



Cornell University
Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, March 18, 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, U. Chukwukere, L. Contreras, A. Gleiberman, S. Kapoor, A. Miramontes Serrano, E. Perez, T. Reuning, K. Santacruz, M. Shardow, L. Smith, C. Tempelman, V. Valencia, N. Watson, S. Woldai, V. Xu, Y. Yuan, R. Zohar, L. Zumpano, C. Huang
 - ii. *Members Absent:* K. Butler, C. Castillo, A. Lampert, S. Zverev

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.

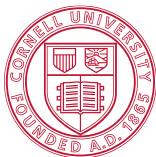
III. Announcements and Presentations

- a. C. Huang stated that the Asian and Asian American Center is holding community processing hour for any member of the Cornell community and anyone is welcome to talk about current events, COVID-19, and Asian American hate crimes.
- b. A. Ononye stated that President Biden just signed into office executive order on guaranteeing an educational environment free from discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual orientation and gender identity. Cornell has decided to extend the reviewing process on Title IX until August in order to take feedback from students, faculty members, and people in the community who want to talk about the new implementation of Title IX and how Cornell is going to change those codes. A. Ononye encouraged anyone interested in providing feedback to fill out the survey and encouraged members to send the survey to their constituents.
 - i. T. Reuning asked how this affect cases currently in process.
 1. A. Ononye stated that the review system that they are using is the old system and assumed it will continue to be used until the final review from the Trustees in August.
- c. DREAM Team Presentation by Marco S and Stella Linardi.
 - i. The purpose of the DREAM team's campaign is to remove Cornell's ties with ICE. Please refer to undocumented immigrants as undocumented immigrants and not illegal immigrants. ICE has a brutal history of relentless policy enforcement through raids, deportations and separations of families. In the United States, for decades, ICE has consistently posed a threat to individuals civil liberties, including but not limited to, fourth amendment protection against unreasonable searches and seizures, the constitutional guarantee of due process and a constitutional guarantee of equal protection



Cornell University Student Assembly

and freedom from discrimination based on race, ethnicity, and national origin. A 2020 report conducted by the ACLU, Human Rights Watch, and the National Immigrant Justice Center also exposed a wide range of human rights abuses occurring in ICE detention centers, including but not limited to, unsanitary living conditions, inadequate or nonexistent medical care, indefinite detainment and general cruel treatment. In September 2020, a whistleblower revealed that ICE has been performing forced and coerced sterilization procedures on immigrants in detention centers. Cornell has multiple contacts for educational and training services and technological equipment through PALANTIR and ANDURIL. There are also connections through on campus recruitment events and Cornell Tech has very close ties and is suspected of providing facial recognition software. Cornell Administration does not share the estimated number of undocumented students on campus and claims not to do so for safety reasons. This is also used as a counterargument, claiming that there aren't enough undocumented students at Cornell so the access to resources is not much of a priority. This ties into dehumanization, where people are thinking of undocumented students as a population or a statistic rather than human beings who deserve an equal opportunity to access to education. Cornell is a home to a community of undocumented students, as well as students of mixed families, as well as international students who would be in danger of ICE if they have trouble with their visas or immigration issues. There is an increased ICE presence at Cornell due to Ithaca Airport expansion and a lack of proper student detainment procedure. The presence of CBP less than three miles from campus increases the risk of deportation and detainment for all undocumented, DACA, and international students, faculty, and staff on campus. The DREAM team is asking for Cornell to abolish all professional, academic, and financial ties with ICE and for Cornell students and faculty to refuse to participate in research funded by DHS. Additionally, the DREAM team is asking for Cornell administration and students to boycott and ban recruitment with entities affiliated with ICE. The DREAM team is also aiming to make Cornell a sanctuary campus, which was actually something discussed in 2016/2017 but was dismissed by the president at that time. The term sanctuary campus refers to any college or university that implements policies to protect students, faculty, and staff who are undocumented immigrants. The actions of sanctuary campus do not conflict with their legal obligations and has been implemented at colleges across the United States. President Pollack has voiced support for undocumented students, faculty, and staff but has done little action to support the communities. Spring 2021 is the first semester that Cornell finally allowed undocumented students to benefit from domestic financial aid funding. CUPD has no formal protocol in the event that a student or member of the Cornell community is detained or deported. The current procedure is unstructured and unreliable. There is no formal legal support for undocumented students attending Cornell University and CUPD relies on an informal and undisclosed system of communication regarding crisis situations involving ICE. Cornell administration has referred to members of the undocumented community as



