

Cornell University Student Assembly

Student Assembly Meeting

AGENDA

February 1, 2024

4:45 - 6:30 p.m.

Memorial Room, Willard Straight Hall/Zoom

[ZOOM](#)

Meeting ID: 927 5625 4940 | Passcode: 411537

1. Call to Order
 2. Reading of the Land Acknowledgment
 3. Announcements
 1. Pre-Open Microphone
 4. Open Microphone
 5. Approval of the Minutes
 6. Consent Calendar
 1. [Resolution 45: Amending the Previously Adopted Authorization of the Transfer of Reserve Funds to Black Students United \(BSU\)](#)
 7. Presentations
 8. Reports
 9. Old Business Calendar
 1. [Resolution 44: Creating an Ad Hoc Committee to Investigate Student Employment and Wages](#)
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2. [Resolution 46: Commending Rahul Verma '24 for his Service to the Student Assembly](#)
3. Resolution 47: Creating an Ad Hoc Committee to Bolster Community Engagement

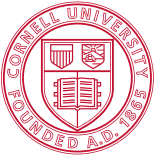
10. Resolutions Calendar

1. [Resolution 48: Supporting the Leadership of President Pollack & Provost Kotlikoff](#)
2. [Resolution 49: Establishing an Ad-hoc committee for Student Engagement](#)
3. [Resolution 50: Creating an Ad Hoc Committee on Cornell University's Corporate Social Responsibility and ESG Policies](#)
4. [Resolution 51: Calling for Cornell to Follow its Divestment Guidelines and Divest from Systemic Violence Against Civilians in Gaza](#)

11. Appointments and Vacancies Calendar

12. Adjournment

If you are in need of special accommodations, contact the Office of the Assemblies at assembly@cornell.edu or Student Disability Services at (607) 254-4545 prior to the meeting.



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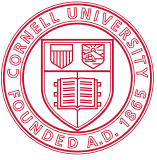
Cornell University's Student Assembly

Minutes of the January 25th, 2023 Meeting

4:45 pm – 6:30 pm

Memorial Room Willard Straight Hall | Zoom

- I. Call to Order
 - a. P. Kuehl called the meeting to order at 4:45pm.
 1. *Members Present (30)*: D. Akkiraju, A. Akpan, L. Balestrieri, L. Barrett, A. Barry, F. Berry, S. Chan, R. DeLorenzo, Z. deRham, D. Diao, K. Everett, C. Flournoy, A. Helkowski, N. Hite, K. Jordan, C. Kim, P. Kuehl, C. Lederman, F. Meng, Y. Moitra, E. Ononye, S. Parikh, I. Rezaka, S. Son, D. Suarez, C. Ting, A. Vinson, A. Wang, B. Terhaar, C. Ting
 2. *Members Absent (2)*: M. Bakri, C. Platkin
 3. *Also Present (11)*: D. Almeda, A. Bangura, A. Coleman, N. Courtney, E. Kalweit, N. Maggard, J. Swenson, R. Verma, J. Wallen, S. Williams, J. Zhang
- II. Reading of the Land Acknowledgement
 - a. P. Kuehl stated the SA's acknowledgment of the Cayuga Nation.
- III. Open Microphones
 - a. There were no speakers.
- IV. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. Approval of the November 30, 2023 meeting minutes
 1. F. Berry motioned to approve the minutes. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
- V. Consent Calendar
 - a. Resolution 45: Amending the Previously Adopted Authorization of the Transfer of Reserve Funds to Black Students United (BSU)
 1. Item was moved to the next agenda.
- VI. Announcements
 - a. P. Kuehl introduced the new Veterans' Representative to the Cornell Student Assembly, David Almeda.
- VII. Reports of Officers, Committees, and Liaisons



Cornell University Student Assembly

a. Committee Reports

1. Executive Board

1. C. Lederman noted interest in incorporating a meeting of all Committee Chairs to stay aligned and supported. C. Lederman noted timeliness in submitting revised Resolutions. C. Lederman noted updates to Committee scheduling. C. Lederman noted an upcoming meeting with Dean Love to glean more into the current concerns of students.
2. R. DeLorenzo noted the upcoming ClubFest.
3. S. Williams introduced herself as Chair of the University Assembly and noted an upcoming feedback and review period on current policy upcoming.

