

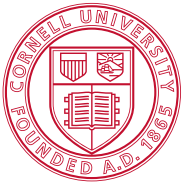


Cornell University
Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Agenda of the Thursday, February 9th, 2017 Meeting
4:45pm-6:30pm in WSH Memorial Room

- I. Call to Order & Roll Call**
- II. Approval of the Meeting Minutes**
 - a. Minutes of the February 2nd Meeting
- III. Open Microphone**
- IV. Announcements and Reports**
 - a. Rep Iglesias
 - b. President Berger
 - c. EVP Indimine
 - d. VP Li
 - e. Rep Reichel
 - f. Rep Chovanec
- V. Presentation from SCL – Tyler Alicea (15 min)**
- VI. New Business**
 - a. Resolution 19: Recommending Uniformity in Faculty Laptop Policies
 - b. Resolution 25: Expanding Ideological Diversity among Faculty members
- VII. Engaged Cornell Presentation- Mike Bishop**
- VIII. Executive Session - 6:30pm**
 - a. Internal Election: Fin Aid Review Committee Member
 - b. Parliamentary Quiz Make-up



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

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S.A. Resolution #19
Recommending Uniformity in Faculty Laptop Policies

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

Sponsored by: Noah Chovanec, '18

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

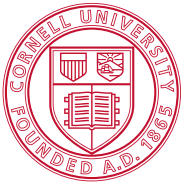
Whereas, the Student Assembly acknowledges the distracting nature of extraneous laptop usage on surrounding students;

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

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

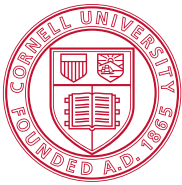
Be it further resolved, that while we recognize that faculty members retain authority over their classroom policies and have the greatest amount of knowledge of their own course material, we recommend that faculty members consider individual learning experiences and have a discussion about the possible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

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



Cornell University Student Assembly

- 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, Student Assembly Academic Policy Committee*
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57 Rachel Marciano '20
58 *Member, Student Assembly Academic Policy Committee*
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60 Dale Barbaria '19
61 *Chair, Student Assembly Academic Policy Committee*
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63 *(Reviewed by Student Assembly Academic Policy Committee, (8-0-1), 2/5/2017)*



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	12/01/2016
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #25

Expanding Ideological Diversity among Faculty Members

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4 ABSTRACT: The Student Assembly requests the Faculty Senate create an ad-hoc committee to
5 investigate ways to increase and improve faculty ideological diversity.

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8 **Sponsored by: Mitch McBride '17**

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10 **Whereas**, diversity, especially that of diversity of thought, is fundamental for an active learning environment
11 to prosper whereby information and ideas can be discussed and debated by people with different
12 perspectives and philosophies,

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14 **Whereas**, the Cornell Daily Sun reported that “of the nearly \$600,000 Cornell’s faculty that donated to
15 political candidates or parties in the past four years, over 96% has gone to fund Democratic
16 campaigns, while only 15 of the 323 donors have given to conservative causes,” thus showing, to at
17 least some substantial degree, that Cornell’s faculty are not politically diverse,

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19 **Whereas**, universities ought to maintain an environment where all feel welcomed and encouraged to present
20 their viewpoints in a community of tolerance (diverse faculty can also support diverse students),

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22 **Whereas**, universities ought to be places where debate and dissent exists in order to ensure knowledge is
23 expanded,

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25 **Whereas**, students can create better arguments and challenge subtle assumptions when dealing with differing
26 viewpoints,

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28 **Whereas**, regardless of how one feels about the extent of the problem of faculty ideological diversity, there
29 should at least be a committee that actively looks into its extent and implications and ways to resolve
30 any negative effects that the lack of faculty diversity, especially that of philosophical diversity, may
31 create,

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33 **Be it therefore resolved**, the Student Assembly formally requests the Faculty Senate to take up the issue of
34 faculty ideological diversity as a critical step to long-term maintenance of high-quality education

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36 **Be it further resolved**, the SA requests the Faculty Senate, in concert with the University’s Counsel Office,
37 create a task force to take up this issue and investigate practical steps toward attaining increased
38 faculty ideological diversity,

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40 **Be it finally resolved**, the SA requests that students have the opportunity to voice their input and
41 suggestions via positions on the task force,

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43 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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45 **Mitchell McBride '17**

46 *Vice President of Internal Operations, Student Assembly*

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48 *(Reviewed by: Academic Policy, (8-0-1), 2/5/2017)*