

Cornell University
University Assembly

U.A. Resolution # 5

Support for the Office of the University Ombudsman

March 10, 2015

1 **Sponsored by: Matthew Battaglia, Undergraduate; Vice Chair, University Assembly**

2
3 **On behalf of:**

4 **The Entire University Assembly: R. Adessa, S. Balik, J. Barnett, J. Batista, M. Battaglia,**
5 **C. Best, J. Blair, R. Booker, J. Burns, M. Hatch, E. Johnston, N. La Celle, E. Loew,**
6 **C. McGrath, G. Mezey, R. Walroth, R. Wayne.**

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8 **Whereas,** the Office of the University Ombudsman offers a unique setting where Cornell
9 community members may talk about issues in an open and candid manner without fear of
10 reprisal; a safe place where students, faculty and staff may speak confidentially about a conflict
11 and obtain guidance; and a place where efforts are geared toward managing conflict, thereby
12 improving student, faculty and staff life experience and the overall work environment, and
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14 **Whereas,** the Office of the University Ombudsman has been accomplishing that mission
15 successfully since its founding in 1969, and
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17 **Whereas,** the Ombudsman's most recent annual report confirms the year-to-year trend that the
18 number of visitors, that is the number of people helped, continues to increase, and
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20 **Whereas,** the Ombudsman's most recent annual report also confirms the average complexity and
21 amount of time needed to support each case is constant or growing, and
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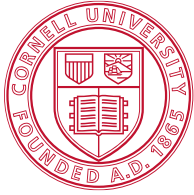
23 **Whereas,** the Ombudsman's Office recently lost the services of the Assistant Ombudsman
24 because the position could not be fully funded, and
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26 **Whereas,** the Ombudsman's Office recently gained a much-needed office manager, but that
27 manager is not able to handle case loads, and
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29 **Whereas,** the Ombudsman's Office is funded directly by the Office of the President, and
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31 **Whereas,** because of confidentiality, no available statistics can adequately represent the
32 tremendous financial value gained by the conflict resolution services and other guidance
33 provided to the Cornell community by the Ombudsman's Office, therefore be it
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35 **Resolved,** that the University Assembly supports the creation, funding, and hiring of a new, full-



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36 time Assistant Ombudsman position, and

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38 **Be it Further Resolved**, the University Assembly calls on President-elect Garrett to meet with
39 the Ombudsman within her first six months in office with the express goal of understanding the
40 vital role the University Ombudsman's Office performs at Cornell, and formally reviewing and
41 considering the request to hiring a new, full-time Assistant Ombudsman, and

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43 **Be it Finally Resolved**, that if a decision not to support and fund a new, full-time Assistant
44 Ombudsman position is made, that the rationale be provided to the University Assembly so that
45 the Assembly may, at its discretion, review the matter with the University President at an
46 appropriate future date and time.

Respectfully Submitted,

James N. Blair

Chair, University Assembly