2. Liaisons

1. Y. Moitra gave overview on the University Wellness Council meeting including changes such as a Land Acknowledgement video and progress on subcommittees, which are seeking feedback.

VIII. Presentations

- a. There were no presentations.

IX. Old Business Calendar

- a. There were no items.

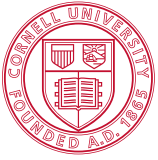
X. Resolutions Calendar

- a. Resolution 44: Creating an Ad Hoc Committee to Investigate Student Employment and Wages
 1. C. Lederman motioned to extend time by 10 minutes. The motion **failed**.
- b. Resolution 46: Commending Rahul Verma '24 for his Service to the Student Assembly
 1. Item was moved to the next agenda.
- c. Resolution 47: Creating an Ad Hoc Committee to Bolster Community Engagement
 1. Item was moved to the next agenda.

XI. Appointments and Vacancies Calendar

- a. A. Vinson motioned to move into Executive Session. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.

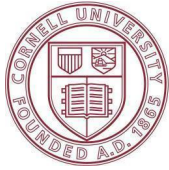
XII. Adjournment



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- a. This meeting was adjourned at 6:42pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jenny Zhang
Clerk of the Assembly



Resolution 44: Creating an *Ad Hoc* Committee to Investigate Student Employment and Wages

Abstract: This resolution establishes an *ad hoc* committee to investigate and recommend changes to practices involving student employment and wages at Cornell University.

Sponsored by: Suraj Parikh, '24; JP Swenson '25; Clyde Lederman '26

Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 01/22/2024

Type of Action: Internal Policy

Originally Presented: 01/25/2024

Current Status: New Business

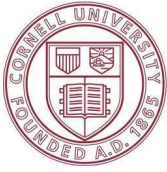
Whereas, the Charter of the Student Assembly grants the Assembly the “authority and the responsibility to examine any matters which involve the interests or concern the welfare of the student community;

Whereas, the Office of Financial Aid and Student Employment has released the following data to the Assembly regarding student employment by the university during Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023):

- 9,877 undergraduate students were employed by the University
- Student employees were paid an average of \$15.61 per hour
- Student employees worked an average of 170.64 hours total
- Student employees collectively worked 1,685,381.59 hours total
- The total cost of undergraduate student employment to the University was \$26,309,341.63

Be it therefore resolved, that there be established an *ad hoc* committee known as the “Committee on Student Employment and Wages”, which shall be charged with collaborating with the Office of Financial Aid and Student Employment to issue a report and subsequently implement recommendations to improve the terms of student employment at Cornell;

Be it further resolved, that Committee on Student Employment and Wages shall be composed of no more than twelve members, at least half of whom shall be members of the Assembly, and two-thirds of whom shall be employed or have been employed by the University;



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Be it further resolved, that the President of the Assembly shall appoint a chair and members of the committee;

Be it further resolved, that the Committee shall produce a final report to the Assembly and undergraduate population containing the aforementioned recommendations, and any other information it sees fit, no later than March 15, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suraj Parikh '24

Vice-President of External Affairs, Student Assembly

Minority Students At-Large Liaison, Student Assembly

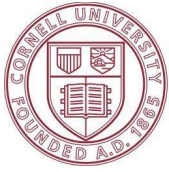
JP Swenson '25

Student-Elected Trustee, Cornell University

Clyde Lederman '26

Vice President of Internal Operations, Student Assembly

Representative At-Large, Student Assembly



Resolution 45: Amending the Previously Adopted Authorization of the Transfer of Reserve Funds to Black Students United (BSU)

Abstract: This resolution amends the authorization of reserve funds for a February 2024 trip to Washington, D.C. for Black Students United (BSU) to reflect updated financials.

Sponsored by: Aissatou Barry '24, George Rocco DeLorenzo '24, Clyde Lederman '26

Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 01/25/2024, 6-0-0

Type of Action: Internal Policy

Originally Presented: 01/25/2024

Current Status: Reported on to the Resolutions Calendar

Whereas, the Student Assembly authorized in Resolution 43 (AY 2023-2024) that the amount \$24,378 be transferred from the reserve account of the Student Assembly to the Black Students United (BSU), a registered student organization, for a trip to Washington, D.C. in February 2024;

Whereas, updated estimates from BSU indicate the trip will cost \$20,044, instead of \$24,378 as previously estimated;

Whereas, BSU has requested the Student Assembly amend the previously adopted resolution to reflect these updated financials.

