

Cornell University
University Assembly

Cornell University University Assembly
Agenda of the August 31, 2021 Meeting
4:30 PM – 6:00 PM
401 Physical Sciences Building

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Roll Call
 - b. Land Acknowledgment of the Gayogoho:nq (Cayuga Nation)
 - c. Welcome and Introduction
 - i. Brief message from UA Chair about the role and expectations
 - ii. Executive Committee introductions
 - d. Call for New Business
- II. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. [May 11, 2021](#)
- III. Business of the Day
 - a. [Proposed 2021-2022 meeting schedule](#)
 - b. [University Assembly committee vacancies](#) (internal and external)
 - c. Review of Summer University Hearing and Review Board appointments and next steps
 - i. Current Codes and Judicial Committee – their role and name
 - d. Presentations for upcoming session
- IV. New Business/Open Forum
 - a. [Resolution #1: Calling Upon Cornell University to Require COVID-19 Vaccination for All Faculty, Staff, and Students](#)
- V. Adjournment

If you are in need of special accommodations in order to fully participate, please contact Student Disability Services at (607) 254-4545 or the Office of the Assemblies at (607) 255-3715 or assembly@cornell.edu prior to the meeting.



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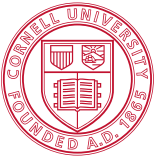
Cornell University Assembly

Minutes of the May 11th, 2021 Meeting

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Zoom

- I. Call to Order
 - a. L Kenney called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm..
 - b. *Members Present:* V. Aymer, H. Depew, N. Danev, D. Dunham, J. Feit, B. Fortenberry, T. Fox, D. Hiner, L. Kenney, C. Levine, J. Pea, L. Smith, C. Van Loan, P. Thompson, J. Withers
 - c. *Members Absent:* U. Chukwukere, C. Duell, A. Hong, R. Howarth, B. Sherr
 - d. *Also Present:* P. O'Neal, P. Kay, S. Murphy
- II. Land Acknowledgment of the Gayogohó:nò (Cayuga Nation)
- III. Moment of silence in remembrance of Phillip Zukowski.
- IV. Approval of the Minutes (5/4/21)
 - a. N. Danev motioned to approve the minutes.
 - i. P. Thompson seconded the motion.
 - ii. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.
- V. Business of the Day.
 - a. UA R24 – Making the UA Charter Gender-neutral
 - i. L. Kenney presented the resolution. The resolution would change the language from “she or he” to “they” within the charter.
 - ii. N. Danev motioned to pass the resolution.
 1. V. Aymer seconded the motion.
 2. L. Kenney determined that this would be a roll call vote.
 - a. V. Aymer – yes.
 - b. H. Depew – yes.
 - c. N. Danev – yes.
 - d. D. Dunham – yes.
 - e. J. Feit – yes.
 - f. B. Fortenberry – yes.
 - g. T. Fox – yes.
 - h. D. Hiner – yes.
 - i. C. Levine – yes.
 - j. J. Pea – yes.
 - k. L. Smith – yes.
 - l. C. Van Loan – yes.
 - m. P. Thompson – yes.
 - n. J. Withers – yes.
 - o. L. Kenney – abstain.
 3. This resolution **passed** with 14-0-1
 - iii. L. Kenney gives P. Thompson chair-ship.



