

Cornell University University Assembly

University Assembly Meeting Agenda

May 9, 2023

4:45-6:15pm

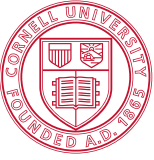
401 Physical Sciences Building | [Zoom](#)

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Roll Call
 - b. Land Acknowledgment of the Gayogohonoꝓ (Cayuga Nation)
 - c. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda
- II. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. [Minutes of April 25, 2023 meeting](#)
- III. Open Forum
- IV. Business of the Day
 - a. [JAR7: Right to Free Expression](#)
 - b. [JAR11: Commending the Service of University Assembly Chair Duncan Cady](#)
 - c. [JAR12: Commending the Service of University Assembly Executive Committee](#)
- V. Assembly Reports
 - a. Student Assembly
 - b. Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
 - c. Employee Assembly
 - d. Faculty Senate
- VI. Committee Reports
 - a. Executive Committee
 - b. Campus Codes Committee
 - c. Campus Welfare Committee
 - d. Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology, and the Environment
- VII. Liaison Reports
- VIII. Adjournment

***Immediately following the adjournment of the regular meeting, the members of the 2023-2024 University Assembly will convene in an Executive Session (guests and community members not invited by the chair will be excused) for the Organizational meeting. During this closed session, the UA will elect its Executive Committee and approve a calendar of meetings.**

If you are in need of special accommodations, contact the Office of the Assemblies at (607) 255-3715 or Student Disability Services at (607) 254-4545 prior to the

meeting.



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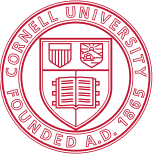
Minutes of the April 25th, 2023 Meeting

4:45 pm – 6:15 pm

401 Physical Sciences Building | Zoom

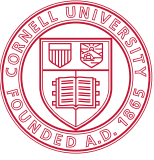
- I. Call to Order
 - a. D. Cady called the meeting to order at 4:52 pm.
 - i. *Members Present:* G. Akkan, M. Benda, R. Bensel, D. Cady, K. Carter-Cram, E. DeRosa, A. Haenlin-Mott, M. Heeney, I. Hewson, D. Howell, Y. Hua, A. Juan, J. Kruser, M. McEntee, B. Milles, V. Valencia, S. Williams
 - ii. *Members Absent:* O. Akujuo, S. Aysola, D. Hiner, J. Sun
 - iii. *Also Present:* I. Chasen, T. Dinstein, A. Leighton, C. O'Hara, R. Platt, J. Withers
- II. Land Acknowledgement of the Gayogoḥo·noꞓ (Cayuga Nation)
 - a. D. Cady stated the UA's acknowledgment of the Cayuga Nation.
- III. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda
 - a. D. Cady called for a motion to have UA Resolution #7 – Protecting the Right to Protest to be considered during Business of the Day after consideration of Resolutions #9 and #10.
 - i. R. Bensel put forward the motion.
 - ii. M. Heeney seconded the motion.
 - iii. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.
- IV. Approval of the [Minutes from April 11th, 2023](#)
 - a. M. Benda motioned to approve the minutes from the April 11th, 2023 meeting.
 - i. A. Juan seconded the motion.
 - ii. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.
- V. Open Forum
 - a. Announcement of Paperless Meetings in Recognition of April Sustainability Month
 - i. D. Cady stated that in recognition of April Sustainability Month, the University Assembly has gone paperless for all future meetings.
- VI. Business of the Day

Consideration of [UA Resolution #9 – Changes to the University Assembly Charter](#) and [UA Resolution #10 – Changes to the University Assembly Bylaws](#)