Resolved,

1. In Resolution 43 (AY 2023-2024) the text "\$24,378" be struck and the text "\$20,044" be inserted in the place of the struck text; and
2. The Student Assembly commends Black Students United for their economizing.

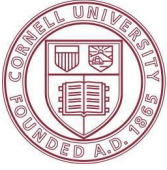
Respectfully Submitted,

Aissatou Barry '24

Vice President for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Student Assembly

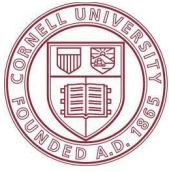
George Rocco DeLorenzo '24

Vice President of Finance, Student Assembly



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- 31 Clyde Lederman
- 32 *Vice President for Internal Operations*, Student Assembly



Resolution 46: Commending Rahul Verma '24 for his Service to the Student Assembly

Abstract: This resolution commends Rahul Verma '24 for his service to the Student Assembly as Director of Elections.

Sponsored by: Patrick Kuehl '24, George Rocco DeLorenzo '24, Claire Ting '25, Clyde Lederman '26

Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 01/23/2024, 6-0-0

Type of Action: Internal Policy

Originally Presented: 01/25/2024

Current Status: Reported on to the Resolutions Calendar

Whereas, Rahul Verma has served as effectively as Director of Elections and as an *ex-officio* member of the Executive Committee for the Spring Semester 2023 and the Fall Semester 2024;

Whereas, during his service as Director of Elections, Director Verma oversaw the Spring 2023 elections for Student Assembly and undergraduate members of the University Assembly, managed the adjudication of numerous complex challenges, and secured voter turnout in excess of 15%;

Whereas, Director Verma management of the 2024 Fall Elections resulted in the highest turnout in a Freshman Representative election since before 2020;

Whereas, Rahul has skillfully navigated and maintained strong election integrity, even though unprecedented challenges that have emerged;

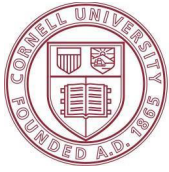
Be it therefore resolved, the Student Assembly proudly commends Rahul Verma for his service to the Student Assembly and Cornell University; and

Be it finally resolved, the Student Assembly wishes Director Verma the best wishes in academic and professional career.

Respectfully Submitted,

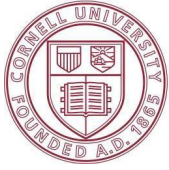
Patrick Kuehl '24

President, Student Assembly



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- 29 George Rocco DeLorenzo '24
- 30 *Vice President of Finance*, Student Assembly
- 31
- 32 Claire Ting '25
- 33 *Executive Vice President*, Student Assembly
- 34
- 35 Clyde Lederman '26
- 36 *Vice President for Internal Operations*, Student Assembly



Resolution 48: Supporting the Leadership of President Pollack & Provost Kotlikoff

Abstract: This resolution affirms the Student Assembly’s support for the leadership of President Pollack, Provost Kotlikoff, Vice President Ryan Lombardi, and Dean Marla Love.

Sponsored by: Patrick Kueh '24, Clyde Lederman

Reviewed by: Executive Cabinet, 01/29/2024, 9-0-0

Type of Action: Sense-of-the-Body

Originally Presented: 02/01/2024

Current Status: Reported on to the Resolutions Calendar

Whereas, the Cornell University Student Assembly recognizes the extraordinary challenges faced by our nation during times of national turmoil;

Whereas, President Martha E. Pollack, Provost Michael I. Kotlikoff, Vice President Ryan Lombardi, and Dean Marla Love have prioritized the well-being and safety of the Cornell community, implementing measures to address the unique challenges posed by the national turmoil; and

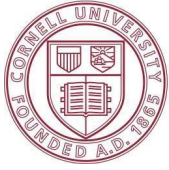
Whereas, these University leaders have worked collaboratively with our institutions of shared governance to navigate these turbulent times;

Be it therefore resolved, The Assembly supports the current and ongoing leadership of President Martha Pollack and Provost Michael Kotlikoff;

Resolved, The Assembly sincerely thanks Vice President Ryan Lombardi and Dean Marla Love for their steadfast and reliable leadership during these times of national turmoil;

