

Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Agenda of the Thursday, March 5th, 2020 Meeting
4:45-6:30pm in the Memorial Room of Willard Straight Hall

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

II. Announcements & Presentations

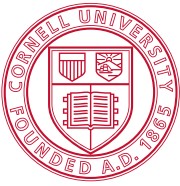
- a. VP DNI Benedict – Mortarboard Diversity Innovation Fund
- b. Rep. Kroll and Rep. Pavlov – Presentation on Divestment

III. Open Microphone

IV. New Business

- a. [S.A Resolution #45: Approving Special Projects Request for Student Assembly](#)
- b. [S.A Resolution #46: In support of Joining Today's Students Coalition](#)
- c. [S.A. Resolution #47: Guaranteeing Centralized Housing for All Transfer Students](#)
- d. [S.A. Resolution #48: Calling for the Extension of Cornell Health Services to Students Forcibly Withdrawn from the University for Non-Disciplinary Matters](#)
- e. [S.A Resolution #49: Establishing the Director of International Student Affairs to the Office of the Student Advocate](#)
- f. [S.A Resolution #50: Requesting the Establishment of the Cornell University Police Department Oversight Committee](#)
- g. [S.A Resolution #51: Requesting the Establishment of the Policy 6.4 \(Prohibited Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual and Related Misconduct\) Cornell Title IX Oversight and Advisory Board](#)

V. Adjournment



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Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	03/05/2020
Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	New Business

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S.A. Resolution #45

Approving Special Projects Request for Student Assembly

ABSTRACT: This resolution approves \$5,000 of the Student Assembly budget to be used on the Student Assembly Gala.

Sponsored by: Moriah Adeghe '21

Whereas, the Student Assembly is committed to providing and enriching a campus and campus culture that is safe for everyone who is a member of the community;

Whereas, the Assembly sees a need for social events on campus that are open to the whole community and are free of alcohol and other harmful substances;

Whereas, the Assembly is hosting the Student Assembly Gala to fill this need that we see on campus;

Be it therefore resolved, the Student Assembly approves that \$5,000 of the Student Assembly budget to be used for the Student Assembly Gala;

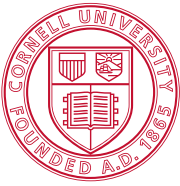
Be it finally resolved, the Student Assembly encourages all members of the undergraduate community to attend the gala.

Respectfully Submitted,

Moriah Adeghe '21

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

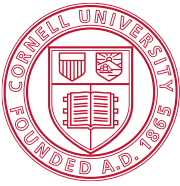
(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 4-0-2, 03/03/2020)



Cornell University
Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	03/05/2020
Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	New Business

1 S.A. Resolution #46
2 In support of Joining Today's Students Coalition
3
4 ABSTRACT: This resolution approves the Student Assembly joining Today's Students Coalition
5
6 **Sponsored by: Joe Anderson '20, Aadi Kulkarni '22**
7
8 **Whereas**, Office of Student Government Relations seeks to advocate to the greater inclusion in
9 higher education policy;
10
11 **Whereas**, the Today's Students Coalition supports many of the principles that the Office of Student
12 Government Relations supports;
13
14 **Whereas**, membership in this coalition would be beneficial to advancing the mission and inclusion
15 of the Office of Student Government Relations and Cornell students overall;
16
17 **Be it finally resolved**, that the Cornell Student Assembly join the Today's Students Coalitions.
18
19 **Respectfully Submitted**,
20
21 Aadi Kulkarni '22
22 *Executive Director, Office of Student Government Relations*
23
24 Joe Anderson '20
25 *President, Student Assembly*
26
27
28 *(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 4-0-2, 03/03/2020)*
29



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Originally Presented on:	03/05/2020
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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;

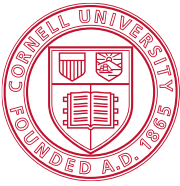
Whereas, Cornell's failure to provide housing for first year transfer students creates enormous stress through the housing search process on top of being a new student;

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;

48
49 **Whereas**, housing deeply affects a students' success and well-being;

50
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.";

55
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;

58
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;

62
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;"

67
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,"

72
73 **Whereas**, on-campus housing and its policies fall under the Department of Campus Life;

