U.A. Resolution #12
Requiring All On-Campus Flags to be Flown at Half-Staff in Honor of Those Lost to COVID-19
[02/16/2021]
Cosponsors: Jacob Feit, Chair of the Campus Infrastructure Committ

Abstract: This resolution calls on University officials to lower all flags on Cornell’s campuses to “half-staff” in honor of those who lost their lives at the hands of the “severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2” (SARS-CoV-2) pandemic.

Whereas, the human species is facing a deadly crisis of tremendous magnitude, causing immeasurable pain, sorrow, and

Whereas, by the commencement of Cornell’s 2021 spring semester (02/08/2021), the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic had claimed the lives of over two-million individuals worldwide, including nearly five-hundred thousand Americans, and

Whereas, low-income communities, communities of color, and indigenous peoples have statistically shouldered the greatest burden of loss, suffering, and pain during the aforementioned on-going pandemic, and

Whereas, Cornell University’s community is composed of individuals from nearly every corner of the world affected by this on-going pandemic, and

Whereas, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs recommends flying the American flag at half-staff “when the whole nation is in mourning,” and

Whereas, New York State Governor, Andrew Cuomo, ordered all flags flown on New York State buildings to be flown at half-staff in honor of the victims of the aforementioned, on-going pandemic, and

Whereas, “the term ‘half-staff’ means the position of the flag when [the flag] is one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff,” 1

Be it therefore resolved, each on-campus flag, including but not limited to American flags and Cornell University flags, shall be “hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position.” 2

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1 4 U.S.C. § 7 (2020)
2 Id.