

Cornell University
Student Assembly

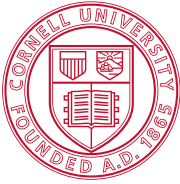
Cornell University Student Assembly

Agenda of the Thursday, March 9th, 2017 Meeting
4:45pm-6:30pm in 700 Clark Hall

- I. Call to Order & Roll Call**
- II. Moment of Silence in Remembrance of Angel Hierro '17**
- III. Discussion with Provost Kotlikoff – 4:45pm**
- IV. Approval of the March 2nd Meeting Minutes**
- V. Open Microphone**
- VI. Announcements and Reports**
 - a. VP Li
 - b. VP McBride
 - c. President Berger
 - d. EVP Indimine
 - e. Rep. Reichel
 - f. Rep. Valadez
 - g. Rep. Cox
- VII. Slope Day Programming Board Announcement - 5:30pm**
- VIII. Policy Research and Planning Committee Presentation**
- IX. Business of the Day**
 - a. Resolution 31: Audit of Cornell University Administration Finances
- X. New Business**
 - a. Referendum #32: “Should median course grades be included on student transcripts?”
 - b. Referendum #35: “Should American Sign Language satisfy the foreign language requirement at Cornell?”

- c. Resolution 32: Improving Access to Concentrations and Minors in the College of Business

XI. Executive Session



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	03/02/2017
Type of Action:	Investigation
Status/Result:	Business of the Day

S.A. Resolution #31 Audit of Cornell University Administration Finances

ABSTRACT: This resolution is a formal request for information from the University for Financial Data regarding the University Administration, specifically its resource allocations and general data on wages and salaries of its higher level staff

Sponsored by: Mitch McBride '17, Diana Li '17

Whereas, Article III Section 6 of the Student Assembly Charter states, “The SA may request and obtain specific information from the President of the University regarding any subject which it deems of general student concern. If such a request is made, and said information is not furnished, the University President will report to the SA the reasons why said information cannot be furnished within two regularly scheduled SA meeting following the denial of the request. The SA will not request information falling into the following categories: salary or wage records of specific individuals, academic or financial records of specific individuals, medical or categorical (race, sex, age, etc) records of specific individuals and information otherwise defined as confidential or restricted by law;”

Whereas, Paul Campos, a law professor at the University of Colorado, Boulder and a contributor to the New York Times, brought the attention of the public to the fact that “a major factor driving increasing costs [in tuition] is the constant expansion of university administration” (New York Times);

Whereas, “According to the Department of Education data, administrative positions at colleges and universities grew by 60 percent between 1993 and 2009, which Bloomberg reported was 10 times the rate of growth of tenured faculty positions” (New York Times);

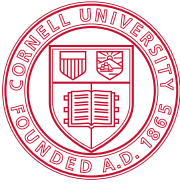
Whereas, there is reasonable suspicion that the increased cost of education across the US may well be due to increases in administration sizes and salaries (thus we need Cornell data);

Whereas, the students of Cornell University deserve the right to know what they pay for as they are the consumers, customers, and contributors;

Whereas, the Student Assembly expressly does not request any information of specific individuals within the University or information otherwise deemed confidential for privacy or legal concerns;

Whereas, there are concerns that the administration has grown too large, has given too high of salaries to its higher level staff, and is too unwilling to disperse with redundant or ineffective employees;

Whereas, the University must save money from administration expenses in order to dedicate itself to more (not less) generous financial aid policies in order to fulfill its mission of “any person, any study;”



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Whereas, giving student leaders access to such information might assist the university in finding areas to save as any groupthink that exists in the administration would be diminished;

Whereas, university may likely receive positive press for opening its finances such that the world realizes it is actually attempting to reduce costs for students and save so tuition does not increase, but rather decreases;

Be it therefore resolved, the Cornell Student Assembly exercises its prerogative to formally request information relating to the administration finances, including general salary breakdowns of administration members (assistant dean level or equivalent and above), general resource allocation information relating to the amount and type of resources dedicated to different university divisions, departments, and offices, and any other relevant information relating to the Administration's finances that the Student Assembly would find helpful in its review of the spending of the University on the administration;

Be it further resolved, the Student Assembly Appropriations Committee will be charged with reviewing the information about how the University distributes resources to the administration and issue a report to the Assembly regarding recommendations for eliminating waste and overspending within the administration's various offices or in its payments to personnel;

Be it further resolved; the administration will act in good faith to provide this information so it is readily understandable, complete, and detailed in order to conduct a review of how the administration operates financially;

Be it finally resolved, if the President's decision is to decline to give the requested information to the elected representatives of the students, the SA requests the President send a copy of this resolution and our objection to the denial (unless based on legal grounds) to the Chair of the Cornell Board of Trustees;

Respectfully Submitted,

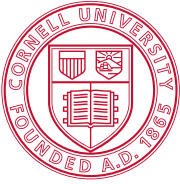
Mitch McBride '19

Vice President of Internal Operations, Student Assembly

Diana Li '17

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 6-0-0, 02/27/2017



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Originally Presented on:	03/09/2017
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #32

Improving Access to Concentrations and Minors in the College of Business

ABSTRACT: This resolution aims to increase efficiencies and access between the School of Hotel Administration and the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management.

Sponsored by: Varun Devatha '19

Whereas, the intent of the creation of the S.C. Johnson College of Business was to allow for “increased efficiencies” between the two undergraduate schools and one graduate school;

Be it therefore resolved, that the student assembly hereby requests that students in the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management and the School of Hotel Administration be allowed to concentrate across schools in concentrations that are currently school specific and;

Be it further resolved, that the Student Assembly hereby requests that students in both aforementioned schools be allowed to minor in school restricted minors across the two schools;

Be it finally resolved, that the Student Assembly requests that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Dean of the S.C. Johnson College of Business and all deputy deans, deans, and associate deans, as well as made available to any other individuals deemed appropriate;

Respectfully Submitted,

Caleb Surman '19

Member, Student Assembly Academic Policy Committee

Varun Devatha '19

Undesignated Representative At-Large, Student Assembly

Reviewed by: SA Academic Policy Committee, 10-0-0, 03/05/2017