Cornell University
Student Assembly

Student Assembly Meeting
## AGENDA
August 25, 2022
4:45 - 6:30pm
IN-PERSON | MEMORIAL ROOM, WILLARD STRAIGHT HALL

ZOOM OPTION: https://cornell.zoom.us/j/92199260221?pwd=Yyt0b3BMMWFaUW83cDc2Vm9mdUQyQT09
Meeting ID: 921 9926 0221 Passcode: 717626

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Land Acknowledgement of the Gayogǫhó:nǫ (Cayuga Nation)
3. Late Additions to the Agenda
4. Consent Agenda
5. Open Microphone
6. Announcements and Reports
    1. Sunday Orientation – Valeria Valencia '23
7. Initiatives
8. Presentations and Forums
    1. Basic Needs Survey – Amisha Chowdhury
9. Business of the Day
10. New Business
    1. SAIFC Chair Election
11. Adjournment

If you are in need of special accommodations, contact the Office of the Assemblies at (607) 255-3715 or Student Disability Services at (607) 254-4545 prior to the meeting.
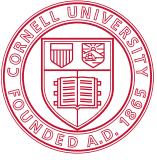
Cornell University Student Assembly
Minutes of the Thursday, May 5, 2022 Meeting
4:45 PM – 6:30 PM
IN PERSON | WILLARD STRAIGHT MEMORIAL ROOM

I. **Call to Order & Roll Call**
   a. A. Ononye called the meeting to order at 4:48 PM (EST).
   b. Roll Call
      i. *Members Present: A. Juan, J. Bansah. V. Valencia, A. Ononye, D. Hernandez, J. Jiang, B. Luckow, D. Cady, A. Gleiberman, P. DaSilveira, L. Morales, P. Gronemeyer, N. Overton, K. Santacruz, M. Baker, D. Eisman, A. Lampert, Y. Logan, N. Reddy, L. Smith, M. Song,*
      ii. *Members Absent: D. Ilango, J. Kim, C. Leon, M. Louis, L. Lu, C. Tempelman, A. Williams, E. Yan*

II. **Land Acknowledgement of the Gayogoho:no (Cayuga Nation)**
   a. President Ononye delivered the Land Acknowledgement.

III. **Late Additions to the Agenda**
   a. A. Juan motioned to add Resolution 63 to the agenda. Motion passed by unanimous consent.
   b. V. Valencia motioned to add Resolution 59 to the agenda. Motion passed by unanimous consent.
   c. D. Cady motioned to add an announcement to the agenda. Motion passed by unanimous consent.
   d. A. Juan motioned to add Resolutions 65, 66, and 67 to the agenda. Motion passed by unanimous consent.
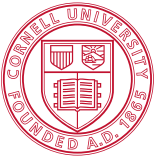
IV. **Consent Agenda**
   a. Approval of April 14ᵗʰ , 2022 Minutes
      i. L. Smith motioned to approve the minutes. Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

V. **Open Microphone**
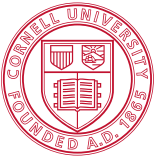   a. There were no speakers present at open microphone.

VI. **Announcements and Reports**
   a. CIPEC Disability Case Competition – Michael and Angelica
      i. Issue: no centralized way of reporting individualized access problems.
      ii. Solution: an application that would be able to report the locations of issues that occur on campus.
      iii. Access barriers:
         1. Lack of visibility

        a. Inconsistent lighting and dark patches across campus.

        b. Solution: glow paths

    2. Lack of mobility

        a. Not much access to specialized mobility aids.

        b. Solution: mobility stations

           i. Wheelchairs

           ii. White canes

  iv. Roadmap:

    1. App development.

    2. Preliminary test locations.

    3. Communication channel.

  v. L. Morales inquired on what led to the idea of the glow paths as opposed to lamps.

    1. It would be less intrusive to the human eye and reduces the amount of light pollution that the campus produces.

    2. It also affects people with light sensitivity.

  vi. P. DaSilveira thanked the members for attending and providing this interesting project. In terms of funding, there are many opportunities for implementation including SAIFC. P. DaSilveira inquired on an approximate cost for the project and implementation.

    1. It costs about $1.85 per square foot for the glow paths.

    2. But it might also need maintenance which is not included in the cost.

b. Office of Student Advocate – Delilah Hernandez '23

  i. D. Hernandez listed out the new leadership:

    1. Amisha for Student Advocate

    2. Jana for Chief of Staff

    3. Alyssa for Director of Academics

    4. Andreas for Director of Student and Campus Life

    5. Christina for Director of Finance

    6. Giancarlo for Director of International Affairs

  ii. Amisha spoke about her excitement and plans for the future of the Office of the Student Advocate.

  iii. A. Williams motioned to vote on the appointments. Appointments were <mark>approved</mark> by a vote of 24 – 0 – 0.

c. Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Day

d. SUNY SA report

  i. D. Hernandez stated it was a good experience to learn about how different colleges function differently.

       ii. P. Gronemeyer said SUNY SA had this idea to add 1 dollar to the activity fees of schools around the state.