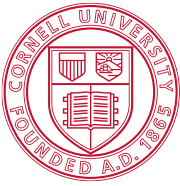
74
75 **Whereas**, the North Campus Residential Expansion project will create over 800 more beds for
76 sophomore students;

77
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;

80
81 **Whereas**, transfer students should have top priority in being guaranteed housing once the North
82 Campus housing projects are completed;

83
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;

86



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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;

91
92 **Be it finally resolved**, that Cornell University provide guaranteed centralized on-campus housing
93 for all transfer students who apply;

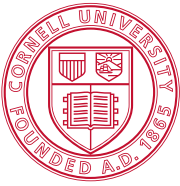
94
95 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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

99
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>



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	03/05/2020
Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #48

Calling for the Extension of Cornell Health Services to Students Forcibly Withdrawn from the University for Non-Disciplinary Matters

ABSTRACT: This resolution is intended to call upon the University to extend Cornell Health services with no additional cost to students forcibly withdrawn from Cornell for non-disciplinary matters for a period of one month after withdrawal.

Sponsored by: Joe Anderson '20, Liel Sterling '21

Whereas, students are mandated by Cornell University to purchase insurance coverage at the beginning of the academic year or semester to use Cornell Health services;

Whereas, the Cornell Administration encourages students to seek mental health counseling at Cornell Health;

Whereas, being withdrawn from the University can worsen students' mental health and well-being;

Whereas, students are automatically enrolled in the Student Health Plan, which is paid for upon registration;

Whereas, students with mental health concerns are not afforded time to find new counseling services when they are withdrawn from Cornell;

Be it therefore resolved, the Cornell Student Assembly requests that Cornell Health and Cornell Financial Aid extend a one month grace period for students withdrawn from the University to continue to use their Cornell Health services without additional cost;

Be it further resolved, that Cornell University works to develop a system that creates a nudge based system that provides ample warning to students who might be at risk at withdrawal and provide them support between the warning period and date of withdraw, so that students can fairly navigate the process;

Be it finally resolved, the University must consider the intersection between its actions and the impact on students' mental health and well being.

Respectfully Submitted,

Liel Sterling '21
Student Advocate, Office of the Student Advocate

Joe Anderson '20
President, Student Assembly

(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 4-0-2, 03/03/2020)



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented On	03/05/2020
Type of Action	Legislation
Status/Result	New Business

1 S.A. Resolution #49
2 Amendment To S.A. Resolution 7 (Establishing the Office of the Student Advocate
3 Bylaws): Creation of the Director of International Student Affairs

4
5 ABSTRACT: This resolution is intended to create the Director of International Student Affairs
6 under the Office of the Student Advocate

7
8 **Sponsored by: Uche Chukwukere '21, Masa Haddad '21, Liel Sterling '21**

9
10 **Whereas**, As of the reporting year, 2018-2019, it has been reported that approximately 10.9%¹
11 of the undergraduate student population on Cornell's campus are classified as International
12 Students

13 **Whereas**, International Students are part of what provides the institution is uniqueness and
14 come from varying intersectional backgrounds and lenses

15
16 **Whereas**, International students are not immune to the hardships that Cornell imposes and are
17 more so affected by virtue of being international students

18
19 **Be it therefore resolved**, In order to continue combatting the issues that international students
20 face, the position of Director of International Student Affairs should be created under the Office
21 of the Student Advocate and the position be filled by appointment

22
23 **Be it finally resolved**, The following amendments be made to Resolution 7: Establishing the
24 Office of The Student Advocate Bylaws

25
26 **Whereas**, Cornell's Office of the Student Advocate (OSA) would be an executive, non-partisan
27 office created and legitimized by the Cornell Student Assembly.

