

Cornell University
Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Agenda of the Thursday, November 10, 2016 Meeting
4:45pm-6:30pm in 120 PSB

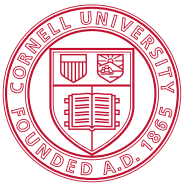
- I. Call to Order & Roll Call**
- II. Approval of the Meeting Minutes**
 - a. Minutes of the November 3rd Meeting
- III. Open Microphone**
- IV. Announcements and Reports**
 - a. VP McBride
 - b. President Berger
 - c. EVP Indimine
 - d. Rep Reichel
 - e. VP PR Liu
 - f. VP Finance Li
 - g. Rep Cox
 - h. Rep Kasher
 - i. Rep Issur
 - j. Rep Magloire
- V. Initiatives**
 - a. Diversity Requirement- Trustee Bhandari & Rep Reichel
- VI. Housing Master Plan Presentation- VP Lombardi, 5:15pm**
- VII. Business of the Day**
 - a. Resolution 17: Endorsing “The Ithaca Plan: A Public Health and Safety Approach to Drugs and Drug Policy”
 - i. Appendix: The Ithaca Plan

VIII. New Business

- a. Resolution 19: Recommending Uniformity in Faculty Laptop Policies
- b. Resolution 20: Student Assembly's Support for and Input on "Options for Achieving Carbon Neutral Campus by 2035"

IX. Executive Session

- i. Internal Election: Chair of SA Investigative Committee on Membership Reform
- ii. Internal Election: Appropriations Committee Member



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(11/3/16)
Type of Action:	TYPE: Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #17

Endorsing “The Ithaca Plan: A Public Health and Safety Approach to Drugs and Drug Policy”

ABSTRACT: This resolution endorses the City of Ithaca’s Plan to combat drug use in the community by increasing access to resources and the Student Assembly recommends the University administration to take part in the execution of this plan.

Sponsored by: Matt Indimine ‘18

Whereas, the University community recognized the critical need to address issues of campus safety, in the wake of separate stabbing incident on or near campus this semester, at least one of which involved the sale of drugs;

Whereas, the University administration has expressed support for strengthening our relationships with partner law enforcement agencies in the City of Ithaca and surrounding communities, as one important means to bolster campus safety;

Whereas, in April 2014, City of Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick convened the Municipal Drug Policy Community and charged this group with recommending policies and practices we could adopt to improve our local response to drug use and related policies;

Whereas, in February 2016, the Municipal Drug Policy Community, comprised of experts and leaders from the various sectors that respond to drug use in our community, released its report outlining a coordinated drug strategy which is rooted in public health and safety; and

Whereas, the Campus Welfare Committee of the University Assembly formally considered the finding and recommendation of the Municipal Drug Policy Community on October 25, 2016, and was the consensus of the group to endorse these findings and recommendations; therefore

Be it resolved, that the Student Assembly formally endorses the goals and recommendation outlined in the Executive Summary of “The Ithaca Plan: A Public Health and Safety Approach to Drugs and Drug Policy,” namely;

- ***Governance and Leadership***

Create a mayoral-level office tasked to reduce the morbidity, mortality, cost, and inequities associated with illicit drugs and our current responses to them.

- ***Education***

Key stakeholders and all Ithacans should have access to evidence-based practices and education around drugs, preventing problematic use, reducing harms associated with drug use, and helping oneself or others who have a drug use problem.

- ***Recovery-Orientated Treatment, Harm Reduction, and Ancillary Services***

43 *Create a recovery-oriented treatment continuum that offers access to timely,*
44 *individualized, and evidence-based, effective care, through services that are people-*
45 *centered and able to meet the needs of individuals no matter their current relationship to*
46 *drug use or recovery.*

47 • ***Community and Economic Development***

48 *Support and expand existing efforts to improve youth and family development, economic*
49 *opportunity, and public health of communities, targeting vulnerable communities as*
50 *immediate beneficiaries and ensuring that all Ithacans have the same access to resources*
51 *and investments.*

