

Cornell University
Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

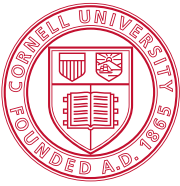
Agenda of the Thursday, March 23rd, 2017 Meeting
4:45pm-6:30pm in WSH Memorial Room

- I. Call to Order & Roll Call**
- II. Diversity Requirement Report- 4:50pm**
- III. Convocation Committee Announcement- Chewy Baumel- 5:00pm**
- IV. Approval of the Meeting Minutes**
 - a. Minutes of the March 16th Meeting
- V. Open Microphone**
- VI. Announcements and Reports**
 - a. VP McBride
 - b. President Berger
 - c. EVP Indimine
 - d. Rep Reichel
 - e. Rep Valadez
 - f. Rep Viswanathan
 - g. Rep Rong
- VII. Academic Calendar Discussion- 5:10pm**
- VIII. Business of the Day**
 - a. Resolution 32: Improving Access to Concentrations and Minors in the College of Business
- IX. New Business**
 - a. Resolution 33: Prescribing Conflict-Free Resolution Texts

- b. Resolution 34: Accessibility & Affordability of Cornell's Fitness Centers
- c. Resolution 35: Addressing the Collegiate Readership Program Surplus

X. Executive Session

XI. Candidate Forum – 6:45pm



Cornell University
Student Assembly

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,

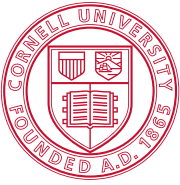
Caleb Surman '19

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



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	2/16/2016
Type of Action:	Sense-of-the-Body
Status/Result:	New Business

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S.A. Resolution #33 Prescribing Conflict-Free University Contracts

ABSTRACT: This resolution urges Cornell to make verifiably conflict mineral-free purchasing decisions, a measure that other international institutions have taken in order to curb militia violence in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Sponsored by: Matthew Indimine '18

Whereas, the anti-genocide advocacy group *The Enough Project* defines “conflict minerals” as mined gold, tin, tantalum, and tungsten that provides income to armed groups operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a country whose eastern region has been gripped by the deadliest conflict since World War II;

Whereas, several peer higher-education institutions, including Duke University, Stanford University, Emory University, and the University of Pennsylvania have adopted measures to curb or eliminate their investments in companies that use conflict minerals;

Whereas, these conflict-free campus initiatives, as well as targeted financial actions undertaken by the U.S. federal government and other institutions, have been widely credited with depriving Congo-based militias of financial resources used to stage war crimes and other human rights abuses;

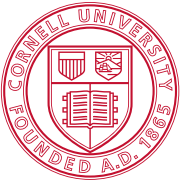
Whereas, President Trump’s administration has alarmingly signaled its intent to reverse a 2010 federal rule discouraging U.S.-based firms from purchasing conflict minerals, a reactionary measure that one human rights advocate called “a gift to predatory armed groups;”

Whereas, 101 Congo-based human rights organizations condemned the possible suspension of the federal government’s Conflict Minerals Rule (Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act), warning that such a measure would reactivate “terrorist and mafia networks” in their country’s eastern region that engage in illegal mineral extraction, human trafficking, widespread sexual violence, child exploitation, and other human rights abuses;

Whereas, in the midst of malfeasant government policies and human rights crises, universities have historically played a critical role in defending and upholding the public good;

Whereas, Cornell’s undergraduate student body has previously signaled its concern surrounding atrocities in the eastern Congo with the passage of AY 2010-11 Resolution 2: Conflict Free Campus, which called on the University to take decisive action to combat conflict minerals and favor verifiably conflict-free products in its purchasing decisions;

Whereas, student groups including the Association for International Human Rights, the Cornell Organization for Labor Action, and Amnesty International at Cornell University have renewed these calls;



Cornell University Student Assembly

44 **Whereas**, as shown in Appendix A, the University conducted an August 2011 assessment finding that it
45 holds investments in at least six firms given negative scores under RAISE Hope for Congo's conflict
46 mineral rating system;