28
29 **Whereas**, the Office of the Student Advocate has been created to offer help to any student or
30 group trying to navigate Cornell's bureaucracy when their rights given by federal, state, and
31 local laws or University policy have been violated;

32
33 **Whereas**, the OSA would be made up of undergraduate students acting as caseworkers in
34 different fields to navigate issues including conduct violations, grade disputes, enrollment
35 issues, financial aid problems, residency concerns, discrimination and harassment;

36

37 **Whereas**, when issues arise pertaining to areas of expertise already handled by other Cornell
38 offices, the OSA will refer students to those offices as a first point of contact. All assistance
39 would be free and confidential;

40
41 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Student Assembly approve and adopt the attached Bylaws
42 amendments:

43
44
45
46

47 OFFICE OF THE STUDENT ADVOCATE

48 Article 1. Roles and Responsibilities

49

50 Section 1: Student Advocate

51 The responsibilities of the Student Advocate are as follows:

- 52 1. Attend and chair all office meetings
- 53 2. Correspond with the Student Assembly to affect office priorities
- 54 3. Create training programs for caseworkers and staff
- 55 4. Monitor the collection of data in the office
- 56 5. Develop relationships with University offices and coordinate informational materials

57

58

59 Section 2: Chief of Staff

60 The responsibilities of the Chief of Staff are as follows:

- 61 1. Supervise office staff and ensure cohesion
- 62 2. Ensure that all cases are met with an appropriate and timely response
- 63 3. Create training programs for caseworkers and staff
- 64 4. Develop relationships with University offices and coordinate informational materials
- 65 5. Write and present an office report at the end of each semester

66

67 Section 3: Director for Student and Campus Life

68 The responsibilities of the Director for Student and Campus Life are as follows:

- 69 1. Oversee caseworkers handling student issues pertaining to residency, discrimination,
70 harassment and student-related conduct violations.
- 71 2. Create informational materials relating to these issues.

72

73 Section 4: Director for Academic Affairs

74 The responsibilities of the Director for Academic Affairs are as follows:

- 75 1. Oversee caseworkers handling student issues pertaining to professor-related conduct
76 violations, grade and enrollment disputes.
- 77 2. Create informational materials relating to these issues.

78

79 Section 5: Director for Student Finance

80 The responsibilities of the Director for Student Finance are as follows:

- 81 1. Oversee caseworkers handling student issues pertaining to financial aid disputes and
82 student-employment.
83 2. Create informational materials relating to these issues.

84

85 Section 6: Caseworkers

86 The responsibilities of Caseworkers shall be as follows:

- 87 1. Follow the supervision of their Director
88 2. Participate in the office's training process
89 3. Respond to questions and inquiries sent via email by students or in person in a timely
90 manner
91 4. Refer students to the appropriate office within the University to handle their complaint.

92

93 Section 7: Director of International Student Affairs

94 The responsibilities of the Director of International Student Affairs

- 95 1. Oversee caseworkers handling student issues pertaining to international students affairs
96 2. Create informational materials relating to these issues.

97

98 Article 2: Recruitment of Office of the Student Advocate Members

99 Section 1: The outgoing Office of the Student Advocate shall nominate a new Student Advocate
100 as well as staff-members each year, to be discussed and approved by the Student Assembly
101 before the end of the academic year. The first student advocate shall be appointed by the SA
102 President and confirmed by the Student Assembly and begin staffing the remainder of the office
103 to be confirmed again by the Student Assembly.

104

105 **Respectfully Submitted,**

106

107 Uche Chukwukere '21

108 *Undesignated Representative At Large, Student Assembly*

109

110 Masa Haddad '21

111 *College of Human Ecology Representative*

112

113 Liel Sterling '21

114 *Student Advocate, Office of the Student Advocate*

115

116 *(Reviewed by: Discharge Petition)*

117



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented On	03/05/2020
Type of Action	Legislation
Status/Result	New Business

1 S.A. Resolution #50
2 Requesting the Establishment of the Cornell University Police Department
3 Oversight Committee
4

5 ABSTRACT: This resolution is intended to urge the establishment of the Cornell University
6 Police Oversight Committee that will oversee the activities of CUPD and provide
7 recommendations based upon them.
8

9 **Sponsored by: Uche Chukwukere '21 , Gavin Martin '20, Tomás Reuning '21**
10

11 **Whereas,** Cornell University has a responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of all its
12 faculty, staff, employees, and students. One of the ways that safety is implemented and ensured
13 is through the Cornell University Police Department.
14

