

Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(12/1/16)
Type of Action:	TYPE: Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

1 S.A. Resolution #23
 2 Declaring Cornell University a Sanctuary Campus

3 ABSTRACT: This resolution calls for Cornell administration to declare Cornell University a
 4 “Sanctuary Campus” in the wake of claims made by U.S. President-elect Donald Trump and his
 5 advisers concerning potential immigration policy. It also calls on the administration to affirm its
 6 commitment to the most vulnerable members of our community. As a sanctuary campus, Cornell
 7 would declare its intent to not cooperate with US Immigration and Customs Enforcement efforts to
 8 locate members of the Cornell community and commit to guaranteeing funding for DACA students.

9 Sponsored by: Julia Montejo '17, Traciann Celestin, '19, Matthew Indimine, '18, Akhilesh Issur, '17,
 10 Arjun Iyer, '18, Dustin Liu, '19, Mayra Valadez '18.

11 **Whereas**, following the United States presidential election on November 8, 2016, there has been an
 12 increase in the frequency of recorded events of discriminatory and hateful action against
 13 people of color, queer people, immigrants, Muslims, and other historically marginalized
 14 people on and off college campuses across the U.S.;^{1,2,3}

15 **Whereas**, Cornell’s mission of “any person any study,” should be reflected in its response to
 16 changing national policies;

17 **Whereas**, students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members of Cornell University have
 18 circulated a petition to make Cornell a sanctuary campus;⁴

19 **Whereas**, 2,263 Cornell students, staff, and alumni have already signed the petition by the time of
 20 its closing on November 28, 2016 (Appendix A)

21 **Whereas**, such petitions are also circulating at over 100 other colleges and universities across the
 22 country;⁵

23 **Whereas**, 110 college presidents have signed a letter to urge President-Elect Donald Trump to
 24 speak out against harassment and hate.⁶

¹ <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2016/11/12/post-election-spate-hate-crimes-worse-than-post-911-experts-say/93681294/>

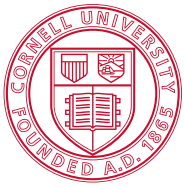
² <https://medium.com/@seanokane/day-1-in-trumps-america-9e4d58381001#.51zgm6ue3>

³ <http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/hate-on-the-rise-after-trumps-election>

⁴ https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeX2El5TNjwCqfTDw0yYMH2ZEWDTcVcaPVjPVwtZ4vETssl_g/viewform?c=0&w=1

⁵ http://www.chronicle.com/article/Could-Colleges-Become/238442?key=4RKr4qKcf4rcS4jgH7bQLp4noe9c_BKzBFgBSMEi_k5K6__gBdJmxhCgr5EGFO3ySWNqODJ5alNSe2tLbjdhVjJDOG1PSWpPWEedKX2NpQ3pyeldxYU1GeXhyYw

⁶ <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2016/11/18/110-college-presidents-issue-letter-trump-urging-him-speak-out-against-harassment>



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25 **Whereas**, the Harvard University Police Department Chief of Police, Francis D. Riley, sent an email
26 to the Harvard community stating that “It is not the jurisdiction, responsibility, or practice
27 of the HUPD to police the immigration status of members of our community and,
28 consistent with its long-standing policy and practice, the Department will not do so”
29 (Appendix B);

30 **Whereas**, many major cities, including New York City, Chicago, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and
31 Boston, have declared that they will not be cooperating with ICE and/or have declared their
32 cities to be sanctuary cities;⁷

33 **Whereas**, Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick has stated that “We will not cooperate with any attempts to
34 use ICE as a deportation task force [and] we will not cooperate with any unconstitutional
35 attempt to expose you to harm;”⁸

36 **Whereas**, Cornell Interim President Rawlings sent an email on November 22, 2016, to the Cornell
37 community affirming the continuation of financial aid for DACA (Deferred Action for
38 Childhood Arrivals) students but excluded any acknowledgement of the potential actions of
39 US Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

40 **Whereas**, Cornell has shown support to undocumented students with DACA (Deferred Action for
41 Childhood Arrivals) status by adding DACA students to the domestic admissions and
42 financial aid pool⁹, yet the DACA program could be discontinued by the new presidential
43 administration;¹⁰

44 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Student Assembly calls on the administration to protect all
45 students, staff, faculty, their families, and the broader community regardless of race, sex,
46 disability, LGBTQ+ identity, socioeconomic status, political affiliation, nationality, religion,
47 or citizenship by reaffirming the university’s commitment to create a campus atmosphere of
48 respect and have no tolerance for bullying and acts of discrimination;

49 **Be it further resolved**, that the Student Assembly asks the administration to guarantee financial aid
50 for current and future DACA (or DACA eligible) students and develop a system for funding
51 all undocumented and international students regardless of temporary status;

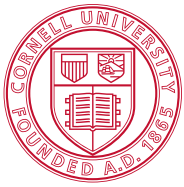
52 **Be it further resolved**, that the Student Assembly requests that the administration guarantees
53 student safety by refusing to release information that can make students vulnerable and that
54 is not publicly available;

⁷ http://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/27/us/cities-vow-to-fight-trump-on-immigration-even-if-they-lose-millions.html?_r=0

⁸ <http://cornellsun.com/2016/11/16/myrick-vows-to-protect-minorities-immigrants-in-ithaca/>

⁹ <http://cornellsun.com/2016/02/18/students-express-concerns-over-new-need-aware-financial-aid-policy/>

¹⁰ <http://www.npr.org/2016/11/11/501728578/can-trump-do-what-hes-promised-on-immigration>



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- 55 **Be it further resolved**, that the Student Assembly asks the administration and Cornell University
56 Police

57 Department to resist the intrusion of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
58 officials into our community;
- 59 **Be it further resolved**, that the Student Assembly asks that the administration provide legal and
60 counseling services, information, and updates for students who may be directly affected by
61 local, state, and federal policy changes;
- 62 **Be it finally resolved**, that the Student Assembly requests that Cornell interim President Hunter R.
63 Rawlings III, president-elect President Martha E. Pollack, and the Cornell University Police
64 Department, make its commitment to the above requests through a public statement sent to
65 all students, staff, and faculty.
- 66 **Respectfully Submitted,**
- 67 Julia Montejo '17
68 *Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion, Student Assembly*
69 *Cornell DREAM Team*
- 70 Traciann Celestin, '19
71 *Minority Liaison-at-Large, Student Assembly*
- 72 Matthew Indimine, '18
73 *Executive Vice President, Student Assembly*
- 74 Akhilesh Issur, '18
75 *International Students Liaison-at-Large, Student Assembly*
- 76 Arjun Iyer, '18
77 *Student Assembly Diversity Committee*
78 *President, Society for India*
- 79 Dustin Liu, '19
80 *Vice President of Public Relations, Student Assembly*
- 81 Mayra Valadez '18
82 *First Generation Student Liaison At Large, Student Assembly*
83 *Cornell DREAM Team*
- 84 *(Reviewed by: Diversity Committee, 11/28, 19-0-0)*