



# Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(11/16/2017)
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

1 S.A. Resolution #21  
2 A Proposal for a Queer-Inclusive Housing Option

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4 ABSTRACT: This resolution calls for the creation of a queer-inclusive program house to benefit all  
5 queer individuals at Cornell.

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7 **Sponsored by: Ian Wallace '20 and Joseph Anderson '20**

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9 **Whereas**, Cornell University has a long tradition of queer advocacy since the founding of the first queer  
10 student organization in 1968, and;

11 **Whereas**, the founding of this queer student organization made Cornell University the second ever  
12 college campus in the nation to have a queer student organization, and;

13 **Whereas**, in 1992 and 1993, Joseph Barrios the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual At-Large Representative to the  
14 Student Assembly passed a resolution calling for the creation of a similar queer-inclusive program house,  
15 and;

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17 **Whereas**, these resolutions were denied by then President Rhodes both times, an insult to the queer  
18 community, and;

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20 **Whereas**, The Cornell LGBT Resource Center (LGBTRC), founded in 1994, is the only center founded  
21 at Cornell specifically to support queer students, faculty, and staff, and;

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23 **Whereas**, The Cornell LGBT Resource Center does not have sufficient resources to accommodate and  
24 support all queer members of the Cornell community, and;

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26 **Whereas**, the number of queer spaces available to queer individuals at Cornell and Ithaca is not currently  
27 sufficient, and;

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29 **Whereas**, the political climate has fostered the expression of various forms of hatred and bigotry and  
30 therefore has created a hostile national climate for many queer individuals, and;

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32 **Whereas**, this climate has translated into many acts of bias and hatred against queer individuals at  
33 Cornell, and;

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35 **Whereas**, the process of “coming out” to roommates may place many queer individuals in hostile or  
36 uncomfortable living situation, and;

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38 **Whereas**, Cornell University and Residential Student Congress is committed to creating and maintaining  
39 an atmosphere of diversity and inclusion on this campus, and;

40 **Whereas**, Cornell University and Residential Student Congress acknowledges, through their commitment  
41 to diversity and inclusion, the needs of all students, and;

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43 **Whereas**, queer students, despite the University's commitment to inclusion, still feel unempowered  
44 and disenfranchised, are exposed to hate speech, and are disconnected from their cultural heritage due to  
45 a lack of administrative support, and;

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47 **Whereas**, it is essential for queer students to connect with their peers, their heritage, and their community  
48 in order to facilitate the development of a strong sense of personal and cultural identity, and;

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50 **Whereas**, visibility of queer folks is essential to their efforts to dispel myths, shatter stereotypes, and  
51 engender a greater feeling of mutual respect and understanding in society at large, and;

52  
53 **Whereas**, Cornell University has implemented a gender-inclusive housing policy, which has been  
54 successful, and;

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56 **Whereas**, this gender-inclusive housing policy has not been sufficient in providing inclusive housing  
57 options to all queer individuals, and;

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59 **Whereas**, a queer-inclusive program house would be able to support all queer individuals and be able to  
60 supplement the Cornell LGBT Resource Center in providing more dedicated spaces to queer individuals,  
61 and;

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63 **Whereas**, this model of queer-inclusive program houses has been extremely successful at peer institutions  
64 including, Dartmouth College and Tufts University, and;

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66 **Whereas**, currently Vice President Student and Campus Life Ryan Lombardi and many individuals of the  
67 Cornell community are involved in the implementation of the Housing Master Plan, and;

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69 **Whereas**, the implementation of the Housing Master Plan allows for the strategic implementation of a  
70 queer-inclusive program house, and;

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72 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Residential Student Congress endorses and wishes to implement the  
73 following proposal to create a queer-inclusive program house, and;

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75 **Be it further resolved**, the creation of the program house be implemented with the consultation of queer  
76 individuals including, but not limited to, a representative of Residential Student Congress, the LGBTQ+  
77 Liaison At-Large of the Student Assembly, the President and representatives of Haven: the LGBTQ  
78 Student Union, queer or ally staff members in Residential and New Student Programs, a representative of  
79 the LGBT Resource Center, and anyone else deemed necessary, and;

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81 **Be it finally resolved**, that copy of this resolution be forwarded to Vice President of Student and Campus  
82 Life Ryan Lombardi, Dean of Students Vijay Pendakur, the Executive Director of Campus and  
83 Community Engagement Joseph Burke, Director of Residential and New Student Programs, Lindsay  
84 Hansen, and all others deemed important by the Residential Student Congress Executive Board.

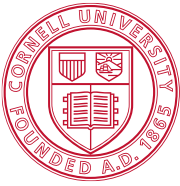
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86 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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- 88 Ian Wallace '20  
89 *LGBTQ+ Liaison At-Large, Student Assembly*  
90  
91 Joseph Anderson '20  
92 *Vice President, Residential Student Congress*  
93 *Undergraduate Representative, University Assembly*  
94  
95 Lavanya Aprameya '19  
96 *President, Haven the LGBTQ Student Union*  
97  
98 Alfie Rayner '19  
99 *Vice President, Haven the LGBTQ Student Union*  
100  
101 Mayra Valadez '18  
102 *Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion, Student Assembly*  
103 *Co-President, First Generation Student Union*  
104  
105 Marco Peralta-Ochoa '21  
106 *Freshmen Representative, Student Assembly*  
107 *Freshmen Representative, La Asociación Latina*  
108  
109 Savanna Lim '21  
110 *Freshmen Representative, Student Assembly*  
111  
112 Caitlin Gleason '18  
113 *President, Panhellenic Council*  
114  
115 Andrew Lord '18  
116 *President, Interfraternity Council*  
117  
118 Dean Xu '18  
119 *President, International Student Union*  
120  
121 Dara Tokunboh '19  
122 *College of Arts and Science Representative, Student Assembly*  
123  
124 Meghna Srivastava '19  
125 *Treasurer, Haven the LGBTQ Student Union*  
126  
127 Dylan Tarbox '18  
128 *Facilitator, OUTreach*  
129  
130 Akila Prayaga '18



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- 131 *Facilitator, Lavender*  
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133 **Connie Chen '19**  
134 *Facilitator, MOSAIC the QPOC Support Group*  
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136 **Kevin Bootes '18**  
137 *Facilitator, MOSAIC the QPOC Support Group*  
138  
139 **Kianna Early '18**  
140 *President, Residential Student Congress*  
141  
142 **Brianna Barrett '18**  
143 *President, Multicultural Greek Letter Council*  
144  
145 **Matthew Anticoli '20**  
146 *Panelist, Peer Educators of Gender and Sexuality*  
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148 **Jesse Pollard '18**  
149 *College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Representative, Student Assembly*  
150  
151 **Adam Cohen '19**  
152 *Media, Haven the LGBTQ Student Union*  
153  
154 **Andrew Vinegar '18**  
155 *Facilitator, OUTreach*  
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157 **Tomas De Las Casas '20**  
158 *Facilitator, OUTreach*  
159  
160 **James Burke '18**  
161 *Executive Board Member, oSTEM*  
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163  
164 *(Reviewed by: Residential Student Congress, 37-0-2, 11/13/2017)*