52 • ***Public Safety***

53 *Redirect law enforcement and community resources from criminalization to increasing*
54 *access to services. Encourage a shared responsibility for community health and safety*
55 *that extends beyond the Ithaca Police Department.*

56 **Resolved**, that the University administration should partner with the City of Ithaca to support the
57 implementation of the recommendations outlined in the Ithaca Plan; and

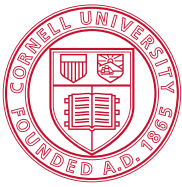
58 **Be if Finally Resolved**, that the University administration and the City of Ithaca should present a
59 status update on progress made toward achieving the goals of The Ithaca Plan to the Student
60 Assembly by October 2017, and on an annual basis every October thereafter until the goals
61 outlined above have been achieved.

62
63 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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65 Matt Indimine '18
66 *EVP, Student Assembly*

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68 Joseph Anderson '20
69 *Member, Health & Wellness Committee*

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71 *(Reviewed by: SA Health & Wellness Committee, 23-0-1, 11/26/16)*



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S.A. Resolution #19

Recommending Uniformity in Faculty Laptop Policies

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4 ABSTRACT: This resolution requests that faculty allow greater freedom of student laptop usage in
5 classes that require significant note-taking or online reading access.

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7 Sponsored by: Noah Chovanec, '18
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9 **Whereas**, according to Article II of the Student Assembly Charter, the Student Assembly has the “authority
10 and the responsibility to examine any matters which involve the interests or concern the welfare of the
11 student community and to make proposals concerning those issues to the appropriate officers or decision-
12 making bodies of the University;”

13
14 **Whereas**, the effective understanding of course material is essential to the academic welfare of students;

15
16 **Whereas**, the value of experiential learning and its relation to student autonomy is a fundamental aspect of
17 collegiate development;

18
19 **Whereas**, some faculty do not make materials available to students following lectures, and handwritten notes
20 may not allow students to record key course material;

21
22 **Whereas**, laptops are one of the most efficient note-taking devices;

23
24 **Whereas**, laptop usage is consistent with Cornell’s initiative to reduce its environmental footprint by allowing
25 electronic access to textbooks and readings;

26
27 **Whereas**, in February 2016 the Daily Sun wrote: “there has been a growing trend toward a more stringent
28 regulation of [laptop use in classrooms];”

29
30 **Whereas**, the Student Assembly acknowledges the distracting nature of extraneous laptop usage on
31 surrounding students;

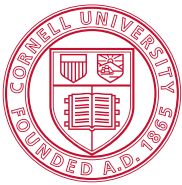
32
33 **Whereas**, professors and instructors can eliminate this distraction through a variety of means that do not
34 hinder the learning of students, such as relying on an “honor system” of self-enforcement or peer-
35 enforcement, enforcing an “airplane-mode” policy, or utilizing teaching assistants to monitor laptop usage;

36
37 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Student Assembly recommends that professors and instructors, especially
38 in the humanities and social sciences, allow students to use laptops in lectures and discussion sections where
39 note-taking is necessary and/or the reading materials can be accessed online.

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41 **Be it further resolved**, that while we recognize that faculty members retain authority over their classroom
42 policies and have the greatest amount of knowledge of their own course material, we request that faculty
43 members consider individual learning experiences and have a discussion about the possible benefits of laptop
44 use;

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46 **Be it finally resolved**, that this resolution be conveyed to the Dean of Faculty and the Faculty Senate.
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48

49 **Respectfully Submitted,**
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51 Noah Chovanec '18
52 *School of Industrial and Labor Relations Representative, Student Assembly*
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54 Zack Schmetterer '18
55 *Former Member, SA Academic Policy Committee*
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57 Rachel Marciano '20
58 *Member, SA Academic Policy Committee*
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60 Dale Barbara '19
61 *Chair, SA Academic Policy Committee*
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63 *(Reviewed by SA Academic Policy Committee, 12-1-2, 11/6/2016)*