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- b. UA R25 – Precluding Constituent Leaders from Serving on the UA Executive Board or as Chairs of Standing Committees and the UA R25 addendum
 - i. L. Kenney presented the resolution.
 - ii. N. Danev asked is the addendum would be passed with the resolution.
 - iii. D. Dunham asserted that the addendum is not meant to be passed with the resolution as it addresses a different bylaw section.
 - iv. D. Dunham presented an amendment to delete "or as Chair of a University Assembly Standing Committee" (lines 31-32 and line 40) and to add "Resolved, that the University Assembly encourages the 2021-22 term assembly to consider the attached bylaw amendment, which aims to strengthen the assembly's oversight over the standing committees' activities, or to undertake measures aimed at similar objectives; and" at line 36. They further explained that instead of limiting those who might apply for chair-ship, the body have written reports from committees as a way to express their ideas to the UA.
 - v. B. Fortenberry stated that having the committee reports would serve as a good check against having one person (i.e. the chair) represent the committee's ideas. They also said it would create an organized information source to present the ideas of the committee as a group.
 - vi. L. Kenney and J. Feit agreed to the amendments.
 - vii. D. Dunham moved to take out all references to the "standing committee" from the resolution.
 1. L. Kenney seconded the motion.
 2. The motion **passed** with 8-1-0.
 - viii. D. Dunham moved to add "Resolved, that the University Assembly encourages the 2021-22 term assembly to consider the attached bylaw amendment, which aims to strengthen the assembly's oversight over the standing committees' activities, or to undertake measures aimed at similar objectives; and" at line 36.
 1. N. Danev seconded the motion.
 2. The motion **passed** with 12-0-0.
 - ix. N. Danev moved to vote on the resolution.
 1. D. Dunham seconded the motion.
 2. P. Thompson determined that this would be a roll call vote.
 - a. V. Aymer – yes.
 - b. H. Depew – yes.
 - c. N. Danev – yes.
 - d. D. Dunham – yes.
 - e. J. Feit – yes.
 - f. B. Fortenberry – yes.
 - g. T. Fox – yes.
 - h. D. Hiner – yes.
 - i. C. Levine – yes.
 - j. J. Pea – yes.
 - k. L. Smith – yes.
 - l. C. Van Loan – yes.
 - m. P. Thompson – abstain.
 - n. J. Withers – yes.



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- o. L. Kenney – yes.
 - 3. The resolution **passed** with 14-0-1.
 - c. UA R16 – Calling for a Veterans Support Center and the UA R16 addendum
 - i. L. Kenney motioned for the resolution to be released from the CWC and sent back to the UA.
 - 1. J. Feit seconded the motion.
 - 2. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.
 - ii. L. Kenney presented the resolution. The resolution asked for a centralized location for veterans and military-affiliated individuals.
 - iii. D. Howell asked to be added “Debra Howell, Chair, Cornell Veterans Colleague Network Group” to the sponsor list.
 - iv. B. Fortenberry motioned to vote on the resolution.
 - 1. L. Kenney seconded the motion.
 - 2. P. Thompson determined that it would be a roll call vote.
 - a. V. Aymer – yes.
 - b. H. Depew – yes.
 - c. N. Danev – yes.
 - d. D. Dunham – yes.
 - e. J. Feit – yes.
 - f. B. Fortenberry – yes.
 - g. T. Fox – yes.
 - h. D. Hiner – yes.
 - i. C. Levine – yes.
 - j. J. Pea – yes.
 - k. L. Smith – yes.
 - l. C. Van Loan – yes.
 - m. P. Thompson – abstain.
 - n. J. Withers – yes.
 - o. L. Kenney – yes.
 - 3. The resolution **passed** with 14-0-1.

VI. New Business

- a. UA R27 – Urgent Need for the Hiring of a Military Service-Related CAPS Counselor
 - i. L. Kenney moved make an amendment to add “to our knowledge” on line 32.
 - 1. B. Fortenberry seconded the motion.
 - 2. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.
 - ii. D. Howell asked to be added “Debra Howell, Chair, Cornell Veterans Colleague Network Group” to the sponsor list.
 - iii. P. ONeal and P. Kay spoke to their experience with CAPS and the need for a veteran-specific counselor.
 - iv. V. Aymer motioned to add “at least one” on line 54 and 58 as one therapist might not be a good fit for everyone.
 - 1. L. Kenney seconded the motion.
 - 2. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.
 - v. B. Fortenberry proposed an amendment “Be it also resolved, that in the event that Cornell University currently employees a veteran or counselor trained in



