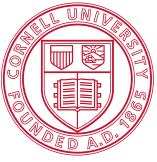


Cornell University
University Assembly

Cornell University's University Assembly
Agenda of the November 29, 2022 Meeting
4:45 PM – 6:15 PM
Zoom ONLY
Meeting ID: 950 9338 7723 Passcode: 642117

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Roll Call
 - b. Land Acknowledgment of the Gayogoho:nq (Cayuga Nation)
 - c. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda
- II. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. [Minutes of November 1, 2022 meeting](#)
 - b. Minutes of November 15, 2022 meeting
- III. Open Forum
 - a. Abi Dubovi and Julie Edwards, of the Skorton Center, who would like to engage the assemblies for input on an upcoming Mental Health Review.
- IV. Business of the Day
 - a. SA R15 – Requesting that the University Provide Funds for an MD Gynecologist at Cornell Health
 - i. Should we discuss writing a UA supportive resolution?
 - ii. [SA Resolution for reference](#)
- 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. Codes and Judicial Committee
 - c. Campus Welfare Committee
 - d. Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology, and the Environment
- VII. Liaison Reports
- VIII. 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.



Cornell University University Assembly

Cornell University Assembly

Minutes of the November 1, 2022 Meeting

4:45 PM – 6:00 PM

Room 401, Physical Sciences Building | Zoom

I. Call to Order

- a. Chair D. Cady called the meeting to order at 4:53 in Room 401 of the Physical Sciences Building.
- b. *Members Present:* G. Akkan, M. Benda, R. Bensel, D. Cady, K. Cram, A. Haenlin-Mott, I. Hewson, D. Hiner, D. Howell, Y. Hua, A. Juan, J. Kruser, M. McEntee, B. Milles
- c. *Members Absent:* O. Akujuo, E. De Rosa, J. Sun
- d. *Also Present:* E. Kalweit, J. Withers

II. Land Acknowledgement of the Gayogohono (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 asked the Assembly if there were any late additions to the agenda.
- b. D. Cady stated that he would add the introduction of J. Withers to the agenda.

IV. Approval of the October 18, 2022, Minutes

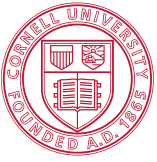
- a. R. Bensel moved to approve the minutes, A. Juan seconded, and the motion was approved by unanimous consent

V. Introduction of Jessica Withers as Director of the Assemblies

- a. J. Withers stated that she has previously served on the Assembly for two years and will begin her position by attending the forthcoming meetings of the Assemblies.

VI. Open Forum

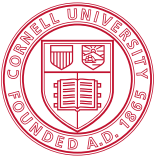
- a. Feedback/discussion on work-life balance and post-COVID expectations
 - i. B. Milles expressed an interest in discussing work-life balance and post-COVID expectations and that she had received a concern from her fellow faculty members about exhaustion post-COVID. She stated that she believes the work-life survey distributed by human resources has caused a more critical thought process among students, faculty, and staff on an escalation of administrative tasks post-COVID. She asked whether the Assembly



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would want to discuss this issue with President Pollack and what the Assembly should do.

- ii. R. Bensel stated that there was a questionnaire from human resources six or seven years ago in which criticism was covered up by the administration. He stated an interest in disseminating the results of the current survey and working with the University Assembly given the application of the university to students, faculty, and staff as opposed to just faculty. He also expressed interest in having a session of the Assembly in which they discuss the results of the survey, but that it may be premature to have a conversation with President Pollack.
- iii. D. Cady expressed interest in the Assembly's thoughts over how they could craft questions to President Pollack on the issue and opened the floor for further comments.
- iv. G. Akkan stated that this is an important problem for Cornell and relates to the productivity of everyone. She also stated that if questions should be asked of President Pollack, they should be structured.
- v. A. Haenlin-Mott stated that employees are just as impacted by this issue as anyone, as this has caused great resignation among employees. She also stated that the Employee Assembly pushed the Priorities Poll and stressed the importance of the issue to employees.
- vi. M. Benda stated that she would like to have a conversation with President Pollack, but that she would prefer a structured and more balanced conversation to identify sources of stress for students, faculty, and staff. D. Cady asked whether M. Benda had any ideas for how this could be formatted. M. Benda replied that she did not.
- vii. A. Juan stated that these issues are not unique to Cornell and that from the undergraduate perspective, there is a culture of overwork, though he stated that faculty should not reduce their coursework. He also stated that administration decisions like expanding the student population are also causing stress to employees.
- viii. D. Cady stated that Cornell is attempting to promote health across campus with the Okanagan Charter and that while Vice President Ryan Lombardi has been an avid promoter of the issue, the exact details have not yet been released and that the role of the Assembly is not yet defined. He stated that anyone who has ideas on how the Assembly can ask President Pollack about this issue should present them before their meeting with President Pollack.