47
48 **Be it therefore resolved**, that Cornell University shall clarify whether or not it modified its purchasing
49 practices in light of this 2011 review;

50
51 **Be it further resolved**, that with the offered help of organizers from anti-genocide advocacy group *The*
52 *Enough Project*, Cornell University shall develop a new independent survey that allows it to assess firms
53 not covered by existing rating systems;

54
55 **Be it further resolved**, that Cornell University shall commit to annually surveying its vendors and
56 investments for conflict-free verification purposes, beginning AY 2017-2018;

57
58 **Be it further resolved**, that Cornell University shall publicly release the results of said annual surveys;

59
60 **Be it finally resolved**, that the Office of University Investments shall use these surveys to confirm
61 companies' conflict-free statuses before renewing or finalizing contracts with them.

62

63

64 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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66 **Christopher Hanna '18**

67 *Co-facilitator, Amnesty International at Cornell University*

68

69 **Helen Shanahan '18**

70 *Co-facilitator, Amnesty International at Cornell University*

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72 **Matthew Indimine '18**

73 *EVP, Student Assembly*

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75 **Paul Russell '19**

76 *Co-chair, Student Assembly Policy Research and Planning Committee*

77

78 **Kyla Chasalow '20**

79 *Member, Amnesty International at Cornell University*

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81 **Zach Aleksandur de Stefan '18**

82 *Secretary, Amnesty International at Cornell University*

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84 **Kristine Lister '18**

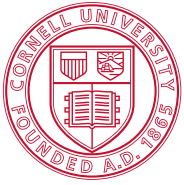
85 *Urgent Action Coordinator, Amnesty International at Cornell University*

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87 **Katie Reis '20**

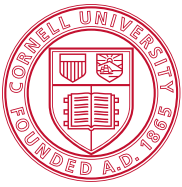
88 *Member, Amnesty International at Cornell University*

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Cornell University
Student Assembly

- 90 **Emma Lester '20**
91 *Member, Amnesty International at Cornell University*
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94 *(Reviewed by: Executive Board, (6-0-0), 3/20/2017)*



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(03/23/17)
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #34

Accessibility & Affordability of Cornell's Fitness Centers

ABSTRACT: This resolution calls for the administration to address student concerns facing the accessibility and affordability of the fitness centers on our campus.

Sponsored by: Alex Iglesias '17, Justin Selig '17, Ashwin Viswanathan '20

Whereas, annual membership fees for the fitness centers total \$145 which is more expensive than most ~~comparable universities~~ **peer institutions**;

Whereas, even if the membership fee could be reduced, it wouldn't be feasible given the existing space concerns the ~~existing~~ facilities face;

Whereas, the existing facilities are operating at, or above, capacity during the times of the day ~~where~~ **when** most students go to the gym;

Whereas, renovation and expansion plans for Helen Newman Hall have been discussed in the past however, they have not been executed;

Whereas, the expansion of recreation facilities into Appel Community Center has resulted in a space which does not contain all the equipment students desire, and ~~that~~ this space is frequently used by physical education programs, so students end up going to Helen Newman that further exacerbates the problem;

Whereas, the existing fitness space in Appel Community Center could serve as a satellite facility for Cornell Health and this could be incredibly beneficial for students on North Campus;

Whereas, the proposed expansion of housing on North campus, per the housing master plan, would further exacerbate existing issues facing availability of recreation facilities for students as the existing facilities are not sufficient to meet the ~~existing~~ need from the Cornell community;

Whereas, many students residing in Collegetown do not have access to recreation facilities in their immediate community which forces them to traverse to **Noyes on** West Campus or Teagle which ~~is a~~ **are** distant walks and these facilities operate above capacity;

Whereas, recreation and fitness facilities have an essential role in supporting the health and wellbeing of the Cornell community;

Be it therefore resolved, we request that ~~the administration~~ **Vice President Lombardi** work with students, recreation staff members, and the community to address the accessibility and affordability of fitness centers and other recreational services on campus;

Be it further resolved, the Student Assembly recommends that the Division of Student and Campus Life immediately explore the feasibility of acquiring space, or using existing space, to develop a fitness center in Collegetown;