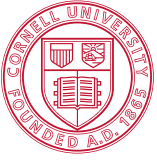
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- veteran or military counseling that CAPS work with the veteran organizations in the University to inform the Cornell Community.” to lines 53-55.
1. L. Kenney made a friendly amendment, moving it to lines 57-59, changing “Be it also resolved” to “Resolved,” and removing the second “that.”
- vi. N. Danev moved to vote on B. Fortenberry’s amendment.
1. D. Dunham seconded the motion.
 2. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.
- vii. P. Kay stated that veteran’s need to have access to specific types of therapy, namely CP and relating to PTSD.
- viii. L. Kenney motioned to move on to Resolution 28 and give P. Kay time to draft language.
1. N. Danev seconded the motion.
 2. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.
- ix. P. Thompson gave chair-ship back to L. Kenney
- b. UA R28 – Transparency and Accountability into the University’s Process for Certifying Enrollment with the Department of Veteran Affairs. UA R28 addendum A and B.
- i. S. Murphy, Co-Founder of the Cornell Undergraduate Veterans Association and Co-Founder and Secretary of the Cornell Military Network, presented a slideshow and a resolution. They stated there has been issues with delays in veteran’s benefits due to the decentralization of the university and lack of processes for certification of veterans within Cornell.
 - ii. N. Danev motioned to vote on the resolution.
 1. D. Dunham seconded the motion.
 2. The motion **passed** with 13-0-1. - iii. J. Feit motioned to extend the meeting to 6:15pm.
 1. P. Thompson seconded the motion.
 2. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent. - iv. L. Kenney gave chair-ship to P. Thompson.
- c. UA R27 – Urgent Need for the Hiring of a Military Service-Related CAPS Counselor\
- i. P. Kay suggests the language “hire and individual with both the training and experience providing Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Cognitive Processing Therapy, and Prolonged Exposure Therapy to US combat veterans”
 - ii. S. Murphy suggests “combat veterans” instead of “US combat veterans”
 - iii. L. Kenney suggests formatting amendments.
 - iv. N. Danev suggests “this individual or individuals.
 - v. L. Kenny motioned to add the edits above, reading “Resolved, this individual, or individuals, would have training and experience providing Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Cognitive Processing Therapy, and Prolonged Exposure Therapy to combat veterans; and” to line 57 to 59.
 1. N. Danev seconded the motion.
 2. P. Kay asserted that “combat veterans” exclude non-combat related trauma such as rape.
 3. J. Feit proposed they may want to consider including family members and dependents.



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4. L. Kenney proposed to add “for individuals who have experienced military-related trauma” on line 59.
5. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.
- vi. N. Danev motioned to vote on the resolution.
 1. L. Kenney seconded the motion.
 2. L. Kenney asked if D. Howell would like to be added to the sponsor list.
 - a. They agreed.
 3. The motion **passed** with 13-0-1.
- vii. P. Thompson gave chair-ship back to L. Kenney.
- d. UA R29 – Thanking Dean of Faculty Charles Van Loan for Outstanding Service to Shared Governance
 - i. L. Kenney thanked C. Van Loan.
 - ii. D. Dunham introduced the resolution and thanked C. Van Loan.
 - iii. N. Danev motioned to vote on the resolution and thanked C. Van Loan.
 1. D. Dunham seconded the motion.
 2. The resolution **passed** unanimously with 14-0-0.
- e. UA R30 – Postponing the University Assembly Organizational Meeting Until All Constituent Groups Have Had the Opportunity to Fill their Seats
 - i. D. Dunham rescinded the motion.
- f. L. Smith stated that the SA still has unresolved races.
- g. V. Aymer supported re-introducing the resolution due to time conflicts if held further overtime.
- h. D. Dunham motioned to reintroduce UA R30 – Postponing the University Assembly Organizational Meeting Until All Constituent Groups Have Had the Opportunity to Fill their Seats
 - i. L. Kenney stated that the organization meeting would be two weeks from the current date, on May 25th, 2021 due to finals and current elections.
 - ii. L. Smith stated that there was no consensus in the SA on representatives.
 - iii. N. Danev stated that there are five SA members currently here who are able to vote.
 - iv. L. Kenney asked if there was a chance L. Smith would not be elected.
 - v. L. Smith stated that since there are five SA members present it logistically would work, but they have reservations since the SA as a body has not come to a consensus on the UA representatives.
 - vi. L. Kenney asked if L. Smith could run since until there is an election he is an interim member and could be re-elected for a different position.
 - vii. L. Smith stated that there is a possibility.
 - viii. B. Fortenberry seconded the motion to reintroduce and motioned to vote on the resolution.
 1. N. Danev seconded the motion to vote.
 2. B. Fortenberry stated that in light of having three faculty members present and V. Aymer’s time conflict with their final it would be unadvisable.