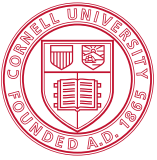


Cornell University University Assembly

- ix. A. Juan stated that the Charter is hopefully a choice by the University to consider what goals it is currently fulfilling and what they are not and that it would be wise for the Assembly to do the same.
- x. B. Milles stated that she brought up the issue because work-life is a shared responsibility and concern. She also stated her concern about accommodations for students and the idea of the University Assembly.
- xi. D. Hiner stated that as the chair of the CITE committee if there is a technology aspect to accessibility, he would be happy to be involved in any way he can. He also stated that the Assembly should not wait for data to come out to discuss well-being and that there seems to be a consensus that the Cornell population is overworked.
- xii. R. Bensel stated that if the results are openly discussed Assembly debate will have more credibility.
- xiii. G. Akkan stated that the survey can help in identifying the most common issues and strategies to approve them. D. Cady seconded her point.
- xiv. D. Hiner stated that he would be interested to learn more about student opinion in order to gauge overall campus climate.
- xv. G. Akkan asked whether the Assembly could send out their own survey to gauge campus climate.
- xvi. D. Hiner stated the administration tries not to overwhelm any Cornell population with surveys, and stated that feedback from the surveys may not provide the UA with the desired results.
- xvii. A. Haenlin-Mott stated that the Assembly needs to make sure that they are prepared to take action to make changes if a survey is sent out.
- xviii. B. Milles stated that there is a lack of clarity in guidelines and recommendations because they are shifting with changes in the health situation, which causes uncertainty over what to do.
- xix. A. Juan stated that data can be found by searching Institutional Research and Planning, where mentioned survey data is archived.

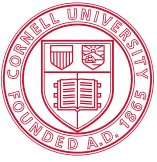
VII. Business of the Day

- a. Reminder: questions for President Pollack due by November 8th to dc932@cornell.edu
 - i. D. Cady stated that questions for President Pollack's visit on November 14th are due to dc932@cornell.edu by November 8th so that the Executive Committee can review these questions, as well as incorporate the points discussed at this meeting, at their next meeting.
- b. UA Resolution 1: Updating the Charter of the Office of the University Ombuds



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- i. D. Cady stated that the University Assembly has two standards, one in which a resolution is presented, read, and can be voted on at any time during one meeting. He stated that the other standard, used more last year, stated that a resolution would be presented and read at one meeting and voted upon at the next meeting. He stated that the standard that made the most sense was for this resolution to be voted on today because B. Lewenstein has been very clear in his presentation of the Charter and because the Resolution is based directly on his conversation with the Assembly at the last meeting. He also opened the floor for debate.
- ii. R. Bensel stated that there is a motion to suspend the rules by unanimous consent that can be used to vote on resolutions on the day they are presented, and that unanimous consent should be used for best practice. D. Cady stated he would approve unanimous consent for best practice as suggested by R. Bensel.
- iii. D. Cady expressed his support for suspending the rules and allow voting on the resolution by unanimous consent.
- iv. A. Haenlin-Mott stated that she had questions over the distinctions between Resolution 1 and Resolution 6, which was rejected by the President and was therefore not ready to vote. D. Cady stated that the two resolutions were over two separate issues and that he did not presently plan to discuss Resolution 6.
- v. D. Cady asked for other comments or questions on Resolution 1. No further questions or comments were presented. D. Cady asked D. Howell whether she had anything to share since she asked to be included as a sponsor of the Resolution. D. Howell stated that she did not have anything to add about the Charter and that she felt it would be important for a University Assembly member to be included as a sponsor.
- vi. J. Kruser stated that it would be good to have a way to track changes between the original charter and the new charter. D. Howell stated that in the agenda, one of the links is to a document that includes changes made to the resolution.
- vii. M. McEntee stated that it was interesting to have the Charter's history and that the Ombuds office did a good job at making verbiage more gender-neutral and altering content.
- viii. D. Cady expressed interest in someone calling a question to end debate to move to a vote on the Resolution.
- ix. A. Juan stated that everything in the Charter was very clear and moved to call a question, seconded by G. Akkan.