48 **Be it further resolved**, the Student Assembly requests that group exercise and recreation activities be
49 offered in the Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts until a new space is developed;
50
51 **Be it further resolved**, the Student Assembly asks that the administration plan to develop a community
52 center in Collegetown, or work with private developers to address such need, to include a fitness
53 center, recreation space, and dining unit, to improve the student experience;
54
55 **Be it further resolved**, the Division of Student and Campus Life should establish plans to renovate and
56 expand Helen Newman, or construct a new recreation facility, to meet the growing needs of
57 North Campus, while taking into consideration Cornell University Sustainable Design’s proposal
58 for a “Beebe Lake Redevelopment”;
59
60 **Be it further resolved**, we ask that the Division of Student and Campus Life recognize that fitness
61 centers should serve, to some degree, as community centers as Noyes Community Center does
62 on West Campus and that centralized facilities are more conducive toward community-building
63 than satellite facilities;
64
65 **Be it finally resolved**, we ask that this resolution be sent to President Hunter Rawlings, President-elect
66 Martha Pollack, Provost Michael Kotlikoff, Vice President for Student and Campus Life Ryan
67 Lombardi, Dean of Student Vijay Pendakur, and any others deemed appropriate.
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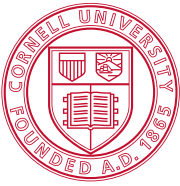
71 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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73 Alexander Iglesias '17
74 *Human Ecology Representative, Student Assembly*

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76 Justin Selig '17
77 *Engineering Representative, Student Assembly*

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79 Ashwin Viswanathan '20
80 *Freshman Representative, Student Assembly*

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83 *(Reviewed by: Health & Wellness Committee, March 21, 2017)*



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(03/23/2017)
Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	New Business

1 S.A. Resolution #35
2 Addressing the Collegiate Readership Program Surplus
3
4 ABSTRACT: This resolution transfers surplus funds from the Collegiate Readership Program Byline
5 account to the Student Assembly Special Projects fund, as per Appendix B §2. E. ii of the SA
6 Charter.

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9 **Sponsored by: Diana Li '17 and Dale Barbaria '19**

10
11 **Whereas**, the Student Assembly changed the nature of the Collegiate Readership Program in Resolution
12 16 “Modernizing the Cornell Collegiate Readership Program;”
13

14 **Whereas**, Resolution 16 reduced considerably the overall amount that the Collegiate Readership
15 Program would cost by eliminating the purchase of all print copies of USA Today and most
16 print copies of the New York Times while simultaneously allowing all undergraduates to have
17 free online access to the New York Times;
18

19 **Whereas**, this change leaves approximately \$54,000 of the Collegiate Readership Program’s allocation
20 unspent;
21

22 **Whereas**, the Charter states, in Appendix B §2. E. ii, “If a reduction or revocation of funding affecting
23 the remainder of the funding cycle occurs, the University shall attempt to reduce the SAF to
24 reflect the lower amount. Excepting that, the money shall revert to the Special Projects Fund.”
25

26 **Whereas**, it is not currently possible to reduce the Student Activity Fee for the 2016-2017 Academic
27 Year;
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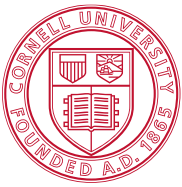
29 **Be it therefore resolved**, that all surplus funds allocated to the Collegiate Readership Program be
30 transferred immediately to the Student Assembly Special Projects Fund;
31

32 **Respectfully Submitted,**

33
34 Dian Li '17
35 *Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly*

36
37 Dale Barbaria '19
38 *Parliamentarian, Student Assembly*

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40 *Reviewed by: APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, 03/21/2017*



Originally Presented on:	(9/15/16)
Type of Action:	TYPE: Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #8

Requesting the Restoration of the Economics Department’s CPT Policy

ABSTRACT: This resolution asks for the restoration of the CPT work authorization by the Economics Department.