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- i. D. Cady introduced UA Resolution #9 for consideration after hearing changes to the resolution at the Assembly's previous meeting and opened the floor to debate.
 - ii. R. Bensel stated that the Campus Codes Committee had unanimously approved the version of both Resolutions #9 and #10 provided at this meeting.
 - iii. Questions for R. Bensel led to a discussion of the purpose of omitting lines 46-51, whether Committees seeking an opportunity for community input while drafting resolutions should be included in the Resolution, and what the technical mechanics of offering online public comment could look like.
 - iv. R. Bensel introduced UA Resolution #10 for consideration after the Campus Codes Committee approved the changes suggested at the assembly's last meeting.
 - v. D. Cady stated that he hopes that language on hybrid meeting format will be incorporated in future bylaws.
 - vi. M. McEntee put forward a motion to amend the resolution to replace the word "Plantations" with "Botanic Gardens" on line 235.
 1. M. Heeney seconded the motion.
 2. The motion **passed** by unanimous consent.
 - vii. A. Juan put forward a motion to vote on Resolution #9.
 1. K. Carter-Cram seconded the motion.
 2. K. Carter-Cram rescinded her second.
 3. B. Milles stated that she was concerned about why hybrid language was not being codified.
 4. B. Milles seconded the motion.
 5. The motion to end debate **passed** by unanimous consent.
 6. UA Resolution #9 **passed** by a vote of 17-0-1.
 - viii. A. Haenlin-Mott put forward a motion to vote on Resolution #10.
 1. K. Carter-Cram seconded the motion.
 2. The motion to end debate **passed** by unanimous consent
 3. UA Resolution #10 **passed** by a vote of 16-0-2.
- b. Consideration of [UA Resolution #7 – Protecting the Right to Protest](#)
- i. Comments on UA Resolution #7 led to discussions of the [Comments of the Concerned Alumni](#) on the resolution; the purpose of passing the resolution; the possibility of retitling the resolution to encompass only free speech or expression as opposed to protest and the inclusion of a purpose statement; whether to refer to the University of Chicago's Kalven Report in the resolution



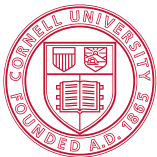
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- ii. J. Kruser put forward a motion to amend the resolution to reword line 1 to strike “Protest” and read “Free Expression.”
 1. B. Milles seconded the motion
 2. The motion **passed** by unanimous consent.
- iii. I. Chasen proposed a motion to amend the resolution’s abstract to add a purpose statement that reads, “This resolution urges the administration to work with students, employees, and faculty to discuss and communicate enforcement of issues of free expression.”
 1. J. Kruser put forward the motion.
 2. M. Heeney seconded the motion.
 3. M. Heeney rescinded her second.
 4. E. DeRosa stated that she thought it was important to think clearly about the language used for the purpose statement.
 - a. J. Kruser stated that he developed the language with I. Chasen before the meeting.
 5. M. Heeney seconded the motion.
 6. The motion **passed** by unanimous consent.
- iv. Further discussion ensued on whether the Assembly should remove lines 74-76 due to its interpretation that the university restricts free speech based on its Code of Conduct; and the use of absolutist free speech-language in the first two “Whereas” clauses of the resolution.
- v. A. Haenlin-Mott put forward a motion to postpone consideration of Resolution #7 to the assembly’s next meeting on May 9th.
 1. R. Bensel seconded the motion.
 2. The motion **passed** by unanimous consent.
- vi. J. Withers stated that President Pollack has reached out to schedule a Leadership Breakfast to consider the 2023-2024 theme of promoting free expression and has invited leadership from the Assembly.
- vii. D. Cady stated that he would like to use a straw poll to vote on Resolution #7
 1. M. Heeney put forward the motion.
 2. A. Juan seconded the motion.
 3. The motion **passed** by unanimous consent and a straw poll was conducted on the resolution.

VII. Assembly Reports

a. Student Assembly

- i. D. Cady stated that the Student Assembly will be voting on several resolutions at their next meetings, mainly addressing their internal



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documents. She also stated that the assembly will be holding elections May 1st-3rd.

- b. Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
 - i. K. Carter-Cram stated that the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly's nomination period is closed and that new members will be announced by Monday, May 1st. She also stated that Big Red Barn has been given \$19,000 in funding for renovations.
- c. Employee Assembly
 - i. A. Haenlin-Mott stated that the Employee Assembly has completed elections with all uncontested races and did not have a quorum at their last meeting. She also stated that Wednesday, May 3rd will be their last meeting and will be their turnover meeting.
- d. Faculty Senate
 - i. B. Milles stated that the Faculty Senate will hold a faculty forum on April 26th and their next Senate meeting will be on May 10th.

VIII. Committee Reports

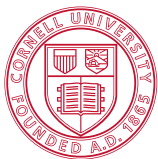
- a. Executive Committee
 - i. D. Cady stated that the Executive Committee met last week to draft the agenda for this week as well as the possibility of a social event.
- b. Campus Codes Committee
 - i. R. Bensel stated that the Campus Codes Committee worked on Resolutions #9 and #10.
- c. Campus Welfare Committee
 - i. A. Juan stated that the Campus Welfare Committee will be meeting on April 26th and will draft their end-of-year report.
- d. Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology, and the Environment
 - i. Nothing to report.

