

Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly Agenda of the Thursday, March 17, 2015 Meeting 4:45pm-6:30pm in Uris Hall G01

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

II. Open Microphone

III. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

1. [Minutes of the March 9 Meeting](#)

IV. Announcements and Reports

1. *Director of Elections Henderson* - Elections Update
2. *At-Large Representative Li*
3. *Representative Kaufman* - University Assembly
4. *VP of Finance Stefanko* - Appendix B Report
5. *VP of Outreach Indimine* - Outreach

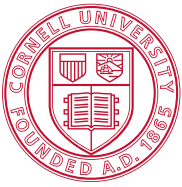
V. Initiatives

1. *Anabel's Grocery Update* - Representatives Billington, Johnston, & Stefanko

VI. New Business

1. [Resolution 46](#): Indigenous People's Day
2. [Resolution 47](#): International Student Admissions and Financial Aid
3. [Resolution 48](#): Ban the Box
4. [Resolution 49](#): Reducing Academic Work Assigned Over Break

VII. Executive Session



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	3/17/2016
Type of Action:	Sense of the Body
Status/Result:	New Business

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S.A. Resolution #46 Indigenous Peoples' Day

ABSTRACT: This legislation seeks to amend the Cornell Academic Calendar to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day on the second Monday of October.

Sponsored by: Saim Chaudhary '17

Whereas, Indigenous Peoples have since time immemorial resided in what is now known as the Americas, which were not discovered by Christopher Columbus, for whom the second Monday in October is recognized as a federal holiday;

Whereas, the commemoration of Columbus Day ignores the loss of lives and territories of millions of American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Native Hawaiians, and other Indigenous Peoples' of the Americas which was a direct result of colonization;

Whereas, Cornell University and the City of Ithaca are established on the traditional homelands of the Cayuga Nation, one of the Six Nations of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy, who were forcibly removed by the Continental Army in 1779, but continue to reside and thrive in the greater Ithaca area;

Whereas, the process through which the Cayuga Nation's traditional homeland came into the possession of Ezra Cornell is not formally acknowledged by Cornell University;

Whereas, federal Indian policy significantly eroded the diverse cultures of American Indians and used education as a tool of cultural assimilation by sending children to Indian boarding schools;

Whereas, the history of the removal of American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Native Hawaiians and other Indigenous Peoples' of the Americas from their traditional lands is generally ignored in educational institutions;

Whereas, Indigenous Peoples' Day recognizes the collective histories of Indigenous Peoples, giving voice to a traditionally underrepresented group of peoples in American institutions of higher education;

Whereas, at least 18 cities in the United States including Seattle, Albuquerque, and Minneapolis celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day;

Whereas, the second Monday of October is recognized by the State of South Dakota as Native Americans' Day, and by the State of Alaska as Indigenous Peoples Day;

Whereas, the students of Cornell's peer institutions are advocating for Indigenous Peoples' Day;

Whereas, on Tuesday February 2nd, 2016, Brown University officially renamed the second Monday in October from "Fall Weekend" to Indigenous People's Day, and on Thursday February 24th, 2016, Tufts University officially changed the name of the same day from "Columbus Day" to "Indigenous Peoples' Day";

50 **Whereas**, Cornell University has an obligation to proactively foster an environment in which “any
51 person, any study” can become a reality for the Indigenous students, staff and faculty of Cornell
52 University;

53
54 **Whereas**, the American Indian Program at Cornell University prides itself on having one of the highest
55 graduation and retention rates for Indigenous students in the nation, and Cornell’s Akwe:kon
56 Program House was the nation’s first residence hall established to celebrate American Indian culture
57 and heritage;

58
59 **Whereas**, a promotion of Indigenous Peoples is a logical step forward in strengthening Cornell’s
60 commitment to campus-wide diversity and inclusion;

61
62 **Whereas**, institutional recognition of Indigenous Peoples’ Day at Cornell University will give a stronger voice
63 to Indigenous Peoples, acknowledge the local Indigenous communities in and around the Ithaca area,
64 and celebrate the contributions of American Indians, Alaskan Natives and Native Hawaiians to the
65 United States of America;

66
67 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Student Assembly recommends that the Provost amends Cornell
68 University’s Academic Calendar to annually recognize Indigenous Peoples’ Day on the second
69 Monday of October.