Sponsored by: Akhilesh Issur ‘17

Whereas, Whereas, according to the Student Assembly (SA) Charter, Article II, the SA is charged with “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 Cornell University Economics Department has, in the past, provided independent study courses to allow its majors who are international students to obtain Curricular Practical Training (CPT) work authorization for paid summer internships; and

Whereas, the Economics Department, after 2016, will cease to allow international students to obtain CPT authorization for paid internships;

Whereas, the reasons cited for the change in the Economics Department’s policy in the extracts of the report provided by the Director of Undergraduate Studies are:

1. Abuse of the system by “inventing a course and claiming that the internship is required for it.”
2. “Little educational value in having our majors undertake these independent studies.”
3. Unfairness towards U.S. citizens who do not have the option to complete a one-credit independent study course relating to their summer internship.

Whereas, the International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) clearly stipulates that CPT can be used for internships “if you receive academic credit in an independent study or course that uses the employment experience as research” in addition to “internships or other work that is required by the degree program (as defined in the course catalog)” (ISSO Website, 2016);

Whereas, many of the internships that Economics majors pursue in fields, such as banking, finance, and general business, are integrally related to the study of economics;

Whereas, the independent study courses in Economics can be a truly valuable academic experience that uses the practical training of an internship experience as research and merges it with theoretical concepts learnt in class;

Whereas, independent studies that give CPT authorization can indeed be monitored in a more proficient way by various Economics professors who are experts in their respective fields, and need not

43 be the concern of only the Director of Undergraduate Studies, and the Associate Director of
44 Undergraduate Studies as has been the case until now;

45
46 **Whereas**, a longer paper than a six/seven page paper for the independent study that uses internship
47 experience as research, with clear requirements and set expectations, can be asked from Economics
48 majors;

49
50 **Whereas**, careful guidance from Cornell Economics professors paired with an equally careful research
51 proposal from Cornell Economics majors before undertaking their internship to show how it would be
52 integral to the independent study, should be expected to lead to an academic project with significant
53 educational value;

54
55 **Whereas**, getting credits for an independent study that uses internship experience and research as the
56 basis for an intellectual project is significantly different than getting academics credits for an internship;

57
58 **Whereas**, instead of cancelling independent study courses that use internship experience as the basic
59 research for an intellectual project for international students, the Economics Department could give this
60 opportunity to all students including American citizens if they are able to show how their internship
61 experience relate fundamentally to the study of Economics, and are willing to pursue such independent
62 studies that lead to educational value;

63
64 **Whereas**, the purpose of an independent study is to pursue an academic project in an original way;

65
66 **Whereas**, international students are open in submitting research proposals before undertaking
67 internships to demonstrate concretely how there is a significant link between their internship experience
68 and intellectual project;

69
70 **Whereas**, many universities across the US, including Columbia, Stanford and the University of Michigan
71 allow international undergraduate students majoring in Economics the possibility to obtain CPT
72 authorization for independent study courses;

73
74 **Whereas**, most other majors at Cornell both in the College of Arts & Sciences and other colleges allow
75 international students to obtain CPT authorization;

76
77 **Whereas**, the CPT authorization is the only practical work authorization for summer internships, as
78 Optional Practical Training (OPT) - the other work authorization possible with the F-1 student visa - is
79 virtually used in all cases for post-graduation jobs only, taking on average 3 months to be granted, and
80 costing \$380;

81 **Whereas**, international students are permitted by the Federal Government of the United States of
82 America to remain in the United States for 12 months after graduation under the Optional Practical
83 Training program (OPT) if they are able to be hired for a job related to their major;

84

85 **Whereas**, even if international students are able secure OPT authorization for summer internships by
86 surmounting its time and financial constraints and risks, the number of months that the internship lasts
87 will be deducted from the 12 months of work allowed under OPT;

88

89 **Whereas**, the effect of the granting of CPT credit for jobs related to an international student's area of
90 study is that it allows them to remain in the United States after graduation for a full 12 months instead of
91 12 months minus the total time they spent working during the summers under OPT;