Cornell University Student Assembly

- “charity cases” and students have threatened to call ICE on their undocumented student peers. Students at Cornell have been recording disclosing their status by fellow students with the intent of exposing the documents. The Tompkins County Sheriff’s deputy called ICE on a man seeking medical attention in 2019 and there were multiple ICE arrests in January of 2018. The increased presences of CBP and ICE interactions have contributed to increased levels of fear, anxiety, and worsening mental health amongst undocumented and even international populations at Cornell.
- ii. A. Miramontes Serrano expressed gratitude for this presentation and asked what criteria ICE uses.
 - 1. S. Linardi stated that the criteria they use for deportation is finding people who are undocumented.
 - iii. L. Smith asked if the DREAM team has had any involvement with the Office of Student Government Relations.
 - 1. S. Linardi explained they have been working with the Cornell committee to support undocumented students.
 - 2. L. Smith stated that the OSGR is interested in working with the DREAM team on these issues and encouraged them to get in contact with J. Mullen, who is the Director of Federal Relations.
 - iv. Z. Sherin asked if there have been any state-run colleges that get federal funding that have been able to boycott another federal agency.
 - 1. S. Linardi stated that Cornell University can be the first.
 - 2. T. Reuning explained that in the presentation, they mentioned that refusing to allow ICE to commit an essentially unjust search and seizure without a valid judicial warrant is not violating federal law.
 - 3. Z. Sherin clarified they were asking more about the boycotting aspect and if any other schools have done that.
 - v. L. Contreras thanked the presenters for their work and asked if there were any resolutions to go along with the presentation.
 - 1. S. Linardi stated that there will be two resolutions presented next week.
- d. Dining Updates from Representative Miramontes Serrano ’24
- i. There were many complaints last summer from freshman constituents on how dining operated last semester. Most freshmen don’t really know how dining works and freshmen representatives received many complaints about what they eat on a day-to-day basis. In an early meeting Rep. Yuan raised the question if it was possible to donate BRBs. In a meeting with Cornell Dining, this was raised but because it is tax less money for the person who purchased the meal plan, it is meant to be used by the person with the meal plan. Additionally, points regarding sustainability have been raised. At the start of last semester, due to COVID-19 guidelines, a majority of the dining halls used plastic containers. Cornell Dining is working on replacing plastic containers with compostable cardboard and ensuring availability at all dining halls, which is currently not true. Current problems with sustainability include disposable plastic cutlery and water cups which generate massive amounts of waste. They suggested replacing these items with compostable replacements that Cornell’s providers do sell for the short term. There have also been



Cornell University Student Assembly

- many complaints regarding variety and vegan-vegetarian options, taste options and the health components. Cornell Dining is working on improving the options and the health components. A. Miramontes Serrano asked the SA for any feedback and opinions to implement initiatives for Cornell Dining.
- ii. M. Shardow stated that they asked for kosher food at Becker Dining and the food was prepared and microwaved. M. Shardow asked if they could make these options more appealing.
 - 1. A. Miramontes Serrano stated that special training for staff and equipment for halal and kosher food which has been difficult.
 - 2. M. Shardow stated that NorthStar had great kosher options last year so it is possible, the food just needs work on being fresh and more appealing.
 - iii. L. Abd Elmagid asked if making the reusable food containers free would make them more accessible to students.
 - 1. A. Miramontes Serrano stated that question had been raised during the meetings and Cornell Dining is fearful that making them free will allow people to throw them away easily and not reuse them like intended.
 - 2. A. Gleiberman stated a good idea could be paying when you receive the container, but when you return the container at the end of the year, you would receive your money back.
 - iv. T. Reuning stated that many of the issues with sustainability have been due the current pandemic, and hoping that the pandemic is over soon, these issues should disappear.
 - 1. A. Miramontes Serrano stated that even if it is just for one year, that is still one year that people have to live through
 - e. L. Smith asked if there was any update on elections.
 - i. W. Treat stated that the calendars are tentatively about 99% ready to go and at this point, everything will be up and running on Monday, March 22.

