

Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(1/31/2019)
Type of Action:	Sense-of-the-Body
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #25

Expressing Student Assembly Support for Climate Change Literacy in Solidarity with the University and Employee Assemblies

ABSTRACT: This resolution -- in solidarity with the University and Employee Assemblies, which have adopted similar resolutions -- expresses the Student Assembly's support on promoting climate change literacy among undergraduate students and requests that the SA be a central component of furthering Cornell's commitment to environmental responsibility and sustainability.

Sponsors: Grace Hannah Park '19, Jaewon Sim '21

Whereas, climate change is a global issue with negative impacts -- evidence for which are supported by science and cross-disciplinary studies -- requiring extraordinary mitigation and adaptation in order to limit further damage,

Whereas, the Cornell University Senior Leaders Climate Action Group's September 2016 analysis of solutions to achieve a carbon neutral campus by 2035 has identified "ensur[ing] that all students, and ideally all members of the campus community, have a basic literacy in climate change, including an understanding of their influence on climate and climate's influence on them and society" as one of the "Solutions for Today",

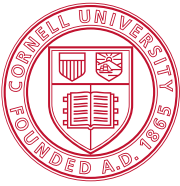
Whereas, the aforementioned working group further emphasized the importance of promoting climate change literacy by stating that an "educated community will implement campus conservation programs and innovate new solutions",

Whereas, the Employee Assembly (EA) adopted -- and President Martha Pollack acknowledged -- EA Resolution #11: Promoting Staff Participation in Cornell Campus Climate Change Literacy Goals on April 4th, 2018,

Whereas, the University Assembly (UA) recognized the importance of the aforementioned resolution by adopting UA Resolution #17: In Support of Cornell Employee Assembly Resolution #11: Promoting Staff Participation in Cornell Campus Climate Change Literacy Goals,

Whereas, according to EA Resolution #11, a climate-literate person is a person who understands the essential principles of Earth's climate system, knows how to assess scientifically-credible information about climate, communicates about climate and climate change in a meaningful way, and is able to make informed and responsible decisions with regard to actions that may affect climate and,

Whereas, environmental and climate literacy plays a crucial part in envisioning and building a sustainable future and will act as an engine for creating green citizens and advancing green technologies and renewable energy and current and future undergraduate students at Cornell will graduate and move out into the world to become leaders and be provided with opportunities to make environmentally conscious and responsible decisions for their respective organizations,



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45 Be it therefore resolved, that along with the UA, the Student Assembly strongly supports the
46 aforementioned EA Resolution 11,
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48 Be it further resolved, that the Student Assembly supports the university's initiatives and efforts to
49 increase climate change literacy among students and the broader Cornell community,
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51 Be it further resolved, that the Student Assembly encourages undergraduates to engage in existing
52 curricular activities that promote climate change literacy and sustainability, such as but not limited to
53 courses within the Climate Change, and Environmental and Sustainability Sciences minors,
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55 Be it further resolved, that the Student Assembly reaffirms its support for student-led organizations
56 that host extracurricular activities that focus on improving climate change literacy, and sustainability
57 literacy,
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59 Be it finally resolved, that the Student Assembly respectfully asks the university president to be
60 involved in any further university-led discussions and committees on climate change literacy and that
61 undergraduate input is incorporated into any related policy-making processes.

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63 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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65 Mitchell Lee '19
66 Co-Facilitator, Cornell Environmental Collaborative (ECO)

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68 Grace Hannah Park '19
69 Chair, Student Assembly Environmental Committee
70 College of Architecture, Art, and Planning Representative, Student Assembly

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72 Jaewon Sim '21
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74 College of Arts and Sciences Representative, Student Assembly

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76 *(Reviewed by: Environmental Committee, 6-0-1, 1/29/2019)*