           1. The money was going back to the SUNY SA and P. Gronemeyer did not agree with the budget fully.

VII. Initiatives

    a. No initiatives were presented.

VIII. Presentations and Forums

IX. New Business

    a. Resolution 59: Amendments to Appendix B of the Student Assembly Charter

       i. V. Valencia motioned to amend lines 974-975 of Resolution 59. Amendment passed by unanimous consent.

       ii. Key points from the resolution:

           1. Amends the slope day guideline to announce artists to the SA.

           2. Makes amendments to the convocation guidelines.

      iii. L. Smith inquired on the orientation steering committee and believed that the amendment to the convocation rules should be reversed.

      iv. D. Eisman motioned to add the language back to Appendix B. Amendment passed by a vote of 22 – 0 – 2.

       v. B. Luckow motioned to amend lines 779-970. Amendment passed by a vote of 16 – 6 – 2.

      vi. A. Juan motioned to amend line 780 back to the original Appendix B. Amendment passed by a vote of 14 – 7 – 2.

      vii. D. Eisman motioned to end debate. Motion passed by a vote of 22 – 2 – 1.

     viii. D. Eisman motioned to vote on Resolution 59. Resolution 59 passed by a vote of 23 – 0 – 1.

    b. Resolution 64: Permanent Implementation of the Diversity and Inclusion Scholarship

       i. Selam Woldai affirmed that funds are not usually used, and the idea of the Diversity and Inclusion Scholarship came as a result of that.

       ii. They want to use $2000 dollars from their budget for scholarships.

      iii. J. Kim inquired on if the scholarship is only available to ALANA.

           1. S. Woldai responded that it is currently only available to ALANA, but they are discussing changing this.

      iv. P. DaSilveira inquired on what organizations have done with this scholarship.

           1. A recent example was a huge event for the PASA which was a tribute to a recently passed peer.

      v. L. Smith is concerned since the SA is not supposed to bind future assemblies to a responsibility.

      vi. A. Gleiberman echoed L. Smith and is concerned that it was brought as legislation rather than internal policy.

         1. A. Gleiberman does not feel comfortable with changing the function of the SA.

      vii. N. Overton and P. DaSilveira believe the issues brought forth are trivial details that can be amended later.

      viii. P. DaSilveira motioned to end debate on Resolution 64. Motion passed by a vote of 17 – 5 – 1.

      ix. P. DaSilveira motioned to vote on Resolution 64. Resolution ==passed== by a vote of 18 – 3 – 2.

c. Resolution 63: Establishing a Brooks School of Public Policy Representative on the Student Assembly

      i. C. Templeman motioned to make an amendment to the resolution. ==Amendment== passed by unanimous consent.

      ii. J. Bansah motioned to vote on Resolution 63. Resolution 63 ==passed== by a vote of 22 – 0 – 1.

d. Resolution 65: Approving the Code of Ethics

      i. Naveen Sharma expressed his excitement working in the Office of Ethics.

      ii. The resolution being presented is not a bylaw amendment, but a separate document regarding the procedures of the Office.

      iii. The code handles ethical violations and how they will be handled.

      iv. A. Gleiberman inquired on lines 69 through 72, and the power being held by one person.

         1. Naveen Sharma stated that there are several lines explaining conflict of interest.

      v. B. Luckow inquired on codification of the SA impartiality clause.

         1. Naveen Sharma stated it is in the bylaws.

      vi. C. Taylor suggested including a supersession clause to identify its placement in the governing documents.

      vii. C. Taylor motioned to amend the resolution. ==Amendment== passed by a vote of 20 – 0 – 1.

      viii. J. Bansah motioned to end debate on Resolution 65. Motion passed by a vote of 17 – 2 – 2.

      ix. J. Bansah motioned to vote on Resolution 65. Resolution 65 ==passed== by a vote of 19 – 1 – 2.
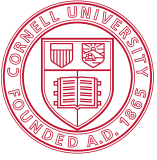
e. M. Baker motioned to add Resolution 68 to the agenda above Resolution 66. Motion <mark style="background:#00ff00">passed</mark> by unanimous consent.

f. Resolution 68: Approving the Code of Ethics

    i. A. Gleiberman reiterated her issue with one person dealing with violations.

    ii. L. Smith believes the language is an extension of the Internal Operations powers. The lines would have to amend the internal operations rules.