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3. J. Feit stated that due to discussions the time for appointing has passed but would like to note that the SA elections for UA representative positions would happen in the fall.
 4. L. Smith stated that this academic year was different, and in a normal year it would be held in April.
 5. L. Kenney stated that the resolution would allow the Faculty Senate and the SA to fill their seats.
 6. L. Kenney determined that it would be a roll call vote.
 - a. V. Aymer – yes.
 - b. N. Danev – abstain.
 - c. D. Dunham – no.
 - d. J. Feit – abstain.
 - e. B. Fortenberry – yes.
 - f. T. Fox – abstain.
 - g. D. Hiner – yes.
 - h. C. Levine – yes.
 - i. L. Smith – yes.
 - j. P. Thompson – yes.
 - k. J. Withers – yes.
 - l. L. Kenney – abstain.
 7. The resolution **passed** with 7-1-4.
- VII. The meeting was adjourned at 6:27pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kassandra Jordan
Clerk of the Assembly

Cornell University University Assembly

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Brandon Fortenberry, Chair
Jacob Feit, Executive Vice Chair
Richard Bensele, Vice Chair for Internal Operations
Nikola Danev, Ranking Member

University Assembly Meeting Schedule 2021 – 2022 (draft)

Fall 2021 (8 meetings)

August 31, 2021

September 14, 2021

September 28, 2021

October 5, 2021

Week early due to Fall Break

October 19, 2021

November 2, 2021

November 16, 2021

November 30, 2021

Spring 2022 (9 meetings)

January 25, 2022 **first day of instruction**

February 8, 2022

February 22, 2022

March 8, 2022

March 22, 2022

March 29, 2022

Week early due to Spring Break

April 12, 2022 **Ramadan – April 3-May 2**

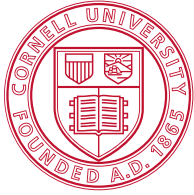
April 26, 2022 **Ramadan – April 3-May 2**

May 10, 2022 **last day of instruction**

Meetings are traditionally held biweekly on Tuesdays
during the academic year, from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Revised 7/28/21

Name	NetID	Email	Committee	Position	Composition
TBD			Codes and Judicial Committee (UA)	From UA	11 voting members - 3 from UA (including committee chair), 1 from each constituent assembly from its voting membership; and 1 from each constituent assembly from the constituency it represents.
TBD			Codes and Judicial Committee (UA)	From UA	11 voting members - 3 from UA (including committee chair), 1 from each constituent assembly from its voting membership; and 1 from each constituent assembly from the constituency it represents.
TBD			Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology and the Environment (UA)	From UA	11 voting members - 3 from UA (including committee chair), 1 from each constituent assembly from its voting membership; and 1 from each constituent assembly from the constituency it represents.
TBD			Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology and the Environment (UA)	From UA	11 voting members - 3 from UA (including committee chair), 1 from each constituent assembly from its voting membership; and 1 from each constituent assembly from the constituency it represents.
TBD			Campus Welfare Committee (UA)	From UA	11 voting members - 3 from UA (including committee chair), 1 from each constituent assembly from its voting membership; and 1 from each constituent assembly from the constituency it represents.
TBD			Campus Welfare Committee (UA)	From UA	11 voting members - 3 from UA (including committee chair), 1 from each constituent assembly from its voting membership; and 1 from each constituent assembly from the constituency it represents.
TBD			Campus Planning Committee (UA)	From UA	4 Presidential appointments, 8 position appointments, 9 additional at-large members, and ex-officio members. 9 At-Large members consist of 1 University Assembly liaison, 2 graduate/professional students, 2 undergraduate students, 2 employees, and 2 faculty members, each names by his or her respective Assembly for a two-year term.
TBD			Transportation Hearing & Appeals Board	From UA	Assemblies and approved by those bodies - 4 students (2 graduate/professional, 2 undergraduate), 4 faculty, and 4 employees. Two year term, except that initially, so that terms may be staggered, two faculty, two student and two employees shall serve terms of 1 year.
TBD			UA Liaison to the Policy Advisory Group	From UA	
TBD			UA Liaison to the Student Insurance Advisory Committee	From UA	
TBD			UA Liaison to the Student Health Fee Advisory Committee	From UA	
TBD			UA Liaison to the Sustainable Cornell Council	From UA	
TBD			UA Liaison to the Public Safety Advisory Committee	From UA	
TBD			UA Liaison to Gorge Safety Committee	From UA	