IX. Liaison Reports

- a. A. Haenlin-Mott stated that the Campus Planning Committee had their final meeting, where they discussed numerous building projects like the Atkinson Center, the opening of Hoy Field, the new CIS Bowers building, and numerous renovations to older buildings. She stated that they also discussed the university's master plan.

X. Adjournment

- a. A. Haenlin-Mott motioned to adjourn the meeting.
 - i. K. Carter-Cram seconded the motion.
 - ii. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.



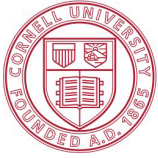
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This meeting was adjourned at 6:21pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

P.J. Brown

Clerk of the Assembly



Resolution 7: Protecting the Right to Free Expression

Abstract: This resolution urges the Administration to work with students, employees, and faculty to discuss and communicate enforcement of issues involving free expression.

Sponsored by: Isaac D. Chasen '23; Shelby L. Williams '25; Duncan A. Cady '23, Danielle Smith '24, Talia Dinstein '25, Ally Leighton '25, Katie Lin '26, Lindsay Reisner '26, Michael Serdula '24, Thej Khanna '26

Reviewed by:

Whereas, freedom of speech and the right to protest is enshrined in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, and like other great academic institutions, has been one of the core values of Cornell University since its founding;

Whereas, Cornell University was founded as an institution where any person could find instruction in any study, as well as find the opportunity to freely express their views and opinions, freely express themselves, and freely engage in political discussion and disagreement in a respectful and informed environment;

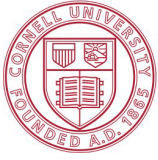
Whereas, while generations of Cornell students have lived and learned under our university motto and have proudly supported and endorsed these values, the university, like many other institutions, is now facing new challenges to the civil and free expression of personal views and opinions;

Whereas, the Cornell community has historically thrived while entertaining all viewpoints, respecting the views of others with whom we disagree, and celebrating what makes every one of us unique, as this is what makes our institution welcoming to any person and accommodating to any study;

Whereas, the right to protest and demonstrate has been a catalyst for change on campus, from past generations' fights for justice and representation, to modern day movements and mobilizations for progress;

Whereas, central to social progress is the ability of Cornellians to peacefully yet powerfully express their viewpoints in a diversity of ways, including large scale demonstrations and protests, as well as sitting in and speaking out around campus;

Whereas, efforts by student, faculty, and employee groups to bring the issue of free expression and the right to protest to the forefront demand the support and promotion of our shared governance system and administration;



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Whereas, any kind of communication that attacks or discriminates against a person or a group based on who they are, such as their race, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity, disability status, socioeconomic status, or national origin, always violates our values and Cornell’s Code of Conduct, and should be condemned wherever and whenever it occurs;

Whereas, preventing individuals from expressing their views and opinions, regardless of popularity, political opinion, and personal identity, always violates our university’s values, and should be condemned wherever and whenever it occurs;

Whereas, freedom of speech does not mean freedom from consequences for one’s words, and any attempts to prevent students, faculty, and employees from holding others accountable for their words should be condemned wherever and whenever it occurs;

Whereas, in such settings, our community must learn to strike a delicate balance between the rights of those who wish to speak, and the rights of those who wish to protest;

Be It Therefore Resolved, the University Assembly completely and unequivocally supports free expression, organization, speech, representation, and the right to protest within the Cornell community;

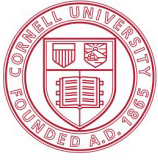
Be It Therefore Resolved, the University Assembly completely and unequivocally supports academic freedom and the freedom of expression in the classroom, at public events, and in all public spaces of Cornell University;

Be It Therefore Resolved, the administration, through words, actions, programs, and policies, should pledge to be a leader in safeguarding free expression and the right to protest on campus, and will work with the University Assembly to provide space and protection for the peaceful expression of all views and opinions.