        1. A. Bangura agreed with L. Smith and believed amendments could be made to Resolution 67 to amend powers for the VP of internal operations.

    iii. N. Overton motioned to extend the meeting till 6:45 PM. Motion <mark style="background:#00ff00">passed</mark> by unanimous consent.

    iv. M. baker motioned to table Resolution 68 indefinitely. Resolution was <mark style="background:#ff00ff">tabled</mark> by a vote of 20 – 0 – 2.

g. Resolution 66: Amending Sections 1 and 2 of the Student Assembly Standing Rules

    i. A. Bangura motioned to amend by friendly amendment. <mark style="background:#ffff00">Amendment</mark> passed by unanimous consent.

    ii. L. Smith motioned to strike line 60 of the resolution. <mark style="background:#ffff00">Amendment</mark> passed by a vote of 16 – 3 – 2.

    iii. M. Baker motioned to make an amendment to line 60 of the resolution. <mark style="background:#ffff00">Amendment</mark> passed by a vote of 17 – 2 – 1.

    iv. C. Templeman motioned to extend the meeting to 6:50 PM. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

    v. M. baker motioned to end debate. Motion passed by a vote of 15 – 5 – 1.

    vi. M. baker motioned to vote on resolution 66. Resolution 66 <mark style="background:#00ff00">passed</mark> by a vote of 16 – 2 – 2.

h. Resolution 67: Office of Ethics Bylaw Amendment

    i. N. Overton motioned to table Resolution 67. Resolution 67 was <mark style="background:#ff00ff">tabled</mark> by a vote of 15 – 3 – 1.

X. Adjournment

a. A. Ononye adjourned the meeting at 6:49 PM (EST).

Respectfully Submitted,
Jana Alzayer
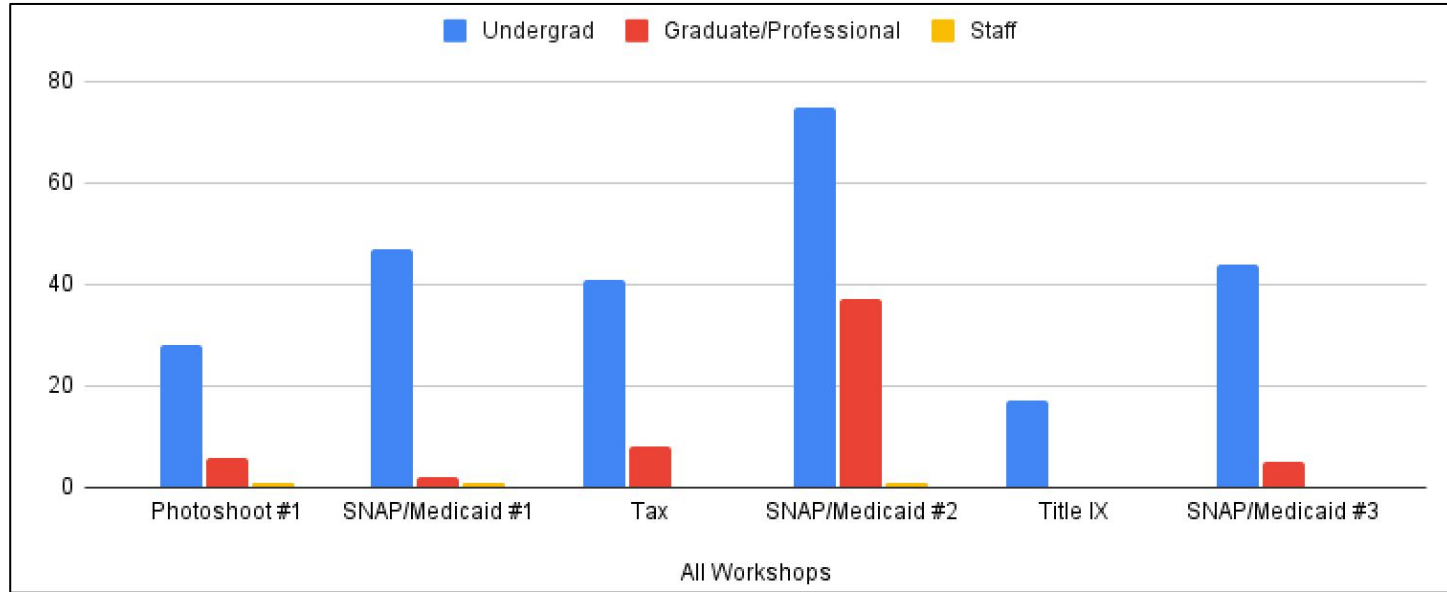Clerk of the Student Assembly

Basic Needs Support at Cornell

By First-generation & Low-income Student Leaders

Our Accomplishments Last Year: Workshops & Outreach

Outreached to 313 attendees:

80.5% are undergraduate

18.5% are Graduate/Professional

1.0% Staff

Our Accomplishments Last Year

- 6 workshops; helped 313 students with financial assistance

- Created paid student worker positions through [Center of Transformative Action](#)

