52 Amending Leave of Absence Policies

ABSTRACT: The resolution aims to call Cornell to amend its leave of absence policies in order to better accommodate the mental health well being of the student body.

Sponsored by: Arsen Omurzakov '22, Katherine Gorton '24, Alexa Slyman '22, Samuel Zverev '21, Carlo Castillo '22, Jay Doshi '23

Whereas, the Sophie Fund, an Ithaca non-profit advocating for youth mental health, identified that leaves of absence are often when a student's mental health is most vulnerable and "entail an often unexpected, abrupt, and painful loss of a structured environment that includes a support network of friends, professors, university staff, roommates and other fellow students, campus organizations, cultural and athletic facilities, and school medical providers."

Whereas, the Ruderman Family Foundation, a Boston based philanthropy advocating for and advancing the inclusion of people with disabilities released a report in 2018 on Cornell University mental health policies, with Cornell receiving an overall grade of a D-.

Whereas, several policies specifically pertaining to leaves of absence contributed to the score received by Cornell and were marked as problematic:

- Cornell policy states, "When there is an actual or the threat of a community disruption, Cornell University may place a student on an involuntary leave of absence."
- Cornell students may not initiate a health leave of absence after the last day of classes.

Whereas, additional Cornell policy asserts, "If a student submits a health leave of absence request after the published deadline to drop classes, the student will receive the "course withdrawal" notation (W) for any courses that have not been completed."

Whereas, when there is not a threat to the safety of others, behaviors that are disruptive that result from a disability should not result in exclusion.

Whereas, courts have ruled that discrimination on the basis of disability-caused behavior is the same thing as discrimination on the basis of disability, which is illegal.

Whereas, final exam week is one of the most academically strenuous times of the semester and students should be free to initiate a health leave of absence then.



Cornell University Student Assembly

Whereas, including course withdrawals (W's) on students' transcripts burdens them with additional stress, shame, and challenge when seeking career opportunities that those seeking a health leave should not be penalized for.

Whereas, at our peer Ivy institutions, many of these problematic policies are not in place.

Be it therefore resolved, Cornell removes language about community disruption as to why it may place a student on a leave of absence.

Be it further resolved, Cornell allows students to initiate a leave of absence after the last day of classes;

Be it finally resolved, Cornell refrains from notating W's on students' transcripts right away when seeking a leave of absence after the published drop deadline and instead notates an incomplete, with an option for the student to complete their work at a later time period if they are able.

Respectfully Submitted,

Arsen Omurzakov '22

Chair, Mental Health subcommittee of the Student Health Advisory Committee

Katherine Gorton '24

Voting Member, Mental Health subcommittee of the Student Health Advisory Committee

Alexa Slyman '22

Chair Health and Wellness subcommittee of the Student Health Advisory Committee

Samuel Zverev '21

College of Human Ecology Representative, Student Assembly

Chair, Student Health Advisory Committee

Carlo Castillo '22

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Representative, Student Assembly

Chair, Patient Care subcommittee of the Student Health Advisory Committee

Jay Doshi '22

Chair, Sexual Health & Gender subcommittee of the Student Health Advisory Committee

(Reviewed by: Student Health Advisory Committee, 05/11/2021)