Resolved, The President and Provost continue to represent the best interests of our community of students, faculty, and staff in navigating the complexities of current social and political times and in supporting the academic mission of our university where “...any person...any study” is our lived motto;

Resolved, The Assembly believes that under their leadership, this mission, our academic freedom, and freedom of expression co-exist; issues that arise are being addressed through open, honest, and respectful discourse with the faculty and students and shared governance institutions; and



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30 **Resolved,** All Cornellians should strongly reject calls for a change of leadership at Cornell
31 University.ⁱ

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33 **Respectfully Submitted,**

34 Patrick Kuehl '24

35 *President, Student Assembly*

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37 Clyde Lederman '26

38 *Vice President for Internal Operations, Student Assembly*

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ⁱ The text of the resolving clauses is courtesy of Eve De Rosa, Dean of Faculty.

Resolution 49: Establishing an Ad-hoc committee for Student Engagement

Abstract: Promoting community engagement under the Freedom of Expression Theme Year, this Committee will organize guest speakers to visit campus as individuals or panelists and speak on their topics of expertise. In addition, these speakers will answer student questions and address student interests. This series is intended to encourage campuswide freedom of expression and increase student engagement with their academic community.

Sponsored by: Patrick Kuehl '24, Shelby Williams '25, Zora deRham '27, Amida Akpan '25, Christian Flournoy '27, Flora Meng '27

Type of Action: Internal Policy

Originally Presented: 1/25/24

Current Status: New Business

Whereas, the 2023-2024 academic year theme is “Freedom of Expression”, and this ad hoc Committee will bring speakers from outside of the Cornell community to support this theme.

Whereas the Committee will run within the purview of the Student Assembly, and each speaker event and every speaker shall be introduced by the chair of the Committee and the Student Assembly President.

Whereas, the Cornell University Student Assembly has many resources to promote student engagement with such guest speakers. By utilizing them through this series, student education and community engagement will be increased.

Whereas, it is requested that the Committee be allocated \$10,000 from the Student Assembly Reserve Account for hosting speakers, advertising events, and granting free admission for the Cornell community.

Whereas, any and all funds unused by the Committee will be transferred and returned to the greater Student Assembly upon the dissolution of the Committee.

Be it therefore resolved that, an ad hoc Committee for the organization of a Cornell University Student Assembly speaker series for the Spring 2024 semester is created with a funding allocation of \$10,000 from the Student Assembly Reserve Account.

- 29 **Respectfully Submitted,**
30 Patrick Kuehl '24
31 *President of the Student Assembly*
- 32 Shelby Williams, '25
33 *Chair, University Assembly*
- 34 Zora deRham, '27
35 *Freshman Representative, Student Assembly*



Resolution 50: Creating an Ad Hoc Committee on Cornell University's Corporate Social Responsibility and ESG Policies

Abstract: This resolution creates an ad hoc committee to draft a report on the University's CSR and ESG policies related to the University's endowment.

Sponsored by: Patrick Kuehl '24, Clyde Lederman '26, Suraj Parikh '24

Reviewed by: DEI Committee, 01/30/2024, 11-0-0

Type of Action: Internal Policy

Originally Presented: 02/01/2024

Current Status: Introduced

Whereas, the Charter of the Student Assembly grants the Assembly the “authority and the 12 responsibility to examine any matters which involve the interests or concern the welfare 13 of the student community;

Whereas, Cornell University is committed to upholding ethical standards and values in all aspects 15 of its operations;

Whereas, corporate social responsibility (CSR) and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) 17 policies play a crucial role in shaping the University's impact on society and the 18 environment;

Whereas, An examination of Cornell University's endowment policies in relation to CSR and ESG 20 principles is essential to ensure alignment with the institution's values and goals;

Whereas, Establishing a committee to evaluate Cornell's current CSR and ESG practices will 22 contribute to transparency, accountability, and institutional responsibility;

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Cornell Student Assembly hereby creates the “Ad Hoc 24 Committee on University Environmental, Social, and Governance Policies”, which shall 25 be tasked with examining and drafting a report on Cornell University's corporate social 26 responsibility and environmental, social, and governance policies related to its 27 endowment;



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Resolved, The Committee shall be composed of no more than twelve members, at least half of whom shall be members of the Assembly;