- Created a [Cornell SNAP info page](#) and updated [Cornell websites](#) to include SNAP info

- Connected with UC Berkeley Basic Needs Center, Temple University Hope Center, National Basic Needs Coalition, and National FGLI org for support

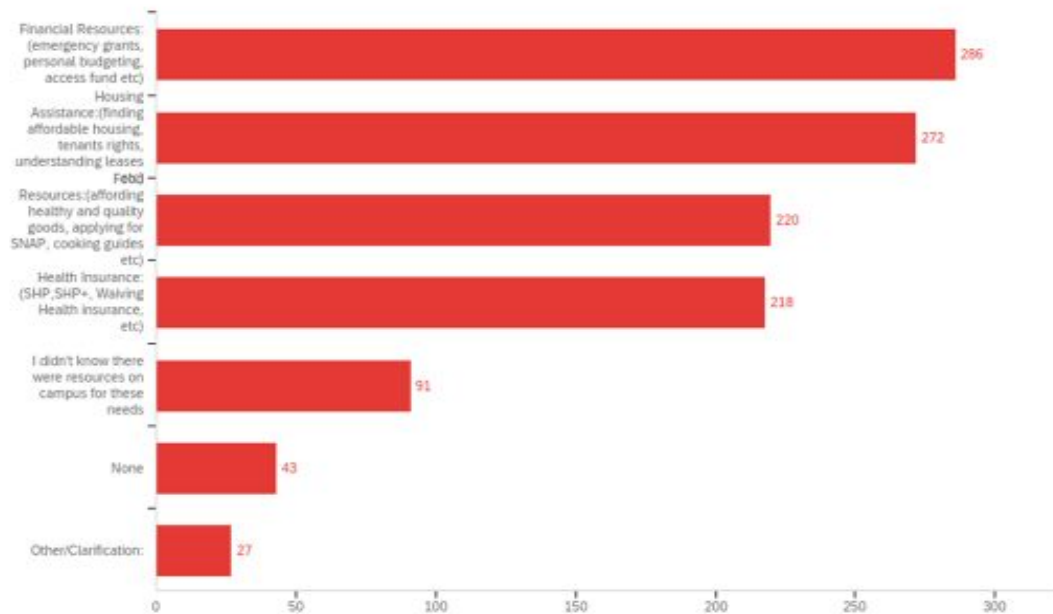# Student Survey on Basic Need: Data & Testimonies

550+ respondents

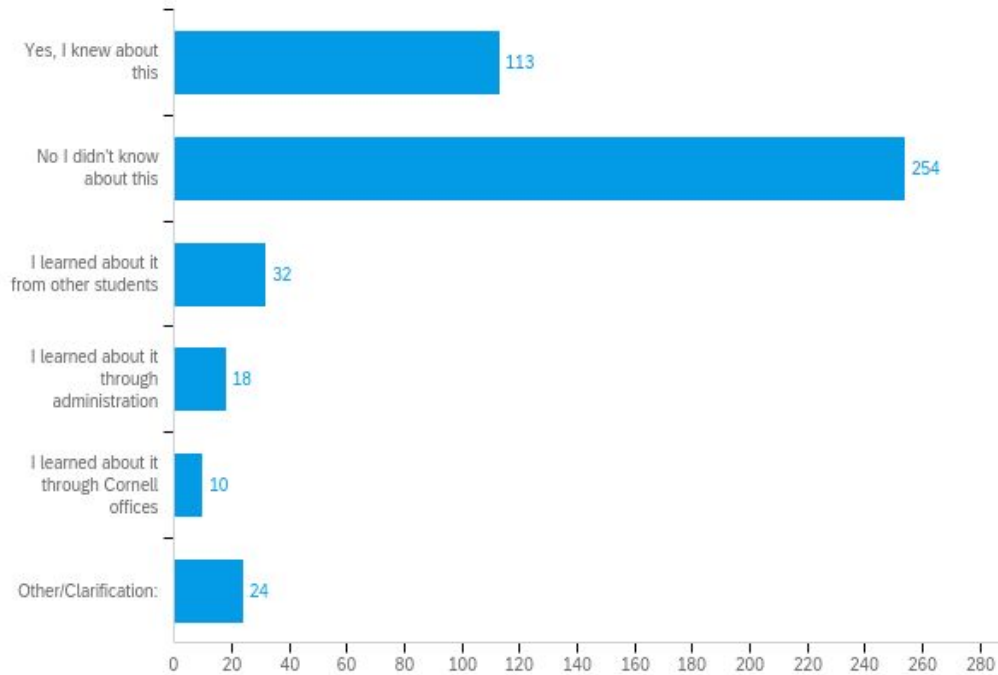from Cornell undergrads, grads, staff, and alumni