IV. Open Microphone

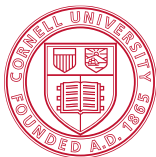
- a. No Speakers present at open microphone.

V. Approval of the Minutes

- a. March 11, 2021
 - i. Motion to approve the March 11^h minutes – **approved** Unanimous Consent

VI. New Business

- a. SA R33: Winter/Summer Term Financial Aid
 - i. Abstract: This resolution recommends that Cornell grant-based aid is expanded to include both summer and winter session enrollment. Currently, grant-based financial aid is only available for fall/spring terms. In the summer/winter terms, student only have aid in the form of work or loans. This resolution would benefit low-income students, especially in light of COVID-19, who may have had to drop courses in light of personal hardships, and students who may be behind on credits necessary to graduate



Cornell University Student Assembly

- on time. We are requesting this adjustment to the financial aid policy be permanently implemented.
- ii. A. Rabin explained that this resolution is focused on financial aid during the winter and summer sessions. Currently, during these sessions, need-based financial aid is not given, it is only given during the fall and spring terms. There is only grant based aid or loan work, which impacts lower income students who received financial aid during the fall and spring terms. The winter and summer terms are often used to lighten workload during normal semesters, maintain academic progress, and can help me a resume booster.
 - iii. S. Kapoor stated they have been working with the Communications Committee to make a stronger case with administration and have reached out to the financial aid office for their feedback and feasibility analysis.
 - iv. A. Gleiberman stated that they believe this is a great initiative that is super important, especially during COVID-19.
 - v. There was a motion the amend the resolution to include A. Gleiberman, N. Watson, M. Shardow, M. Baker, K. Santacruz, C. Templeman, R. Zohar, A. Miramontes Serrano, and L. Zumpano as co-sponsors.
 - 1. Motion to amend Resolution #33 – **amended** Unanimous Consent
 - vi. Z. Sherin asked if in the proposals there credit maximums or minimums will be.
 - 1. S. Kapoor stated that they are still waiting for the financial aid office to get back to them, but they will keep the SA posted.
 - vii. Motion to vote on Resolution #33 – **passed** 20-0-2
- b. SA R34: A Manifesto Calling Upon Cornell to Actionably Support the Asian American Community
- i. Abstract: Calling upon Cornell to actionably support the Asian American community at Cornell by delivering recommendations from the Mental Health Review Final Report, reaffirming funding and academic promise to the Asian American Studies Program (AASP) and ethnic studies at Cornell, reviewing the role of Greek Life and fraternities on campus, reviewing Title IX and the Bias Reporting process, and reconsider the disarmament of the CUPD.
 - ii. C. Huang stated that two days ago there was a shooting in Atlanta, Georgia. A white man specifically targeted massage parlors that were staffed by Asian American woman and shot and killed eight people, included six of whom were Asian American woman. This is just the tipping point of a year of anti-Asian violence and hatred that results in murders, assaults, and general violations of Asian Americans human rights and dignity. This resolution calls upon Cornell to support the Asian American community at Cornell. The first section of the resolution focuses on Mental Health. This is far larger than just Asian American hate crimes that a lot of students are grieving right now, this goes back to the beginning of the pandemic, and it goes back to the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and countless others that leave students grieving for the lives lost. After the Mental Health Review Final Report was released, one of the very basic recommendations is faculty should be required to attend mental health training every two years. It hasn't been implemented at all, the Executive Accountability Committee, which is