Cornell University University Assembly

1. In a vote of 13-0-1, the Assembly moved to end debate and moved to approve Resolution 1.
2. In a vote of 13-0-1, the Assembly approved Resolution 1.
- c. Vote: Should we make the November 29th meeting Zoom-only to accommodate a request from our speaker?
 - i. D. Cady asked D. Howell to share information about the mental health review.
 - ii. D. Howell stated that Laura Santacrose, the Associate Director of the Skorton Center, would like to engage the assemblies for input on an upcoming Mental Health Review.
 1. “If possible, it would be preferable for the session to take place via Zoom and have everyone be able to participate via zoom-this would allow everyone to have access to the chat feature to participate and for us to be able to capture people’s thoughts, suggestions, and ideas. We have found that hybrid sessions (with some people in-person and others online) are not conducive to this process.”
 - iii. A. Juan stated his only issue with a Zoom-only meeting was its original correlation with the President’s visit.
 - iv. B. Milles stated that her opposition to the Zoom-only meeting from the last meeting was assuaged by D. Howell’s explanation. G. Akkan seconded her thoughts.
 - v. A. Haenlin-Mott asked what the distinction was between what the Skorton Center aimed to accomplish as opposed to the Okanagan Charter. A. Juan stated that the two are similar, but not the same and that the Skorton Center is a branch of what the Charter aims to accomplish.
 - vi. D. Cady moved to end debate and into a vote on the issue.
 1. In a vote of 13-0-1, the Assembly moved to make the November 29th meeting Zoom-only to accommodate a request from their speaker.
- d. UA Resolution 6: Alterations to Codes and Judicial Committee Name and Function
 - i. D. Howell stated that the Codes and Judicial Committee intends to introduce the resolution and a motion on it.
 - ii. R. Bensel stated that upon the adoption of the Student Code of Conduct, the Codes and Judicial Committee was charged with changing its role under the Assembly’s bylaws to accommodate a change in function. He stated that Resolution 6 was drafted to make those changes and was adopted by 12-0-2 and sent to the President. He stated the President rejected the Resolution and the Committee has since met to discuss the history of the Resolution



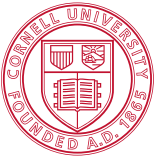
Cornell University University Assembly

and its rejection. He also stated that the Committee does not have enough information from the President's rejection and the Committee's role and that some substantive questions were applicable to the Assembly as a whole. He stated that the Committee aims to talk about these issues with the President in conversation on its role in the Assembly. He also stated that since the Committee authorized the Resolution unanimously, he expressed interest in the Assembly making a request for the Committee this conversation with the President to address ambiguity in how to make changes to the Resolution.

- iii. D. Cady asked if there were questions about R. Bensel's remarks. He also stated that any step toward clarity would be beneficial to the Committee and asked about what specifically
- iv. A. Juan read the motion submitted by R. Bensel, "The University Assembly requests that Richard Bensel and Keir Weyble meet with President Pollack to discuss the letter in which she rejected UA Resolution 6 last Spring."
- v. D. Cady called for a motion to move to a vote on R. Bensel's motion.
 1. In a vote of 13-0-1, the Assembly approved R. Bensel's motion to have R. Bensel meet with R. Bensel that he and K. Weyble meet with President Pollack to discuss the letter in which she rejected Resolution 6 last spring.

VIII. Assembly Reports

- a. Student Assembly
 - i. D. Cady stated that the Assembly will hold an election for the new University Assembly representative given the stepping down of G. Dong. He also stated that the Assembly passed a resolution that urged financial aid to better prepare and inform international students of the 14% tax withholding they are subject to. He also stated that the Assembly's Student Activity Infrastructure Financial Review Committee granted Manual, a men's mental health organization, \$10,000 to improve men's mental health.
- b. Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
 - i. K. Cram stated that the Assembly sent three delegates to the Ivy Plus Summit in New York City. She also stated that they will be electing both a new Vice President of Appropriations and Finance Chair this December and that the Assembly is working on staffing Committees.
- c. Employee Assembly



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- i. A. Haenlin-Mott stated that the Assembly meets November 2nd and that they have been working on a preliminary review of the Priorities Poll. She also stated that they are preparing for both the President's attendance of their November 16th meeting and that the President's Address to Staff has been pushed to February. She also stated that the Assembly has had a meet-and-greet with Christine Lovely, Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer.
- d. Faculty Senate
 - i. B. Milles stated that the Faculty Senate will meet again on November 9th. R. Bensel stated that the Senate held a faculty forum on designations of non-tenure track faculty members as "Research Scientists," whether designations of positions outside the tenure system are increasing at Cornell, and whether they undercut some important protections for tenured faculty members.