Survey Data on Most Common Challenges

3 – 3. Please check all of the resources that you faced challenges in navigating at Cornell.
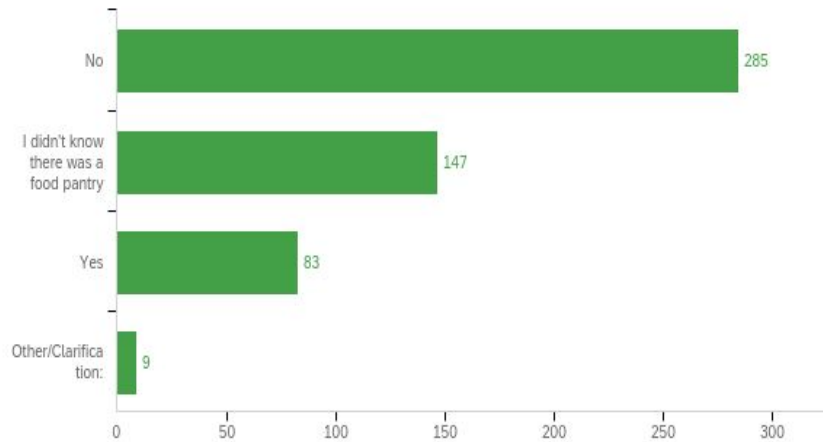
Survey Data on Health Insurance Options

Did you know that if you qualify for NYS Medicaid you can opt into SHP+ at Cornell and save money on health insurance?
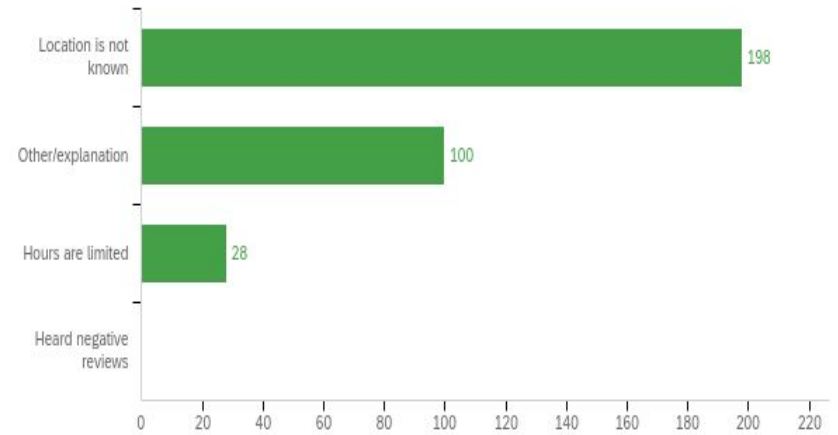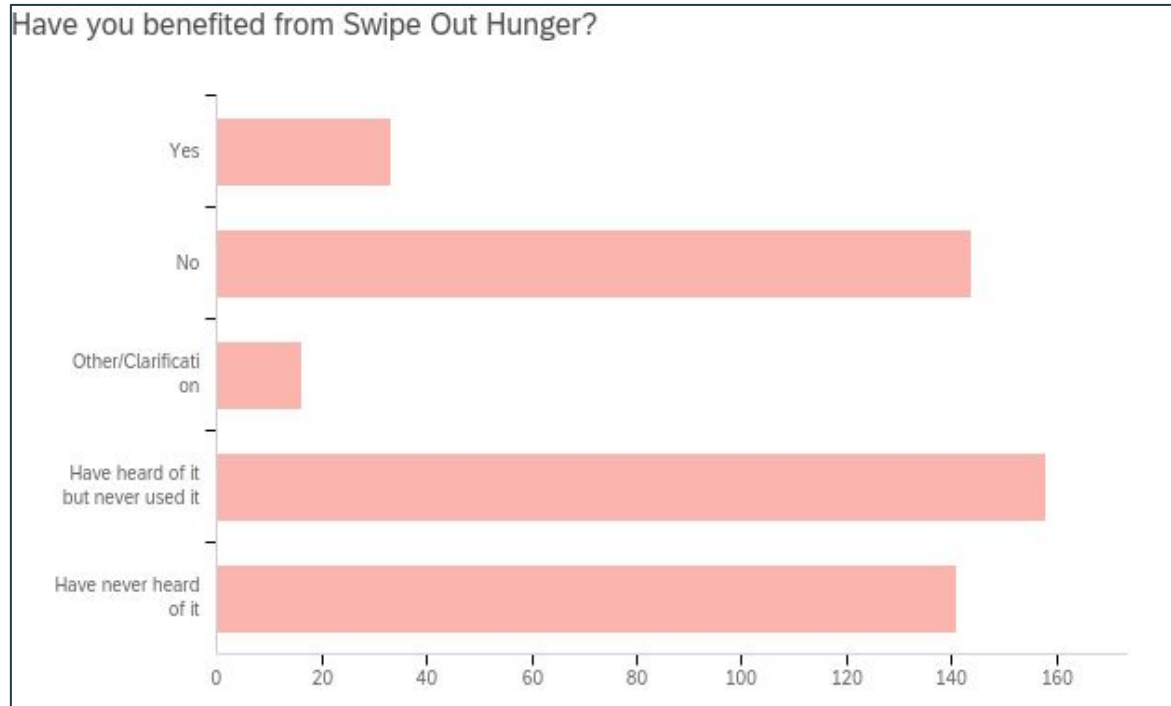
Survey Data on Food Pantry