Be It Therefore Resolved, the University Assembly’s members, committees, and constituencies will engage in fact-finding in an effort to develop concrete plans to support and engage directly with these constituent-led efforts to keep free expression and the right to protest front of mind across the Cornell community;

Be It Therefore Resolved, the University Assembly wholeheartedly supports efforts to ensure accountability across the Cornell community for speech that violates our values and our Code of Conduct;

Be It Therefore Resolved, the administration, alongside the University Assembly and all institutions of shared governance at Cornell, must take a leading role in openly discussing



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81 the most difficult and pressing issues relating to free expression and the right to protest
82 with all relevant constituencies, as well as creating spaces for intergroup communication;
83

84 **Respectfully Submitted,**

85
86 Isaac D. Chasen '23

87 *Co-President of the American Civil Liberties Union at Cornell*

88
89 Shelby L. Williams

90 *Student Assembly Representative for the College of Arts and Sciences, Representative to the*
91 *University Assembly*

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93 Duncan A. Cady

94 *Chair of the University Assembly*

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96 Danielle Smith '24

97 *Co-President of the American Civil Liberties Union at Cornell*

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99 Talia Dinstein '25

100 *Co-President of the American Civil Liberties Union at Cornell*

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102 Michael Serdula '24

103 *Treasurer of the American Civil Liberties Union at Cornell*

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105 Katie Lin '26

106 *Secretary of the American Civil Liberties Union at Cornell*

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108 Thej Khanna '26

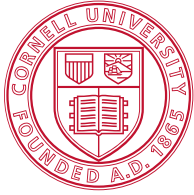
109 *Recruitment and Membership Chair of the American Civil Liberties Union at Cornell*

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111 Lindsay Reisner '26

112 *Communications Chair of the American Civil Liberties Union at Cornell*

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114 Ally Leighton '25

115 *Events and Advocacy Chair of the American Civil Liberties Union at Cornell*



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U.A. Resolution # 11

**Commending the Service of University Assembly Chair
Duncan Cady**

01MAY2023

1 **Sponsored by: Michelle Heeney, UA Voting Member**

2

3 **Abstract: In his role as the University Assembly chair, Duncan Cady has served the**
4 **Cornell community for the past year. In that time, Duncan has been an invaluable**
5 **contributor to the success and evolution of the Cornell University Assembly. This**
6 **resolution commends Duncan for his dedication, perseverance, and tenacity as Cornell**
7 **University Assembly Chair.**

8

9 **Whereas, Duncan has served as the Cornell University Assembly Chair for the past year.**

10

11 **Whereas, in that time, Duncan has been directly involved in ensuring the continued success of**
12 **the University Assembly.**

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14 **Whereas, Duncan has personally served on numerous committees to ensure representation**
15 **across campus.**

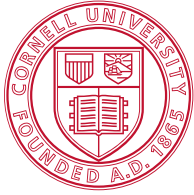
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17 **Whereas, this body is indebted to Duncan's service, dedication, passion, and care and will**
18 **deeply miss his presence and leadership.**

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20 **Be it therefore resolved, that the Cornell University Assembly commends Duncan Cady for**
21 **his tireless dedication and service to this Assembly.**

**No signature block is present until the resolution has been disposed of by the Assembly
(Passed, Failed, Withdrawn, etc.) Then a block with the certifying member (customarily
Chair/Vice-Chair) verifying the authenticity and vote tally of the resolution.**



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U.A. Resolution # 12

**Commending the Service of University Assembly
Executive Committee
01MAY2023**

1 **Sponsored by:** Michelle Heeney, UA Voting Member

2
3 **Abstract:** In their roles as University Assembly Executive Committee, Duncan Cady,
4 Debra Howell, Beth Milles, and Gizem Akkan have served the Cornell community for the
5 past year. In that time, they has been invaluable contributors to the success and evolution
6 of the Cornell University Assembly. This resolution commends Duncan Cady, Debra
7 Howell, Beth Milles, and Gizem Akkan for their dedication, perseverance, and tenacity in
8 the Cornell University Assembly.

9
10 **Whereas,** they have served as the Cornell University Assembly Executive Committee members
11 for the past year.

12
13 **Whereas,** in that time, they have been directly involved in ensuring the continued success of the
14 University Assembly.

15
16 **Whereas,** they have personally served on numerous committees to ensure representation across
17 campus.

18
19 **Whereas,** this body is indebted to their service, dedication, passion, and care and will deeply
20 miss their presence and leadership.

21
22 **Be it therefore resolved,** that the Cornell University Assembly commends Duncan Cady,
23 Debra Howell, Beth Milles, and Gizem Akkan for their tireless dedication and
24 service to this Assembly.

No signature block is present until the resolution has been disposed of by the Assembly (Passed, Failed, Withdrawn, etc.) Then a block with the certifying member (customarily Chair/Vice-Chair) verifying the authenticity and vote tally of the resolution.