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U.A. Resolution # 1

**Calling Upon Cornell University to Require COVID-19
Vaccination for All Faculty, Staff, and Students**

August 30th, 2021

1 **Sponsored by:**

- 2 - **Nikola Danev, Ranking Member of the University Assembly and PhD Student in**
3 **Genetics, Genomics and Development**
4 - **Jacob Feit, Executive Vice Chair of the University Assembly**
5

6 **Whereas**, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in over 4 million deaths and 205 million cases
7 globally, and over 600,000 deaths in the United States alone,
8

9 **Whereas**, the Delta variant of the virus that causes COVID-19 is nearly twice as contagious as
10 previous variants, it might cause more severe illness than previous strains in unvaccinated
11 persons, unvaccinated people remain the greatest concern, and vaccinated people appear
12 to be infectious for shorter periods than unvaccinated people, according to the Centers for
13 Disease Control and Prevention¹,
14

15 **Whereas**, the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has expressed that under the
16 ADA, Title VII, and other federal employment nondiscrimination laws, an employer may
17 require all employees physically entering the workplace to be vaccinated for COVID-19,
18 with certain accommodations², such as those afforded for students by Cornell at this time;
19

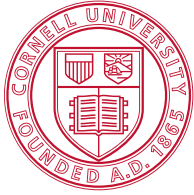
20 **Whereas**, the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) has approved the Pfizer
21 COVID-19 vaccine (Comirnaty) for the prevention of COVID-19 disease in individuals
22 16 years of age and older³,
23

24 **Be it therefore resolved**, the University Assembly calls upon the President, Provost, Vice
25 President of Human Resources, and their designees to institute a requirement for all
26 faculty, staff and students to receive a COVID-19 vaccine;

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Delta Variant: What We Know About the Science.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html> Accessed: August 12th, 2021

² U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. What You Should Know About COVID-19 and the ADA, the Rehabilitation Act, and Other EEO Laws. <https://www.eeoc.gov/wysk/what-you-should-know-about-covid-19-and-ada-rehabilitation-act-and-other-eeo-laws> Accessed: August 12th, 2021

³ United States Food and Drug Administration. FDA News Release: FDA Approves First COVID-19 Vaccine.
<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-covid-19-vaccine> Accessed: August 30th, 2021



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Resolved, this requirement is to be set up in the same way as the requirement for students to be vaccinated, i.e. the wording may be as follows:

“Cornell is requiring COVID-19 vaccination for all students, faculty and staff attending the Ithaca, Geneva, and Cornell Tech campuses for the fall 2021 semester. Medical and religious exemptions will be accommodated, but the expectation will be that our campuses and classrooms will overwhelmingly consist of vaccinated individuals, greatly reducing the risk of infection for all. Affiliates who do not comply will be subject to progressive enforcement measures.”

Resolved, the University shall consider offering paid time off for employees experiencing side effects after receiving the vaccine, in addition to the already offered paid time off to receive the vaccine;

Be it finally resolved, the University shall update the University Assembly with reasoning as to why this policy was not implemented sooner, when it will be implemented, or otherwise a reason for the rejection of this resolution.