15 **Whereas,** The Cornell University Police department is an internationally accredited organization
16 that operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, from its headquarters in Barton Hall. The
17 department has 68 members, 43 of them sworn officers who patrol campus on foot, in vehicles,
18 on bicycles, and with explosive detection K-9s. The mission of Cornell Police is to protect lives
19 and property, maintain order, prevent crimes, receive and investigate reports of crimes, and
20 provide other law-enforcement services. The department is responsive to the special needs of
21 Cornell's large and diverse community—a community of people who come from across the
22 United States and the world to study and work at Cornell.¹
23

24 **Whereas,** An oversight committee will be able to give the non-police community a medium to
25 voice concerns and provide criticism of law enforcement operations
26

27 **Whereas,** The Police Oversight Committee will be used to provide oversight, guidance,
28 direction, and facilitate communication to create an understanding of expectations and roles
29 between the Community and the University Police.
30

31 **Whereas,** This Oversight Committee will create a collaborative partnership between the
32 CUPD and the Cornell Community it is sworn to protect. This committee will also provide

33 insight on the safety and security concerns of the highly diverse Cornell community and aid in
34 monitoring police activities. The committee will make recommendations on the basis of
35 grievances that are submitted directly to the committee or the Cornell University Police
36 Department.

37
38 **Whereas**, institutions have implemented some form of a Police Oversight/Advisory Committee,
39 including but not limited to, Brown University, University of Michigan, Villanova University,
40 Northern Michigan University, and etc.

41
42 **Whereas**, A Police Oversight Committee is a way of providing increased agency and autonomy
43 to marginalized communities and communities of color.

44 **Be it therefore resolved**, The Committee will also do as follows:

- 45 1. Function as an advisory board for issues and concerns involving the Cornell University
46 Police Department
- 47 2. Provide input on initiatives to enhance campus safety
- 48 3. Promote and support public awareness of the University's police services and programs
- 49 4. Advise and make recommendations to the President of the University concerning the
50 provision of police services to the University community
- 51 5. To be briefed on all use of force incidents
- 52 6. Review a summary of police citations issued and criminal charges filed
- 53 7. Serve as a liaison between the University community and police officials
- 54 8. Review the training, practices, and policies implemented by the Cornell University Police
55 department

56 **Be it further resolved**, The Chair of the Police Oversight Committee should be chosen
57 internally by the committee board members and shall hold the position for no longer than (one)
58 academic calendar year. The chair of the committee shall report to relevant university officials,
59 such as the Cornell Student Assembly, Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, University
60 Assembly, Faculty Senate, Employee Assembly, and the Audit, Risk, and Compliance
61 Committee of the Cornell Board of Trustees. This report should come at the beginning of each
62 school semester and/or at the request of the governing body to know the progress of the
63 committee and any recommendations that have been released.

64

65 **Be it further resolved,** The committee is not intended to replace existing University processes
66 and will strive to work collaboratively with the Cornell University Police department.

67
68 **Be it further resolved,** The committee shall be comprised of seventeen regular members
69 appointed for terms of one academic calendar year. Initial appointments will be made for the first
70 year of the committee. The membership will consist of the following: two faculty members
71 appointed by the Faculty Senate; two members of the Cornell University Police Department
72 appointed by the Chief of Police; nine undergraduate students appointed by the Undergraduate
73 Student Assembly with at least one of them being from the Office of the Student Advocate; two
74 graduate students appointed by the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly; two employee
75 members appointed by the Employee Assembly and two individuals external to the University
76 appointed by the Chair of the committee in tandem with a committee wide-approval of the
77 intended candidates.

78
79 **Be it further resolved,** The Committee shall meet when in receipt of a grievance filed directly
80 with the Committee. Business may not be conducted unless a quorum of the members is present.
81 A quorum shall be one more than half of the current membership.

82 **Be it further resolved,** The Committee also shall meet at least two times a year to receive and
83 discuss the regularly scheduled reports made by the Police Chief regarding grievances submitted
84 to the Department.

85 **Be it further resolved,** All grievances and reports made to the Committee pursuant to these
86 procedures shall be treated confidentially by the Committee. Information about a grievance will
87 not be released by committee members, except as specified in these procedures, or as required by
88 law. The Committee as a whole may release written statements to advise the public of the
89 procedural status of an ongoing investigation.

