



Cornell University

**Faculty Senate**  
Dean of Faculty, Joseph Burns

**University Assembly**  
Chair, Jim Blair

**Employee Assembly**  
Chair, Greg Mezey

**Student Assembly**  
President, Sarah Balik

**Graduate & Professional Student Assembly**  
Acting President, Catherine Wong

1                                   **Shared Governance Joint Declaration**  
2                                   **in Honor and Celebration of President David J. Skorton**

3  
4 Sponsored by: The Faculty Senate, The University Assembly, The Employee Assembly, The  
5 Student Assembly, and The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly  
6

7 **Whereas**, Dr. David J. Skorton was born in Milwaukee, and earned his bachelor's and M.D.  
8 degrees at Northwestern University, and completed his medical residency and  
9 fellowship in cardiology at UCLA, and after a prominent academic career at the  
10 University of Iowa, was selected to be the nineteenth president of that institution, and  
11

12 **Whereas**, in September 2006, Dr. David J. Skorton became the 12th President of Cornell  
13 University, where he also maintains two academic appointments; and  
14

15 **Whereas**, since his inauguration, President Skorton has been a friend, champion and ally to  
16 shared governance at Cornell, advocating for voice and representation of the entire  
17 campus community through the Faculty Senate, the Graduate & Professional Student  
18 Assembly, the Student Assembly, the University Assembly, and the Employee Assembly;  
19 and  
20

21 **Whereas** President Skorton has attended nearly one hundred meetings of the combined  
22 branches of shared governance, and reviewed over seven hundred pieces of legislation,  
23 and  
24

25 **Whereas** President Skorton, in spite of his administrative role, never lost sight of the  
26 mission of the university, never lost his focus on the welfare of students, the quality of  
27 instruction, his roots as a faculty member and his ardent support for the staff  
28 community, and  
29

30 **Whereas** President Skorton has fairly represented and respected students, faculty and  
31 staff, and championed mutually supportive and respectful dialogue, and  
32

33 **Whereas** on July 1, 2015 President Skorton will become the 13<sup>th</sup> Secretary of the  
34 Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, the world's largest museum and research  
35 complex, and  
36

37 **Whereas** President Skorton is a visionary and skilled leader, whose time in academia  
38 especially here at Cornell, has benefited the hearts and minds of many  
39

40 **Be it therefore resolved** that the Faculty Senate, the University Assembly, the Employee  
41 Assembly, the Student Assembly and the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly  
42 (collectively known as “shared governance”), thank and commend President David J.  
43 Skorton for his years of service to Cornell University and to shared governance, and  
44

45 **Be it further resolved**, the shared governance bodies at Cornell University congratulate  
46 President Skorton on his appointment to the Smithsonian Institution where the world  
47 will benefit from his wisdom, experience, leadership and good humor, and the profound  
48 influence he has had on society as a physician, professor, and administrator; and  
49

50 **Be it finally resolved** that this Joint Declaration be presented to David J. Skorton at his  
51 Farewell Celebration on May 1, 2015, with a copy to the Executive Board of the Cornell  
52 University Board of Trustees.  
53

54 **Adopted,**

55  
56 **By Vote of the University Faculty Committee, April 20, 2015**

57 Joseph A. Burns  
58 Dean of Faculty  
59

60 **By Vote of the University Assembly, April 21, 2015**

61 James N. Blair  
62 Chair, 2014-2015 University Assembly  
63

64 **By Vote of the Employee Assembly, April 29, 2015**

65 Gregory N. Mezey  
66 Chair, 2014-2015 Employee Assembly  
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68 **By Vote of the Student Assembly, April 30, 2015**

69 Sarah E. Balik  
70 President, 2014-2015 Student Assembly  
71

72 **By Vote of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, April 20, 2015**

73 Kai Weng (Catherine) Wong  
74 Acting President, 2014-2015 Graduate and Professional Student Assembly  
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