Cornell University Student Assembly

in charge of implementing these recommendations have not taken action. Additionally, this recommendation is not enough. Many professors or faculty members assume that issues of mental health can be fixed by a winter or summer break or with the start of the new year, or that the pandemic has been occurring for over a year, so students must be used to it now. Mental Health is increasingly evolving and is important forever. This resolution proposes that faculty should be required to attend mental health training at the beginning of every academic semester. The resolution also proposes the creation of an Asian American Studies major. Cornell's Asian American studies program was one of the first of its kind to be established in 1987, but at Cornell there is no major in this program. In 2016, former SA leaders and Asian American student activists called for the creation of an Asian American Studies major but were ignored by administration. It is incredibly important to teach history and not have it whitewashed. This resolution asked for Cornell to reconsider the Asian American Studies, the Latino/a Studies, and the American Indian Studies majors. This resolution also focuses on how Cornell can protect Asian American woman. Six out of the eight people targeted and killed were Asian American woman who worked in a massage parlor, which also intersects with the industry of sex work and the fetishization of the Asian American female body. This has a very extensive history that goes back centuries of fetishization stereotypes of Asian American woman being submissive or childlike. Asian American woman are 2.3 times more likely to report victimization and accounts of interpersonal violence. In Greek Life, 25% of sexual assault victims are sorority members. Women in sororities are 74% more likely to experience rape than other college women. Fraternity men are three times more likely to commit rape than their non-Greek peers. A study at Cornell found that since entering Cornell, 68.2% of undergraduate women and 51.3% of undergraduate men reported experiencing some form of sexual or gender-based harassment. The most common location for the "most serious nonconsensual contact was an on-campus fraternity house. Again issues of gender justice on campus and sexual assault, and Greek Life spaces all intersect with the mistreatment and racialization of Asian American women. There is also a fraternity that's being allowed back on campus called SAE. It was kicked off campus several years ago, because a student was killed in a hazing incident. This goes back to a long history of hazing and misconduct in Greek Life that resulted in actual student deaths, including Antonio Tsialas who died after attending a dirty rush event at a fraternity last year. SAE specifically is being allowed on back on-campus and this resolution reaffirms that this is inappropriate. It is enabling hazing killings and also sexual assault, where SAE has the nickname "Sexual Assault Expected" as a national nickname. The resolution also asks Cornell to reconsider the disarmament argument, as police continue to fail to protect many of us. Sarah Everard, a woman in the UK, was killed walking home by a police officer, she was killed by a man who was supposed to protect her. Police do not protect woman and police do not protect Asian American people. One incident is the killing of Angelo Quinto, who was a Filipino American man and a Navy veteran,



Cornell University Student Assembly

who sustained a head injury and needed mental health support. His family called police. When the police arrived, they killed him. One put a knee on his neck for 5 minutes while another officer held his leg until he suffocated to death. Another instance of police killing Asian American folks is when police shot Christian Hall, a 19-year-old Chinese American boy who was suffering a mental health crisis, nineteen times. After the incident with the Atlanta shootings, the police captain in charge of the case, Police Captain Jay Barker, excused the actions of the shooter, stating that the shooter was just having a really bad day. This same police officer was found to have posted racist images of China and coronavirus on his Facebook page. The people in power and the police are the same ones who share these racist and deadly sentiments. Cornell's refusal to even consider disarming its police is a statement that Cornell will prioritize the supposed comfort of white students over the literal safety of women, Asian American women, and its BIPOC students. The resolution also asks that Cornell University will require the Office of Sorority & Fraternity Life to review all fraternities and any fraternity accused of sexual harassment or assault should be placed on probation or have its recognition revoked. This resolution also asked for Cornell to reconsider the arguments for disarmament.

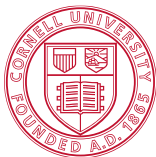
- iii. C. Tempelman asked if the demand asked for the Cornell to consider abolishing all fraternities included cultural and professional fraternities as well as just social fraternities.
 - 1. C. Huang stated the resolution focuses on sexual assault and would be happy to clarify it is referring to IFC.
- iv. Z. Sherin asked what President Pollack said about Resolution #30.
 - 1. C. Huang stated that her explanation is online and would be happy to send the link.
- v. E. Yan stated that as a member of Cornell Greek Life, president of their fraternity, and a Chinese American man that is regrettable that this resolution is exploiting the tragedy to target Greek Life. In their experience, E. Yan stated that Greek Life has been a welcoming and hospitable environment for Asian Americans and made their campus experience better.
 - 1. N. Watson asked any speakers to not ascribe false motives to the sponsors of this resolution.
 - 2. C. Huang stated that this resolution seeks to protect Asian American women, and you cannot say this resolution is exploiting the deaths of Asian American women, who come into these spaces and come out for the worse. As an Asian American man, you may benefit from the privileges and the joys of the fraternity life, but that is not the case for women and that was not the case for Antonio Tsialas. If you refuse to accept that Greek Life is in some way responsible, you are going to have to disprove the statistics that 25% of women encounter sexual assault in these spaces.
- vi. A. Gleiberman asked if C. Huang would consider removing Demand 5, which calls for Cornell to abolish fraternities. A Gleiberman agreed that



Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell should be reviewing these fraternities but stated that it is not necessarily fair to get rid of all fraternities on campus.