70
71 **Respectfully Submitted,**

72
73 Benjamin Oster ‘17 (Kanien'kehá:ka-Mohawk)
74 *Co-President of the Cornell Chapter of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES)*

75
76 Saim Chaudhary ‘17
77 *Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion, Student Assembly; President, Islamic Alliance for Justice*

78
79 Bailee Hopkins ‘18 (Choctaw)
80 *Secretary of the Cornell Chapter of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES)*

81
82 Theresa Rocha Beardall ‘19 (Mexican, Oneida, and Sault Ste. Marie)
83 *Advisory Chair of the Indigenous Graduate Student Association (IGSA)*

84
85 Maria Chak ‘18
86 *Co-President of Amnesty International at Cornell University*

87
88 Christopher Hanna ‘18
89 *Co-President of Amnesty International at Cornell University*

90
91 Heather Williams ‘16 (Diné-Navajo)
92 *Co-Chair of Native American Students at Cornell (NASAC)*

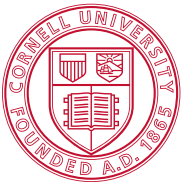
93
94 Steven Ingram ‘16 (Pueblo, Cherokee)
95 *Co-Chair of Native American Students at Cornell (NASAC)*

96
97 Michael Charles ‘16 (Diné-Navajo)
98 *Co-President of the Cornell Chapter of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES)*

99
100 Maurilio Nuño '16
101 *Co-President of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers*

102
103 Fabien Patrick Vaucheret '16
104 *Co-President of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers*

105	
106	Ameya Acharya '16
107	<i>Co-President of Women in Computing at Cornell</i>
108	
109	Linda He '16
110	<i>Facilitator of the Cornell Asian Pacific Islander Student Union (CAPSU)</i>
111	
112	Evan de Luna '16
113	<i>Co-President of Hawaii Club, Cornell</i>
114	
115	Hi'ilei Casco '18
116	<i>Vice President of the Cornell Hawaii Club</i>
117	
118	Kartik Ramkumar '16
119	<i>President of the South Asian Council</i>
120	
121	Rebecca Rabelo '16
122	<i>President of Sangre Taina: The Puerto Rican Students' Assembly</i>
123	
124	Jennifer Herrera '17
125	<i>Vice President of Development of the Minority ILR Student Organization</i>
126	
127	Jose Fernandez, MPA '16
128	<i>President of the Chilean Association at Cornell</i>
129	
130	Luciana Ruiz '19
131	<i>Co-President of the Cornell Chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architecture Students</i>
132	
133	Brittany Wun '16
134	<i>Co-President of the Cornell Chapter of the Society of Women Engineers</i>
135	
136	Samari Gilbert '17
137	<i>Co-President, Black Students United (BSU)</i>
138	
139	Isabel Macias '16
140	<i>President, La Asociación Latina (LAL)</i>
141	
142	Laci Taylor '16
143	<i>President, ALANA</i>
144	
145	Matthew Indimine '18
146	<i>LGBTQ+ Liaison at-Large</i>
147	
148	Iyore Olaye '16
149	<i>President, Cornell Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers</i>
150	
151	Ehab Ebeid '18
152	<i>President, Muslim Educational and Cultural Association</i>
153	
154	Grace Marcelo-Ramirez
155	<i>Co-Chair MeChA</i>
156	
157	Skye Hart '18 (Tonawanda Band of Seneca, Snipe Clan)
158	<i>External Relations Chair of Native American Students at Cornell (NASAC); Co-Treasurer of the Cornell Chapter of the National</i>
159	<i>Organization of Minority Architecture Students</i>
160	
161	<i>(Reviewed by: Diversity and Inclusion Committee, 3/13/16, 12-0-0)</i>



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	3/17/16
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #47

International Student Admissions and Financial Aid

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4 ABSTRACT: This resolutions demands the reversal of the newly instated need aware financial aid
5 policy to the original need blind financial aid policy for international applicants to Cornell University
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8 Sponsored by: Shivang Tayal '16, Saim Chaudhary '17
9

10 **Whereas**, Cornell University followed a partial Need-Blind admissions policy for international students
11 till the Provost's announcement to a Need-Aware admissions policy in February, 2016.
12

13 **Whereas**, Cornell University continues to follow a Need-Blind admissions policy for all domestic
14 students.
15

16 **Whereas**, Cornell University had not informed or consulted the International Students and Scholars
17 Office (ISSO) about this decision prior to it being released publicly in February 2016.
18

19 **Whereas**, the new Need-Aware policy would not accept meritorious students who were originally
20 accepted in the Need-Blind policy if they had applied for financial aid but not received it.
21

22 **Whereas**, accepted students who apply for financial aid but do not receive aid should be given the right
23 to choose how they fund their university education; through means including extended family grants and
24 private scholarships that are available after acceptance into colleges.
25