7. Have you been to the food pantry on campus before?

No	285
I didn't know there was a food pantry	147
Yes	83
Other/Clarification:	9

- 7a. Why do you believe you haven't visited the food pantry?

Location is not known	198
Other/explanation	100
Hours are limited	28
Heard negative reviews	

Survey Data on Swipe out Hunger

## Have you benefited from Swipe Out Hunger?

Student testimonies:

"Did not know it existed"

"The number of meals given away can be quite restrictive. I sometimes had to make the choice to not eat for one day to save a meal for a more important time"

"Its not addressing the issue that food is really expensive on campus. Its a temporary fix."
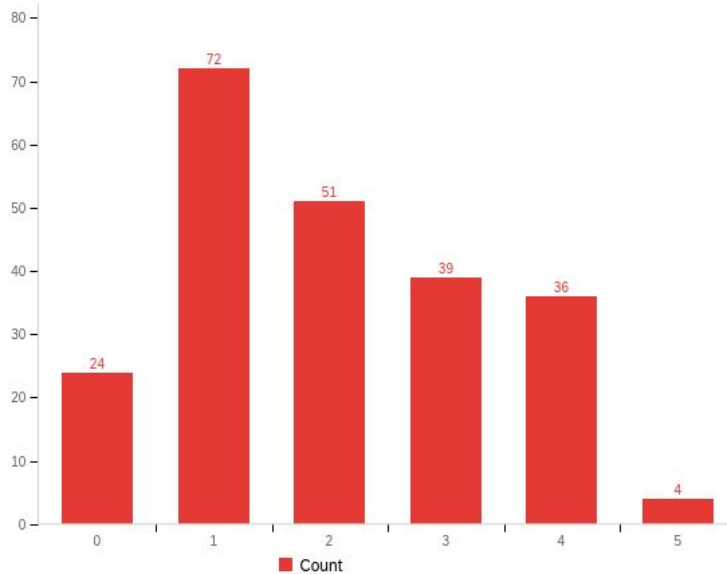
Survey Data on Helpful Guidance

5 - 5. Where do you receive the most helpful guidance on essential resources? (check all that applies)
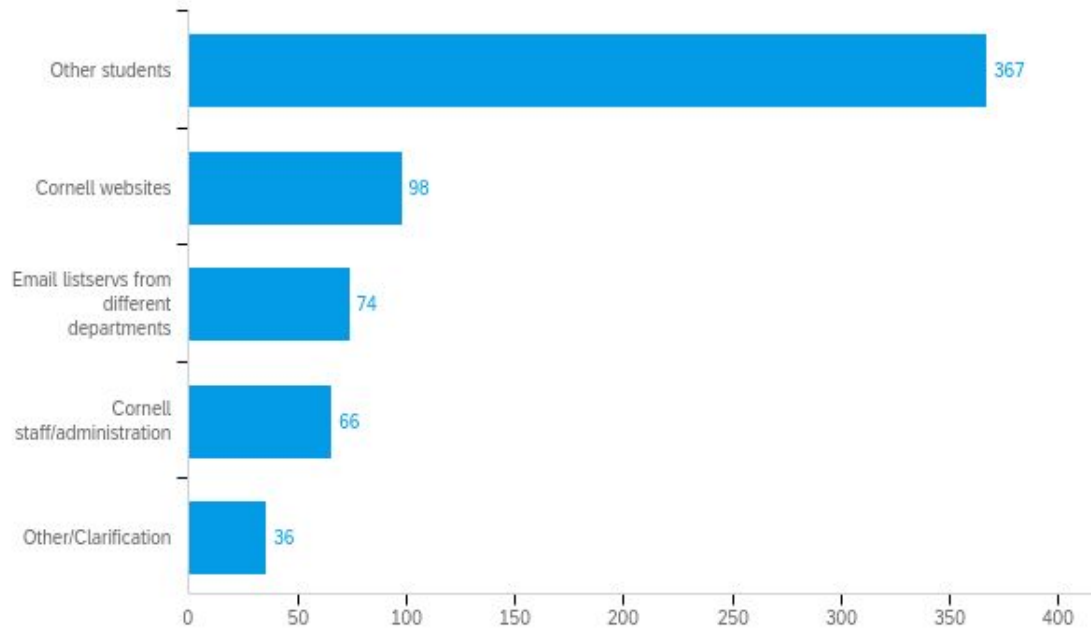
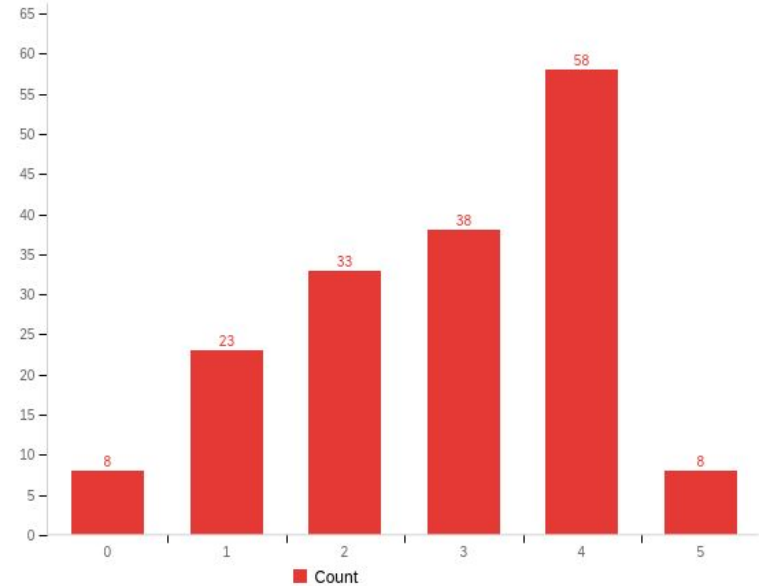# Survey Data on Sense of Belonging