90 **Be it further resolved,** The Committee may refer a grievance to the Police Chief, who shall
91 conduct an investigation in accordance with University policies and procedures. The Committee
92 may supplement the referral with any specific suggestions, recommendations, or concerns it has
93 with regard to the issues to be investigated or reviewed.

94 **Be it further resolved,** At any time, the Committee may request an interim report on the
95 progress of an investigation/review of a grievance. The report may be oral and/or in writing.

96 **Be it further resolved,** Upon completion of the investigation or review, the Police Chief shall
97 report to the Committee. The report shall include a summary of: the steps followed, the findings
98 and conclusion, any actions taken, and an explanation for any unreasonable delays. The report

99 may be oral and/or in writing. The Committee may accept the report as final, or it may ask the
100 Police Chief to investigate further and submit another report

101 **Be it further resolved,** Grievances may also be submitted directly to the Police Department.
102 Grievances submitted to the Department shall be reported within ten business days to the
103 Committee by the Police Chief.

104 **Be it further resolved,** The Police Chief will meet with the Committee on a semi-annual basis to
105 provide a summarized report of all grievances received by the Department during the previous
106 six-month period.

107 **Be it further resolved,** Grievances about a police officer or the Police Department may be
108 submitted to the Committee at the designated and forthcoming reporting system.

109 **Be it further resolved,** If the Police Chief objects to the hearing, the Police Chief may register
110 that objection to the Committee. If, after receiving the Committee's response, the Police Chief
111 continues to object, the Police Chief may appeal directly to the President of the University for a
112 decision.

113 Upon completion of the investigation of a grievance, the Committee may:

- 114 1. Determine that no further action is warranted, and notify all affected persons of that
115 decision.
- 116 2. Report its findings and recommendations - including any recommendations for
117 disciplinary measures against any officer of the Police Department-to the Executive
118 Director, Division of Public Safety and Security. No portion of any such report that
119 contains confidential information provided to the Committee shall be made public unless
120 required by law. The Executive Director shall review the report and advise the
121 Committee of the disposition of the matter.

122 University Human Resources will provide administrative support to the Committee, including
123 receipt of grievances submitted to the Committee, logistical and communications support for the
124 nomination and election processes for faculty and staff representatives, and any other needs
125 identified by the Committee.

126 **Be it further resolved,** These procedures must be reviewed by the University Counsel and
127 approved by the President of the University. If the Committee proposes changes to the
128 procedures, the President may approve them; however, only the President may reject them.

129 **Be it finally resolved,** The implementation of the Cornell University Police Oversight
130 Committee be established and implemented in full with cooperation from administration

131 **Respectfully submitted,**

132

133 Uche Chukwukere '21
134 *Undesignated Representative At Large, Student Assembly*

135

136 Gavin Martin '20
137 *College of Arts & Sciences, Student Assembly*

138

139 Tomás Reuning '21
140 *LGBTQIA+ Liaison At-Large, Student Assembly*

141

142 *(Reviewed by: Discharge Petition)*

37 **Whereas**, Policy 6.4 furthers the university’s commitment to creating a learning, living, and
38 working environment free of bias, discrimination, harassment, and sexual and related
39 misconduct, and to meeting applicable legal requirements. Such applicable legal requirements
40 include Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), Title IX of the Education
41 Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013
42 (VAWA), the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics
43 Act (the Clery Act), the New York State Education Law Article 129-B (NYS 129-B), the New
44 York State Human Rights Law, and the Tompkins County Human Rights Law.

45
46 **Whereas**, This policy, its accompanying procedures, and other mechanisms delineated in the
47 policy set forth the university’s standards of conduct. They also set forth the university’s
48 processes governing questions, concerns, and reports of bias, discrimination, harassment, and
49 sexual and related misconduct, and investigations and resolutions of claims of prohibited
50 conduct.

51
52 **Whereas**, *one out of every four* female undergraduates will be victim to some form of sexual
53 assault before graduation.²

54
55 **Whereas**, The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) estimates that at least 95% of campus
56 rapes in the U.S. go unreported. This statistic reflects a dire need for increased campus
57 prevention and support systems at our nation's colleges and universities.