Resolved, The President of the Assembly shall appoint a chair and members of the committee;

Resolved, The Ad Hoc Committee shall conduct a review of Cornell University's current corporate social responsibility and environmental, social, and governance policies as they pertain to the endowment, and assess the extent to which these policies align with the university's values and broader societal expectations;

Resolved, The Committee in its investigations and recommendations shall be mindful of the diversity in race, color, religion, sex, and national origin of the undergraduate student population;

Resolved, The Ad Hoc Committee shall compile its findings and present a comprehensive report to the Cornell Student Assembly, which shall include recommendations for potential improvements in CSR and ESG policies to better align with ethical and sustainable practices; and

Resolved, The Committee is encouraged to collaborate with relevant university departments, faculty members, and external experts to gather diverse perspectives and expertise.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick Kuehl '24

President, Student Assembly

Clyde Lederman '26

Vice President for Internal Operations, Student Assembly

Suraj Parikh '24

Vice President for External Affairs, Student Assembly



Resolution 51: Calling for Cornell to Follow its Divestment Guidelines and Divest from Systemic Violence Against Civilians in Gaza

Abstract: This resolution calls upon the Board of Trustees to divest from companies complicit in committing ‘morally reprehensible actions,’ including perpetrating plausible genocide, maintaining an apartheid state in Occupied Palestine, and perpetuating systemic cruelty to children throughout Palestine during the war.

Sponsored by: Jewish Voice for Peace, Students for Justice in Palestine, Cornell Young Democratic Socialists of America, Cornell Progressives, People’s Organizing Collective Cornell, Climate Justice Cornell, La Asociación Latina, MEChA, Native American and Indigenous Students at Cornell, Black Student United

Reviewed by: DEI Committee, 01/31/2024, 6-5-1

Type of Action: Resolution

Originally Presented: 02/01/2024

Current Status: Presented

Whereas, in 2016, the Board of Trustees approved a ‘[Standard and Process for Review of Divestment Requests](#)’ in which the university must consider divesting from companies that, through their “action or inaction,” partake in “morally reprehensible activities” such as “apartheid, genocide, human trafficking, slavery, and systemic cruelty to children” and perpetuate “harm so grave that it would be inconsistent with the goals and principles of the University,”

Whereas, the [University Policy 4.6: Standards of Ethical Conduct](#) states that “[a]ll executive officers, trustees, faculty, principal investigators, staff, student employees, and others acting on behalf of the university have a responsibility to ensure that all funds received are used prudently [and] ethically,”

Whereas, at the time of writing, the [UNRWA reports](#) that state of Israel’s invasion of Gaza during the war has killed more than 23,700 people since October 7, 2023, with 61,000 people having been injured and over 1.9 million of Gaza’s 2.3 million person population having been displaced,



Whereas, according to the [International Court of Justice](#), “At least some of the acts and omissions alleged by South Africa to have been committed by the state of Israel in Gaza appear to be capable of falling within the provisions of the [Genocide] Convention,” amounting to the court finding the accusation of genocide to be plausible,

Whereas, [Amnesty International](#), [Human Rights Watch](#), and the [United Nations](#) have all described the Israeli occupation as an apartheid state,

Whereas, in the course of its occupation of Palestinian land, [Save the Children](#) reports that the state of Israel has systematically prosecuted hundreds of Palestinian children per year in military courts, holding them without trial where they are frequently subjected to sexual, psychological, and physical violence in Israeli prisons,

Whereas, Cornell in its [2019 core values](#) claims a commitment to “learning, teaching, scholarship, and innovation” that is directly contradicted by its partnerships with and investments in the companies complicit in the [destruction of all seven of Gaza’s universities](#), the [murder of ninety-four university professors](#), and the [interruption of the education of 625,000 school-age Palestinian children](#),

Whereas, Cornell’s theme of “[Freedom of Expression](#)” for the 2023-24 academic year directly contradicts its partnerships with and investments in companies complicit in the [murders of over one hundred journalists](#),

Whereas, the inconsistencies between the harm that the following companies perpetuate and Cornell’s stated core values constitute grounds for the consideration of divestment,