92

93 **Whereas**, because US firms will not hire recent college graduates unless they can remain in the US for at
94 least 12 months because most job contracts require at least a one year ability to work before other types
95 of sponsorship work visas become open to international college graduates;

96

97 **Whereas**, summer internships are in most cases an essential requirement to get a job offer, especially in
98 areas fundamentally related to Economics such as banking and business;

99

100 **Whereas**, getting a job is one of the ultimate goals of an undergraduate education, along with character
101 development and shaping of critical skills;

102

103 **Whereas**, international students make up 10% of the undergraduate student body at the University and
104 their ability to succeed as Cornellians is contingent upon their ability to obtain internships and job
105 opportunities;

106

107 **Whereas**, a very significant number of international students want to be able to pursue at least an initial
108 career in the United States;

109

110 **Whereas**, international students majoring in Economics, as a result of the Economics Department
111 ceasing to offer independent studies that use internship experience as the integral basis of a research
112 project, now necessarily face a tradeoff between:

113

- 114 a) Taking a summer internship (but cannot get a summer internship without reducing 12 OPT
115 months in the case that they are even able to get the OPT which has heavy constraints in the
116 case of summer internships, and has virtually only be used for post-graduation jobs by Cornell
117 international students)
- 118 b) Getting hired after graduation (cannot get hired without internship experience or if they cannot
119 work for at least a one year contract)
- 120 c) Remaining an Economics major (other majors in the College of Arts & Sciences such as
121 Government, Mathematics, and Information Science, continue to give CPT work authorization)
- 122 d) Remaining in the College of Arts & Sciences (ILR, CALS, the Dyson School, the School of
123 Hotel Administration and the College of Engineering all have majors related to Economics that
124 give CPT work authorization)

125 e) Remaining at Cornell (many big research universities, private liberal arts and IVY league
126 institutions continue to give the CPT work authorization).
127

128 **Whereas**, as a result, the Economics Department, the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), and Cornell
129 University will lose high-performing and ambitious international students who would have otherwise
130 majored in Economics, studied in CAS, or attended Cornell, due to the strong disincentive to be an
131 international student majoring in economics at Cornell generated by the recent change in policy;
132

133 **Whereas**, it is in the best interest of the Economics Department, CAS, and Cornell University to
134 continue to attract high-performing international students; and
135

136 **Whereas**, independent studies that use internship experience as the basis of a research project can be
137 very formulated and coordinated when there is appropriate faculty supervision and requests of research
138 proposals before the start of the internship to see whether there is indeed a fundamental link between
139 the internship and a worthwhile academic project relating to Economics and leading to high educational
140 value, when expectations are clearly stipulated by the Department;
141

142 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Student Assembly strongly recommends that the Economics
143 Department restore independent studies giving CPT work authorization for all Economics majors;
144

145 **Be it further resolved**, that the Student Assembly strongly recommends that independent study
146 opportunities continue to be offered to all Economics majors, international and domestic students, who
147 can thoroughly demonstrate that their internships would be a valuable experience to merge intellectual
148 and practical knowledge in an academic project before being granted the ability to pursue the
149 independent study;
150

151 **Be it finally resolved**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the President of the University, the
152 Office of the University Counsel, the Dean of the Faculty, the Faculty Senate, the Dean of the College of
153 Arts and Sciences, the Chair of the College of Arts and Sciences Educational Policy Committee, the
154 Chair of the Department of Economics, and the Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department
155 of Economics for their review.
156

157 **Be it finally resolved**, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences will hold a meeting with the
158 Economics department chair and Economics Director of Undergraduate Studies along with student
159 leaders to discuss this issue.
160

161 **Respectfully Submitted,**
162

163 Akhilesh Issur '17
164 *International Liaison At-Large*
165

166 Yashvi Gattani '18

- 167 *VP Internal Affairs, Cornell Undergraduate Asia Business Society*
168
169 Imtisal Qadir '18
170 *Member, Pakistani Students Association*
171
172 Archana Choudhary '17
173 *Advocacy Team Member, International Students Union*
174
175 *(Reviewed by: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 5-0-0, 9/13/16)*