58
59 **Whereas**, According to Cornell SHARE, Students were asked about their direct experiences with
60 nonconsensual sexual contact while at Cornell. This contact was defined as including:
61 penetration (vaginal or anal penetration, or oral contact; including attempted acts involving
62 physical force) and sexual touching (kissing; touching someone’s breast, chest, crotch, groin, or
63 buttocks; grabbing, groping or rubbing against the other in a sexual way).

64
65 **Whereas**, The survey asked separately about incidents involving four different tactics: the use or
66 threatened use of physical force; incapacitation due to drugs or alcohol; the use of coercion (i.e.,
67 threats of non-physical harm or promises of rewards); and the absence of affirmative consent
68 (i.e., contact that occurred without the student’s knowing, voluntary and ongoing agreement).

69
70 **Whereas**, The 2019 prevalence rates of nonconsensual sexual contact since entering Cornell are
71 lowest among first year and sophomore women (17% and 21%, respectively); compared to 2017
72 results, these rates have remained consistent for first years and dropped among sophomore
73 women.

74
75 **Whereas**, By the spring of their senior year in 2019, 31% of undergraduate women had
76 experienced nonconsensual sexual contact involving force or incapacitation – a figure that is
77 higher than the 27% prevalence rate observed for senior women in 2017. This means that close
78 to one in three undergraduate women at Cornell have experienced nonconsensual sexual contact
79 involving force or incapacitation by the time they are in their final year of studies. Of even
80 greater concern is the prevalence of nonconsensual sexual contact reported by women in the
81 junior year of their undergraduate studies.

82

83 **Whereas,** In the 2019 survey, 38% of female juniors said they had experienced nonconsensual
84 sexual contact involving force or incapacitation since entering Cornell; this compares to 20% of
85 female juniors reporting nonconsensual sexual contact in 2017.

86
87 **Whereas,** Among undergraduate women and men, the most common locations for the
88 nonconsensual sexual contact experience to have occurred were: a residence hall (reported by
89 19% of women and 25% of men), a fraternity chapter house (23% of incidents described by
90 women), a fraternity annex (10% of women), and an off-campus house, apartment or private
91 residence (20% of women and 22% of men).

92
93 **Whereas,** Graduate and professional students most often identified an off-campus house,
94 apartment or private residence (45%) as the location of their nonconsensual sexual contact
95 incident. Among graduate/professional women, residence halls (11%) and a restaurant, bar or
96 club (10%) also figured as common locations.

97
98 **Whereas,** More than half of women and one-quarter of men reported experiencing physical,
99 emotional, or social impacts as a result of the nonconsensual sexual contact incident, the most
100 frequent of which were: feeling numb or detached, fearfulness or safety concerns, decreased
101 social activities, and feelings of helplessness and hopelessness.

102
103 **Whereas,** One quarter of students described experiencing academic or professional impacts,
104 chiefly difficulty concentrating on studies or assignments, and decreased class attendance.
105 Women were more likely to experience these impacts than men (roughly 30% of women and
106 20% of men).

107
108 **Whereas,** Women who experienced nonconsensual sexual contact almost exclusively identified
109 their perpetrator(s) as being men. Seventy percent of undergraduate men and more than half
110 (55%) of graduate/professional men identified their perpetrator(s) as women. The majority of
111 students (87%) described the offender as a Cornell student.

112
113 **Whereas,** Graduate/professional students were more likely than undergraduate students to say
114 the offender was not affiliated with Cornell (e.g., 27% of graduate/professional women did so
115 versus 9% of undergraduate women). When asked about the relationship of the offender to
116 themselves, students most commonly reported the offender was someone known to them, at least
117 casually: someone they had just met (33%), a friend (26%) or acquaintance (19%), or a current
118 intimate partner (18%). Nine percent said the offender was someone they did not know or
119 recognize.

120
121 **Whereas,** Top universities such as Brown University, University of Washington, California
122 State University, Amherst, Wesleyan, University of Portland, and etc. have implemented
123 variations of an Title IX Advisory/Oversight Committee

124
125 **Whereas,** An oversight committee will ensure full University compliance with the external
126 recommendations and take part in the hiring of external review board members. The first audit
127 must begin immediately; particular areas for review will be suggested through an initial list of
128 Title IX failings that has been composed by survivors.