1. C. Huang stated they will consider amending the resolution after they hear from the rest of the folks here.
- vii. Y. Yuan stated they believe it is more important to pass a resolution to support Asian American communities and Asian communities. The last thing they want to see is people disagreeing on whether they want to add or remove language. It may be helpful to make the banning of fraternities on a separate resolution.
- viii. L. Abd Elmagid expressed their support for the resolution and gratitude for the presentation by C. Huang. It is really easy to just say they are politicizing things or exploiting the deaths of people to just further political agenda, but this resolution and other actions revolves around what we can do for the people who died. This resolution is what we as college students can do to protect our own Asian American women on campus and our BIPOC women on campus. It is upsetting that Cornell do not already review fraternities. In order to support our own students, we should be advocating for them, instead of burdening another Asian American woman to do the work for us.
- ix. L. Smith stated they understand A Gleiberman's recommendation but stated they supported going ahead with Demand 5 on the resolution. Knowing how the administration acts, fraternities are not going to be abolished today, tomorrow, or even by the end of the semester. As a member of Greek Life, L. Smith does not see the abolish Greek Life necessarily as a direct threat but certainly a challenge that fraternities need to get better and puts extra emphasis on getting a review process.
 1. C. Huang thanked L. Smith for their comments and stated they seriously value their perspective from Greek Life. This resolution is a challenge for us to do better to support Asian American women who are being hurt.
- x. J. Marion stated they are here from IFC and stated that the events in Atlanta were terrible. But it does not make sense to go ahead with an abolitionist argument towards fraternities. It is much better idea to work on the consent training and having them more often. Cornell does take Title IX accusations very seriously, but J. Marion stated that a review process would be welcome to make sure that fraternities are not slipping the cracks.
 1. C. Huang stated they appreciated J. Marion's support for the review process but asked why the abolition framework isn't the place to do. Fraternities have historically enabled and created spaces for assaulters to get away with it. A review process is important, but it is just going to be looking at the things that are happening and that will continue to happen in these spaces Again, C. Huang stated that abolition is not going to happen tomorrow, or this semester, or by the time they graduate, but it is okay to put that challenge out there.
- xi. U. Chukwukere shared their support for this resolution and their support for the conversation of abolishing Greek Life. For Greek Life on campus, the bad has far outweighed the good. As a member of Greek Life and president of the Multicultural Greek Fraternal Council, it is really disheartening to read



Cornell University Student Assembly

about fraternizes hurting people and inflicting harm on people, especially people from marginalized communities.

- xii. T. Reuning stated their support for this resolution and asked members of Greek Life to reflect on the benefits and negative impacts of Greek Life on campus. Clearly, the consent trainings have not been working when the majority of assaults on campus are happening in Greek Life spaces.
- xiii. There was a motion to amend line 34 to include "Asian American students are mourning for their communities, to amend line 115 and 116 to include "Whereas issues of gender justice on campus and in Greek Life spaces all intersect with the mistreatment and racialization of Asian American women;" and lines 168 to 175.
 - 1. Motion to amend – **amended** Unanimous Consent
- xiv. There was a motion to amend the resolution to include Demand 6, which states "Cornell University will require the Office of Sorority and Fraternity Life to perform a yearly review of all fraternities and any fraternity accused of sexual harassment or assault will be placed on probation or have its recognition revoked."
 - 1. Motion to amend – **amended** Unanimous Consent
- xv. There was a motion to amend the resolution to remove Demand 5.
 - 1. There was dissent.
 - 2. Vote to vote – failed
- xvi. There was a motion to amend Demand 5 to state "Request Cornell University review policies and action items over fraternity system, including reform, disband, or abolish to make sure Cornell campus would protect Cornell community, especially Asian and other vulnerable communities."
 - 1. Motion to amend – **amended** Unanimous Consent
- xvii. There was a motion to vote on Resolution 34 with a roll-call vote, but the motion was withdrawn
- xviii. There was a motion to vote on Resolution 34 with a unanimous consent vote.
- xix. Motion to approve Resolution #34 – **passed** Unanimous Consent.

VII. Adjournment

- a. C. Huang adjourned the meeting at 6:22pm (EST).

Respectfully Submitted,

Ciara Shanahan

Clerk of the Student Assembly