FGLI Student Responses

Non- FGLI Student Responses

Do you currently feel a sense of belonging at Cornell based on how the institution addresses your essential needs?

Do you currently feel a sense of belonging at Cornell based on how the institution addresses your essential needs?

Student Testimony on Basic Needs

"When I got to Cornell I did not have the financial support... I didn't have a meal plan my freshman year because I couldn't afford the insurance and only ended up receiving one when I became malnourished and anemic so my doctor requested me to have one…I had an emotionally hard time dealing with that, along with school and family stress, and would end up feeling hungry a lot of the time… The resources right now help in some ways but have proven ineffective for me."

"I have had an extremely difficult time finding affordable housing at Cornell. The housing office is not helpful at all in this regard and barely provides students with resources for finding housing (on or off campus). I almost became homeless due to this and would've greatly benefited from a space that would have connected me with the proper resources and tools to find better housing."

"I am battling a number of health issues at the moment, and if it wasn't for Medicaid, I'd be heavily in debt with all of the bills I had to pay and deal with. People NEED to know about this service."

"SNAP saved me quite literally from starving and being broke"

"My experience has been that resources/help are available but I've had to go through layers of bureaucracy and digging for info just to get them. It is discouraging to have to do this just to get help."

"I wish there was a help desk where I could be honest about my issues and receive help and guidance without judgement. I would prefer it be student- lead, instead of adults."

Survey Data on Centralizing Resources

14 - 14. Would establishing a space on campus encapsulating essential need resources and providing informed support from students in collaboration with field experts be helpful for you?
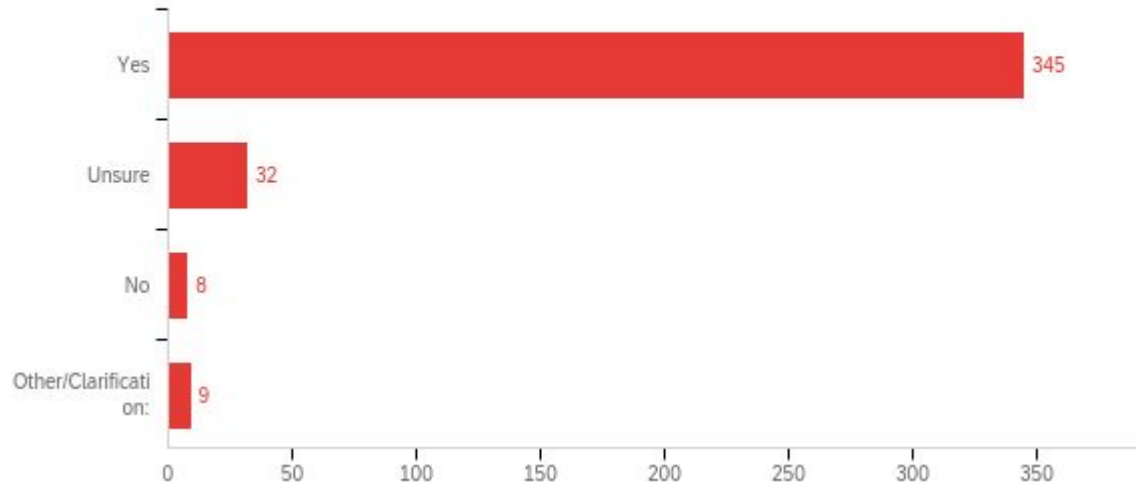
Our Vision: Basic Needs Center