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1 S.A. Resolution #20
2 Student Assembly’s Support for and Input on “Options for Achieving a Carbon
3 Neutral Campus by 2035”
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6 ABSTRACT: This resolution seeks to support Cornell University’s commitment to carbon neutrality
7 by a firm deadline of 2035 and push for transparent, shared decision-making in reaching carbon
8 neutrality through the creation of a publicly accessible platform for annual update reports.
9

10 Sponsored by: Miranda Kasher, ‘19
11

12 **Whereas**, in 2007, President Skorton was one of the first university presidents to sign on to the
13 American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment, thus positioning Cornell as
14 a leader in climate action amongst institutions of higher education,
15

16 **Whereas**, Cornell faculty, students, and staff collaborated to develop the Climate Action Plan
17 (CAP) in 2009 to comprehensively outline Cornell University’s commitment, duty, and strategy
18 for offsetting net campus carbon emissions as a “living laboratory” to the world,
19

20 **Whereas**, in 2014, President Emeritus Skorton “formally recognize[d] the need to accelerate
21 [Cornell’s] efforts by embracing the goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2035 [...], motivated by
22 a resolution, passed by the Faculty Senate on December 11, 2013, that called, in part, for an
23 accelerated timetable for achieving carbon neutrality,”
24

25 **Whereas**, in Spring 2016, Provost and then Acting President Kotlikoff charged the Senior
26 Leadership Climate Action Group (SLCAG) with achieving carbon neutrality by 2035,
27

28 **Whereas**, in Fall 2016 a report written by SLCAG and others titled “Options for Achieving a
29 Carbon Neutral Campus by 2035” was released outlining potential plans of action Cornell
30 University can pursue in order to achieve carbon neutrality by 2035,
31

32 **Whereas**, as of now, there is no accessible, consistently updated, and transparent mode of
33 communicating administrative decision-making, updates on actions outlined by the Climate
34 Action Plan, or progress being made on reaching carbon neutrality,
35

36 **Be it therefore resolved**, the Student Assembly support and commend the efforts of SLCAG
37 and Cornell University in obtaining carbon neutrality by 2035,
38

39 **Be it further resolved**, the Student Assembly recommend that SLCAG engage in clear
40 communication with the Cornell community and aim for transparency when pursuing the
41 different options outlined within the Options for Achieving a Carbon Neutral Campus by 2035
42 report by providing updates on the progress of these initiatives,
43

44 **Be it further resolved**, that a single centralized platform to share resources and updates on
45 Cornell University’s goal of carbon neutrality be created through two potential ways:
46 1. The Student Assembly asks the Cornell Campus Sustainability Office (CSO) to create a
47 digital, collaborative forum on their website that gives relevant annual updates on the
48 carbon neutrality goal and Climate Action Plan and allows community members to easily
49 share documents or ask questions;
50 2. *Or* the Student Assembly, as a collaboration between the Technology Committee and
51 Environmental Committee, create a digital forum that provides updates on the carbon
52 neutrality goal and Climate Action Plan (e.g. PDF of resolutions taking a stance on CAP,
53 all administrative decision-making relevant to CAP, all updates on the ongoing work on
54 Cornell’s geothermal energy project, etc.);
55

56 **Be it finally resolved**, that an annual public forum with members of SLCAG and facilitated by
57 the Cornell Campus Sustainability Office and the Environmental Collaborative, be pursued as a
58 way to engage the campus community and create an open, transparent dialogue between Cornell
59 administration and students.
60

61 **Respectfully Submitted,**

62 Marcel Ramos, ‘17
63 *Environmental Committee Chair, Student Assembly*

64 Cynthia Bensburg, ‘17
65 *Environmental Committee Member, Student Assembly*

66 Emily Dong, ‘18
67 *Previous Environmental Committee Chair, Student Assembly*

68 Jennifer Juliano, ‘17
69 *Co-facilitator, Environmental Collaborative (Eco)*

70 Samsuda Khem-nguad, ‘17
71 *Senior Member, Environmental Collaborative (Eco)*

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79 *(Review by: Environmental Committee, 11/3/16, 12-0-1)*
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