Whereas, there is precedent for socially responsible divestment from companies complicit in morally reprehensible acts, such as Cornell University’s [moratorium on fossil fuel investments](#) in May 2022 and the [liquidation of Cornell’s holdings in Sudan](#) (including government bonds and oil company stocks) in light of the Sudanese government’s involvement in genocide in 2006,

Whereas, Cornell University holds portfolio and direct investments in corporations that profit from Israel’s military occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, thereby making Cornell complicit in human rights abuses and violations of international law,

Whereas, Cornell University has [partnerships with weapons manufacturers](#) including BAE Systems, Boeing, and Lockheed Martin, each of which produces weapons used by the state of Israel’s military that have caused unprecedented harm to the civilians in Gaza,

Whereas, [The Nation](#) detailed Cornell University’s [partnership with the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology](#) (which contributes directly to the research and development of geospatial,



intelligence, and weapons technologies used by the Israeli military) at the Cornell Tech campus in New York City,

Whereas, Cornell University, as a result of these institutional and financial ties, does not currently take a neutral position on the occupation of the Palestinian Territories, which as a result, has harmed affected students, staff, and faculty,

Whereas, the following illustrative and non-exhaustive list of corporations—which Cornell invests in and profits from—participate actively in the abuses and violations that constitute the aforementioned claims of plausible genocide, apartheid, and systemic cruelty toward children,

Whereas, [BAE Systems](#) provides munitions, missile launching kits, combat aircraft and armored vehicles used by the Israeli military in the mass destruction of homes and civilian infrastructure,

Whereas, [Boeing](#) manufactures attack helicopters, combat aircraft, missiles, bombs and battlefield laser systems for the Israeli army, as well as intelligence and surveillance systems that are used to surveil Palestinian civilians in Occupied Palestine,

Whereas, [General Dynamics](#) supplies weapon systems and components for Israeli armored combat and personnel vehicles, as well as bombs that are used indiscriminately in crowded residential areas,

Whereas, [L3Harris Technologies](#) components are integrated into multiple weapon systems used by the Israeli military, including Israel's air-to-ground bombs as well as its main warplanes, battle tanks, and warships,

Whereas, [Leonardo SpA](#) provides the 72mm and 76mm guns which are installed on Israeli warships that maintain the naval blockade on Gaza, which has been ongoing since 2007 and constitutes collective punishment,

Whereas, [Lockheed Martin](#) supplies the Israeli government with fighter jets, attack helicopters, and Hellfire missiles,

Whereas, [Northrop Grumman](#) provides missiles that are integrated into Israeli warships, attack helicopters, and fighter jets, among other weapons,

Whereas, [RTX](#) supplies the state of Israel with missiles and bombs that are used against crowded residential areas, as well as weapon systems, components, and maintenance services to the Israeli Air Force,

Whereas, [ThyssenKrupp](#) makes a multitude of weapons and vehicles for the Israeli military, including but not limited to submarines, warships, naval electronics, towers for battle tanks and artillery guns, and machine gun mountings



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Whereas, Cornell's failure to begin the process for divestment from the aforementioned companies is a breach of the Board of Trustees' Standard and Process for Review of Divestment Requests,

Whereas, peer institutions across the United States, such as [Brown University](#), [Stanford University](#), the [University of California at Berkeley](#), the [University of Michigan](#), [Northwestern University](#), and the [University of Chicago](#) have passed resolutions to divest from companies that profit from the plausible genocide, apartheid, and systematic cruelty to children in Occupied Palestine,

Be it therefore resolved, that Cornell University must execute its 2016 'Standard and Process for Review of Divestment Requests' in which the university must consider divesting from companies that, through their "action or inaction," partake in "morally reprehensible activities" such as "apartheid, genocide, human trafficking, slavery, and systemic cruelty to children" to perpetuate "harm so grave that it would be inconsistent with the goals and principles of the University,"

Be it further resolved, that Cornell University will examine its assets for investments in the aforementioned companies,

Be it further resolved, that Cornell University will make information about all of its assets public, pertaining especially to its investment managers and the funds that they operate, as well as a list of institutional holdings,

Be it further resolved, that Cornell University will end any corporate partnerships with the aforementioned companies,

Be it finally resolved, Cornell University will establish a comprehensive ban on any research and development of technologies used by the Israeli armed forces at the Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute at Cornell Tech.

Respectfully Submitted,

Name 'XX

Position, Student Assembly