

Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(04/01/2021)
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #45 Petition to Renew Housing Amenities

ABSTRACT: Demand to renew outdated facilities in on-campus residences, specifically targeting communal kitchens and bathrooms.

Sponsored by: Andrea Miramontes Serrano '24

Whereas, Cornell University is directing funds to build more modern housing facilities while there are pre-existing residence halls with lacking or outdated installations,

Whereas, Cornell University owned housing rates are more costly than apartment rentals¹, yet often do not provide better accommodations, as is the case of the older residence halls,

Whereas, frequented communal spaces constitute a part of the student's living environment and highly contribute to the students' social experiences, which are crucial for their mental wellbeing

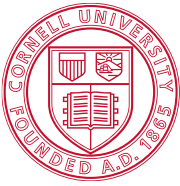
Whereas, regarding communal kitchens, there is an increasing amount of students who rather cook their meals, and thus partly depend on kitchen amenities for their nutrition, and whereas in both usual and in current circumstances, students cook as a recreational, community-fostering activity

Whereas, the Mental Health Review Final Report published in April 2020 identified student feedback suggesting that finances are a major source of stress, and whereas primary factor when dropping Cornell Dining's meal plan is not necessarily convenience but the cost and financial advantage of cooking one's own food, and

Whereas, said report also identified student feedback suggesting a desire for multicultural competency, and likewise further concluded that "Progress in providing students with equitable access to and experience with the abundant offerings of the institution must accompany Cornell's progress in cultivating a more diverse student body.", and

Whereas, alongside with seeking inexpensive experiences, Section B of said report also disclosed the need for promoting social connectedness and resilience, and whereas Cornell University aims its public living centers to foster such qualities and experiences

¹ Comparison: \$1200 per month as opposed to an average of \$1000 per month for the location in College town closest the University.



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Whereas, obsolete amenities are less likely to be used, and will therefore likely fail to facilitate student encounter or fail to host the development of the tight, diverse communities that students need to feel accepted and enjoy their college experience

Whereas, obsolete amenities and lack of enjoyable living spaces are also major factors of students' deciding to live off-campus,

Whereas, in some cases the obsolescence of the kitchen equipment and amenities causes malfunction, and - for the common example of sinks – result in unpleasant incidents such as clogs and odors,

Whereas, some residence halls also have obsolete bathrooms that could be renovated to improve students' living conditions and match the installations of the newer residences, and

Whereas,

Be it therefore resolved, that Cornell University renew and re-emphasize the importance of communal amenities in its on-campus housing, particularly with regards to bathrooms and kitchens, with the additional task of reequipping the latter.

Be it further resolved, for future housing projects, more abundant and attractive communal spaces be strategically located to foster community growth and student encounter, likewise aiming for larger kitchens.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea Miramontes Serrano '24
Freshman Representative, Student Assembly

(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 3-1-2, 04/21/2021)