129
130 **Whereas,** There must be the *annual* external review of the current and future holders of the Title
131 IX Coordinator and Title IX Chief Compliance Officer positions.

132
133 **Whereas,** in response to Cornell’s 2019 Sexual Harassment report, Marry Opperman, Vice
134 President and Chief Human Resources Officer said, “It is important to again acknowledge that
135 our community still has considerable work to do to become a safer, more respectful environment
136 where all students can thrive”;¹

137
138 **Whereas,** to cultivate a safer environment for all students, considerable introspective work must
139 be done both within and outside of the Office of Title IX;

140
141 **Be it therefore resolved,** The establishment of the Policy 6.4 (Prohibited Bias, Discrimination,
142 Harassment,and Sexual and Related Misconduct)/Cornell Title IX Oversight and Advisory Board

143
144 **Be it further resolved,** The Policy 6.4 (Prohibited Bias, Discrimination, Harassment,and Sexual
145 and Related Misconduct)/Title IX Oversight and Advisory Board should be charged with the
146 implementation of an institutional cultural change, approach matters through the community
147 perspective, ensure positive compliance with Title IX, the Clery Act, and other laws and
148 regulations related to gender discrimination, sexual harassment, stalking, intimate partner
149 violence and sexual assault.

150
151 **Be it further resolved,**
152 (1) This Oversight and Advisory Board should receive recommendations from and provide
153 guidance to the Title IX Office of Institutional Equity to advance systemic change and overall
154 improvement of campus climate relating to protections provided by Title IX;

155
156 (2) Create a consistent and effective reporting system to the President and other members of the
157 institution’s leadership;

158
159 (3) Establish an overarching strategic plan, including recommended mitigation actions for high
160 priority areas, while encouraging involvement from and cooperation among all units engaged in
161 this important work; as part of the establishment of a strategic plan, initiate a compliance and
162 risk assessment process to evaluate and identify Title IX compliance priorities and topics

163
164 (4) Provide oversight and support as needed in tandem with the implementation and evaluation
165 of the Campus Conduct Code and similar policies.

1 <https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2019/10/survey-finds-sexual-assault-harassment-persist>

2. <https://titleix.cornell.edu/>

3. <https://www.justice.gov/archives/ovw/blog/national-campus-safety-awareness-month-changing-institutional-response-change-statistics>

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Be it further resolved, The appointment of members should be leaders of units that play a significant role in Title IX operations with institution-wide applicability. All members serve by virtue of their office (ex officio), may vote, and may, upon approval by the Title IX Oversight and Advisory Board, appoint a delegate from their unit to attend meetings. The term of each member’s appointment shall be no longer than a period of (1) year, unless otherwise determined by the Board or a request is made by the Executive Committees of one of the Shared Governance bodies to appoint an individual to the Board. The Committee shall meet at least (3) times annually or on an as needed basis.

Be it further resolved, The committee shall be composed of 15 regular members appointed for terms of one academic calendar year. Initial and further appointments will be made for the first year of the committee. The membership will consist of the following: two faculty members appointed by the Faculty Senate; ten undergraduate students appointed by the Undergraduate Student Assembly with at least one of those students being from the Office of the Student Advocate; two graduate students appointed by the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly; and one employee member appointed by the Employee Assembly.

Be it finally resolved, The establishment of this committee is immediately implemented and institutionalized.

Respectfully Submitted,

Uche Chukwukere ‘21
Undesignated Representative At Large, Student Assembly

Gavin Martin ‘20
College of Arts & Sciences, Student Assembly

Masa Haddad ‘21
College of Human Ecology Representative, Student Assembly

Liel Sterling ‘21
Student Advocate, Office of the Student Advocate

Tomás Reuning ‘21
LGBTQIA+ Liaison At-Large, Student Assembly

Colin Benedict ‘21
Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion, Student Assembly
Minority Liaison At-Large, Student Assembly

(Reviewed by: COMMITTEE, VOTE, MM/DD/YYYY)