STUDENT ASSEMBLY SPECIAL MEETING
AGENDA
MAY 11, 2023
11:00 AM - 12:15 PM
ZOOM
Meeting ID: 304 185 9601 | Passcode: 353325

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Land Acknowledgement of the Gayogoh:no (Cayuga Nation)
3. Late Additions to the Agenda
4. Consent Agenda
5. Open Microphone
6. Announcements and Reports
7. Initiatives
8. Presentations and Forum
   a. Resolution 1: Starbucks Off Our Campus
   b. Resolution 2: Transparency in Cornell’s Relationship with Starbucks
10. New Business
11. Adjournment
MEMBERS OF THE 2023 – 2024 ASSEMBLY

Cornell University is located on the traditional homelands of the Gayogoh:no' (the Cayuga Nation). The Gayogoh:no' are members of the Haudenosaunee (Hoh-deh-no-shoh-nee 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 Gayogoh:no' dispossession, and honor the ongoing connection of Gayogoh:no' people, past and present, to these lands and waters.
Resolution 1: Starbucks Off Our Campus

Abstract: This resolution proposed University policy that terminates Cornell University’s relationship with Starbucks Coffee in response to their repeated illegal anti-worker efforts, including the closing of union stores in Ithaca, New York.

Sponsored by: Suraj Parikh ‘26, Claire Ting ‘25, Patrick Kuehl ‘24, Karys Everett ‘25, Casey Platkin ‘26

Reviewed by: Executive Committee 4-0-1

Type of Action: Legislation

Originally Presented: 05/10/2023

Current Status: Business of the Day

Whereas, Ithaca, New York is the first and only town in America where 100% of Starbucks workers are unionized;

Whereas, Starbucks announced on May 5th that they would be permanently shutting down all three corporate-owned stores in Ithaca;

Whereas, Starbucks has repeatedly engaged in illegal union-busting tactics across the country, including in Ithaca, where the NLRB found several violations against the company and ordered the reopening of their Collegetown location that was closed in retaliation;

Whereas, Starbucks continues to profit from sales of its coffee through Cornell Dining through over eight dining locations;

Whereas, Cornell maintains licensing relationships with other coffee companies, and has the demonstrated capacity to serve coffee on campus without working with Starbucks;

Whereas, the Charter of the Student Assembly in Article III, Section 1 provides, “the SA will have legislative authority over the policies of the Department of Campus Life and the Office of the Dean of Students, and will have the authority to review the budgets and actions of said departments” which thereby vests it with the authority, provided the asset of the University President is given, to determine policy for the Department of Student and Campus Life and it subordinate entities, including Cornell Dining;

Now, Be it therefore resolved, that it shall be the policy of the Department of Student and Campus Life and Cornell Dining to terminate its relationship with Starbucks and withdraw from the ‘We Proudly Serve Starbucks’ program no later than beginning of the Fall 2023 Semester;
Be it further resolved, that for the purposes of this resolution, “Starbucks products” shall be defined as all products sold under the ‘Starbucks We Proudly Serve’ line;

Be it finally resolved, the Cornell Student Assembly requires that the University, through the Department of Student and Campus Life and Cornell Dining, commits to no longer serving Starbucks products in dining locations, and collaborating with student advocates and Starbucks Workers United to implement a new, ethical, non-union-busting, campus-wide coffee vendor by the start of the Fall 2023 semester.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suraj Parikh ‘26
Vice-President of External Affairs, Student Assembly
Minority Students at Large Liaison, Student Assembly

Claire Ting, ‘25
Executive Vice-President, Student Assembly

Patrick Kuehl, ‘24
Vice-President of Internal Operations, Student Assembly
Undesignated Representative at Large, Student Assembly

Karys Everett, ‘25
LGBTQIA+ Students at Large Liaison, Student Assembly

Casey Platkin, ‘26
School of Industrial and Labor Relations Representative, Student Assembly
Resolution 2: Transparency in Cornell’s Relationship With Starbucks

Abstract: This resolution releases information regarding Cornell University’s relationship with Starbucks.

Sponsored by: Suraj Parikh ‘26, Claire Ting ‘25, Patrick Kuehl ‘24, Karys Everett ‘25, Casey Platkin ‘26

Reviewed by: Executive Committee 4-0-1

Type of Action: Investigation

Originally Presented: 05/10/2023

Current Status: Business of the Day

Whereas, Ithaca, New York is the first and only town in America where 100% of Starbucks workers are unionized;

Whereas, Starbucks announced on May 5th that they would be permanently shutting down all three corporate-owned stores in Ithaca;

Whereas, Starbucks has repeatedly engaged in illegal union-busting tactics across the country, including in Ithaca, where the NLRB found several violations against the company and ordered the reopening of their Collegetown location that was closed in retaliation;

Whereas, Starbucks continues to profit from sales of its coffee through Cornell Dining through over eight dining locations;

Whereas, the Charter of the Student Assembly in Article III, Section 1 provides, “the SA will have legislative authority over the policies of the Department of Campus Life and the Office of the Dean of Students, and will have the authority to review the budgets [emphasis added] and actions of said departments” which thereby vests it with the authority, provided the asset of the University President is given, to determine policy for the Department of Student and Campus Life and it subordinate entities, including Cornell Dining;

Whereas, the Charter of the Student Assembly in Article III, Section 1 provides, “The SA shall by majority vote have the authority to require at any time information directly from a department or a specific individual within that department concerning the budget, policies, or actions of said department. The request for this information shall be made in the form of legislation at a SA meeting.”
Be it therefore resolved, the Cornell Student Assembly requires that the University, through the Department of Student and Campus Life and Cornell Dining, publicly releases the full terms of all ongoing contracts and agreements between Cornell University and Starbucks Coffee Company by May 31, 2023;

Be it further resolved, the Cornell Student Assembly requires that the University, through the Department of Student and Campus Life and Cornell Dining, publicly releases any financial records related to Cornell’s contract with Starbucks, including but not limited to information about revenue created by Starbucks products and profits by Cornell or Starbucks from the latter’s operations at Cornell.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suraj Parikh ‘26
Vice-President of External Affairs, Student Assembly

Minority Students at Large Liaison, Student Assembly

Claire Ting, ‘25
Executive Vice-President, Student Assembly

Patrick Kuehl, ‘24
Vice-President of Internal Operations, Student Assembly

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