- A centrally located, physical space to address student basic needs
  - food, housing, health insurance, job employment, mental health/wellness, and financial literacy resources

- A one-stop-center to help students navigate on and off campus resources

- Peer-to-peer support center run by student leaders (paid through federal work study)

- Similar vision of wellness center proposed to VP Lombardi by the SA Wellness Committee

UC Berkeley Basic Needs Center

Cornell Daily Sun Daily Sun Article

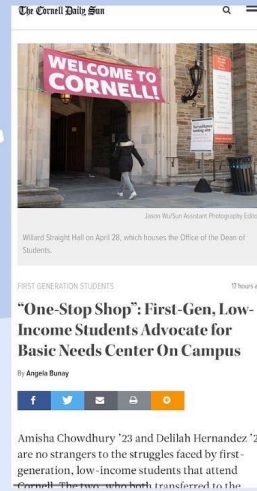- Published our first [Basic Needs](#) article!

NEWS THIS WEEK!

CORNELL DAILY SUN ARTICLE

The Story of the Basic Needs Coalition

Check out some of the data we collected this summer and the goals we have for next year! →

Link in our bio!

The Cornell Daily Sun

WELCOME TO CORNELL!

Jason Wu/Sun Assistant Photography Editor

Willard Straight Hall on April 28, which houses the Office of the Dean of Students.

FIRST GENERATION STUDENTS · 17 hours ago

"One-Stop Shop": First-Gen, Low-Income Students Advocate for Basic Needs Center On Campus

By **Angela Bunay**

Amisha Chowdhury '23 and Delilah Hernandez '22 are no strangers to the struggles faced by first-generation, low-income students that attend Cornell. The two, who both transferred to the

Our Asks to Admin (presented 7/21/22) : Tangible Next Steps

- House and grow Basic Needs efforts under Dean of Students
- Host Basic Needs Workshops under Dean of Students
- Provide administrative staff support to student leaders working on basic needs
- Revamp existing programs & expand outreach; food pantry, swipe out hunger, & SHIP+
- Help us collaborate with financial aid and existing multicultural & D&I centers
- Create more paid student worker positions through FWS
- Incorporate basic need efforts into development plans for rebuilding campus post-pandemic
- Establish a budget for basic need efforts
- Co-create feasible next steps and maintain consistent communication

Our Asks to Student Assembly

- Create a basic needs working committee within SA
- Fund OSA to continue doing basic needs workshops next year
  - Snap, Medicaid, tax filing, tenants rights, emergency grants, etc
- Pass a resolution to ask for a basic needs center
- Expand the emergency fund eligibility criteria to include basic needs emergencies
  - (ex: Student Helping Student fund)
- Codify the SA bylaws to connect basic needs efforts to Student Assembly (to ensure long term sustainability)
- Note: Any SA member interested in this initiative can join our effort

Cornell University Student Assembly

EXECUTIVE COMMITEE

Valeria Valencia, President
Amari Lampert, Executive Vice President
Pedro Da Silveira, Vice President of Internal Operations
David Nachman, Vice President for Finance
Kelly Chan, Vice President of External Relations
Michelle Song, Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion
Isaac Chasen, Director of Elections
Carson Taylor, Parliamentarian
Jenniviv Bensah, Executive Archivist

Student Assembly Meeting Schedule
2022 – 2023

<u>Fall 2022</u> (14 meetings)	<u>Spring 2023</u> (14 meetings)
August 25, 2022	January 26, 2023
September 1, 2022	February 2, 2023
September 8, 2022	February 9, 2023
September 15, 2022	February 16, 2023
September 22, 2022	February 23, 2023
September 29, 2022	March 2, 2023
October 6, 2022	March 9, 2023
October 13, 2022	March 16, 2023
October 20, 2022	March 23, 2023
October 27, 2022	March 30, 2023
November 3, 2022	*Spring Break April 6, 2023*
November 10, 2022	April 13, 2023
November 17, 2022	April 20, 2023
Thanksgiving Break Nov. 24, 2022	April 27, 2023
December 1, 2022	May 4, 2023

Meetings are traditionally held on Thursdays during the academic year from 4:45 – 6:30 p.m.

For security purposes, we ask that individuals who would like to attend this meeting to send an entry request via email to assembly@cornell.edu.

Last Revised 8/22/22