26 **Whereas**, international students and members of the student-elected government were not allowed to
27 attend the respective administrative committee meetings during the formulation of this policy.
28

29 **Whereas**, the reasons given for this change in policy have not been consistent across administrators of
30 Cornell University.
31

32 **Whereas**, Cornell University has not provided any quantitative and qualitative data to substantiate its
33 reasoning for changing this policy.
34

35 **Be it therefore resolved**, the Student Assembly strongly recommends the Board of Trustees to
36 reconsider this policy and revert to the original policy expediently.
37

38 **Be it further resolved**, the Student Assembly strongly recommends to Provost to consult the
39 International Students and Scholars Office during the formulation of any policy impacting incoming or
40 current international students.
41

42 **Be it further resolved**, the Student Assembly strongly recommends the Provost to allow two additional
43 student positions on each of the Provost's working groups and committees (referred to as "working
44 groups/committees" here on) for non-Student Assembly members.
45

46 **Be it further resolved**, the Student Assembly strongly recommends the Provost to allow the Student
47 Assembly the flexibility to choose different non-Student Assembly students to attend different working

48 group/committee meetings based on whether the student is directly or indirectly impacted by the
49 potential policies discussed in a specific working group/committee meeting.

50
51 **Be it further resolved**, the Student Assembly recommends that the Vice Provost for Financial Aid
52 provide and make available to the Student Assembly the following data:

- 53 • Annual data on number of International students who were admitted at Cornell, applied for
54 financial aid and did not receive it (referred to as “policy affected students” here on).
- 55 • Annual data on number of policy affected students who had to leave Cornell over the last 4 years
56 before attaining a graduation degree because they could not afford to continue their education.
- 57 • Annual data on number of policy affected students who graduated in more than 4 years.
- 58 • Annual data on number of policy affected students who have taken leave of absence of one
59 semester or more

60
61 **Be it further resolved**, besides the President of Cornell University, this resolution must be presented to
62 the Provost and the dean of each undergraduate college.

63
64 **Be it finally resolved**, the Student Assembly strongly recommends the President and the Board of
65 Trustees to consider long and short term projects to raise additional funds for international student
66 financial aid.

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68 Respectfully Submitted,

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70 Shivang Tayal '16
71 *International Representative, Student Assembly*

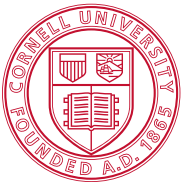
72
73 Saim Chaudhary '17
74 *Minorities Representative, Student Assembly*

75
76 Binoy Jhaveri '16
77 *President, International Students Union*

78
79 Akhilesh Issur '17
80 *Advocacy Team Member, International Students Union*

81
82 Haadia Amjad '17
83 *President, Pakistani Students Association*

84
85 *(Reviewed by: Diversity Committee, 3/13/16, 13-0-0)*



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	03/17/2016
Type of Action:	Sense-of-the-Body
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #48 Ban the Box

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4 ABSTRACT: This resolution urges Cornell University to remove the conviction question from its
5 job applications.

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7 Sponsored by: Matthew Indimine '18

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9 **Whereas**, Cornell University is the largest employer in Tompkins County and influences the labor
10 market through its application policies,

11
12 **Whereas**, the City of Ithaca recently “Banned the Box” on its job applications in favor of a conditional
13 offer of employment approach,

14
15 **Whereas**, Cornell should strive to be a fair chance employer,

16
17 **Whereas**, a petition urging Cornell to remove the conviction question received 125 signatures from
18 current students in less than a week,

19
20 **Whereas**, Cornell is already implementing a fair chance employment policy for its employees in New
21 York City to comply with city legislation requiring all private employers to refrain from inquiring
22 about criminal convictions until a conditional offer of employment is extended,

23
24 **Whereas**, 21 states and over 100 cities in the United States have adopted ban-the-box or fair-chance
25 policies,

26
27 **Whereas**, these policies have proven to be effective enough to warrant expansion into private employer
28 law as endorsed by the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission,

29
30 **Whereas**, the policies include integrating EEOC arrest and conviction record guidelines and adopting
31 strong standards of accuracy and transparency to maintain the integrity of background checks
32 when they are required,

33
34 **Whereas**, there are over 70 million US adults with conviction history and a conviction record reduces
35 the likelihood of job callback or offer by nearly 50%,

36
37 **Whereas**, post-sentence employment has been proven to significantly reduce chances of re-offending,

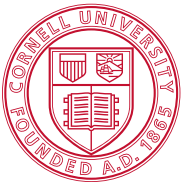
38
39 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Student Assembly strongly urges Cornell University to remove the
40 conviction question (“Ban the Box”) from its job applications,

41
42 **Be it further resolved**, that Cornell only inquire about applicants’ criminal histories during a
43 background check after a conditional offer of employment is extended.

44
45 Respectfully Submitted,

46
47 Garrison Lovely '16

48 *President, Prison Reform and Education Project (PREP)*
49
50 Nick Raskin '16
51 *Vice President, Prison Reform and Education Project (PREP)*
52
53 Kristen Lovely '18
54 *Programming Chair, Prison Reform and Education Project (PREP)*
55
56 Drew Musto '19
57 *Prison Reform and Education Project (PREP)*
58
59 Sahil Suresh '19
60 *Prison Reform and Education Project (PREP)*
61
62 Ron Baazov '17
63 *Prison Reform and Education Project (PREP)*
64
65 Noah Chovanec '18
66 *Prison Reform and Education Project (PREP)*
67
68 Sarah Dincin '19
69 *Prison Reform and Education Project (PREP)*
70
71 Alex Moon '19
72 *Prison Reform and Education Project (PREP)*
73
74 Alexis Rosenbaum '17
75 *Prison Reform and Education Project (PREP)*
76
77 Nicole Divittorio '18
78 *Prison Reform and Education Project (PREP)*
79
80 Matthew Clauson '15
81 *Co-Founder, Prison Reform and Education Project (PREP)*
82
83 Maria Chak '18
84 *Co-President, Amnesty International at Cornell University*
85
86 Matthew Indimine '18
87 *Vice President of Outreach, Student Assembly*
88
89 Matthew Henderson '16
90 *Director of Elections, Student Assembly*
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92
93 *(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 03/15/16)*



Originally Presented on:	3/17/2016
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

1 S.A. Resolution #49
2 Reducing Academic Work Assigned Over Break

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4 ABSTRACT: This resolution requests that faculty members not assign work over academic breaks.

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6 Sponsored by: Dale Barbaria '19, Gabe Kaufman '18

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

12
13 **Whereas**, an excessive academic workload has a direct impact on the mental health and general welfare of the
14 undergraduate student body; and

15
16 **Whereas**, the Student Assembly Academic Policy Committee created and distributed a survey to determine
17 the scope of work being given over break, and found over forty-five credible examples of work being given to
18 students in six of the seven undergraduate colleges and in the following courses: CS 2110, CHEM 3570,
19 CHEM 4100, MATH 2220, MATH 2310, ECON 3040, ENG 2880, SPAN 1230, HADM 3210, HADM
20 3650, FDSC 2100, PHYS 2208, PHYS 2214, SOC 1101, BME 4110, DEA 3310, BIOMG 3300, BSOC 2468,
21 INFO 3300, SYSEN 5300, NTRES 3320, ANSC 2210; and

22
23 **Whereas**, Faculty Senate Resolution 8 (AY 2010-2011) states, “Be it resolved, in keeping with the sense of
24 the Senate on this issue, that while students are always expected to be prepared for class, framing assignments
25 in such a way that necessitates academic work over Fall Break, Thanksgiving Break or Spring Break is
26 strongly discouraged. Students should be given sufficient time to carry out assignments and prepare for
27 classes without being required to devote their breaks to such preparation...Be it further resolved that the
28 Dean of the Faculty shall remind the faculty in the beginning of the semester reminder [sic] not to frame
29 assignments that necessitate academic work over scheduled breaks;” and

30
31 **Be the therefore resolved**, that the Student Assembly requests that members of the faculty abide by the
32 2011 Faculty Senate resolution and refrain from assigning work to students over academic breaks (Fall Break,
33 Thanksgiving Break, February Break, and Spring Break); and

34
35 **Be it further resolved**, that the Student Assembly recommends that the Faculty Senate adopt and enforce
36 stronger language in the Faculty Handbook against assigning work over break; and

37
38 **Be it finally resolved**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Dean of Faculty, the Faculty Senate,
39 and the Department Chairs;

40
41 Respectfully Submitted,

42
43 Shreya Mantrala '18
44 *Member, Academic Policy Committee*

45
46 Dale Barbaria '19
47 *Engineering Representative, Student Assembly*

48

49 Gabe Kaufman '18
50 *Chair, Academic Policy Committee*
51
52 Raghav Batra '19
53 *Member, Academic Policy Committee*
54
55 *(Reviewed by: Academic Policy Committee, March 13, 2016)*