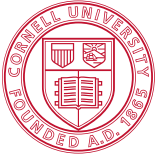
IX. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Committee
 - i. Noting to report
- b. Codes and Judicial Committee
 - i. R. Bensel stated the committee met last night
- c. Campus Welfare Committee
 - i. A. Juan stated that the Committee met to start work on a resolution for the details of the public safety forum and discussed a university-wide Narcan training to prevent overdose. A. Juan asked for clarification on a statement in the bylaws that there is always one elected and one non-elected Assembly representatives on the committee. He stated that the Graduate and Professional School Assembly brought two elected representatives and that the bylaws do not exclusively prohibit two elected representatives. D. Cady stated that given precedent, he deferred to the bylaw requiring one voting representative and one non-voting representative on the Committee, but that A. Juan should bring up the issue in a future meeting.
- d. Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology, and the Environment
 - i. Nothing to report

X. Liaison Reports

- a. Nothing to report

XI. Adjournment



Cornell University
University Assembly

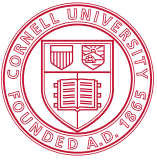
- a. A. Juan moved to adjourn the meeting and D. Hiner seconded.

This meeting was adjourned at 6:07pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

PJ Brown

Clerk of the Assembly



Cornell University University Assembly

Cornell University Assembly

Minutes of the November 15th, 2022 Meeting

4:45 - 6:15 pm

Room 401, Physical Sciences Building | Zoom

I. Call to Order

- a. Chair D. Cady called the meeting to order at 4:50 in Room 401 of the Physical Sciences Building.
- b. *Members Present:* G. Akkan, M. Benda, R. Bensel, D. Cady, K. Cram, A. Haenlin-Mott, P. Hanley, M. Heeney, D. Hiner, D. Howell, Y. Hua, A. Juan, J. Kruser, M. McEntee, B. Milles, V. Valencia, S. Williams
- c. *Members Absent:* O. Akujuo, E. DeRosa, I. Hewson, J. Sun,
- d. *Also Present:* M. Pollack, J. Malina, T. Chen, E. Kalweit, J. Withers, A. Breitstein

II. Land Acknowledgement of the Gayogohono (Cayuga Nation)

- a. D. Cady stated the UA's acknowledgment of the Cayuga Nation.

III. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda

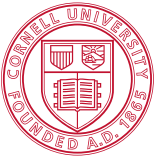
- a. D. Cady called for late additions to the agenda.

IV. Approval of the November 1st, 2022, Minutes

- a. R. Bensel motioned to postpone the approval of the minutes from the November 1st meeting, M. Heeney seconded.

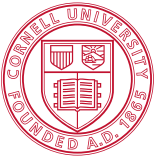
V. Open Forum

- a. Meeting with President Martha Pollack and Vice President Joel Malina
 - i. D. Cady introduced M. Pollack and J. Malina to the Assembly.
 1. M. Pollack stated that there have been numerous advances in academic distinction on campus. She also stated that the University has made strides to improve environmental sustainability on campus.
 2. M. Pollack stated that the University now has a multi-faceted plan for renovating McGraw Hall and that Atkinson Hall is currently under construction, which will house the Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability. She also stated that the University makes significant contributions to TCAT operating expenses to improve public transportation on campus to subsidize the cost of the university-wide Omnibus pass. She stated that the TCAT's operation changes are due to the general trend of a labor shortage.



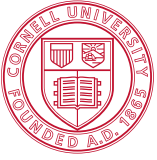
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3. M. Pollack stated that the University has adopted the Okanagan Charter to secure the University's commitment to advancing the recommendations of the Student Mental Health Review.
 4. M. Pollack stated that the capacity for the University to pursue all its efforts is due to the successful fundraising received from alumni.
 5. M. Pollack stated that the University is dedicated to improving the cost of first-generation students to attend the University. She also stated that the University has a goal of fundraising \$500 million to help provide financial aid to students and control the costs of admission.
 6. She also stated that the University has instituted a universal unlimited meal plan required for all first-year students to assuage food insecurity and the Cornell Academic Materials Program (CAMP), in which students pay a flat rate of \$225 for their textbooks each semester.
 7. M. Pollack stated that the University is considering and monitoring the *North Carolina* and *Harvard* cases, which she stated will dramatically impact university admissions.
- ii. R. Bensel asked J. Malina about Ann Coulter's presentation on November 9th, which was disrupted by an organized student demonstration that has since garnered 300,000 hits online. He asked what kinds of punishment J. Malina believes will discourage this kind of behavior in the future.
1. M. Pollack stated that the police handled the situation as best they could, and that community pressure is necessary for the situation to be changed.
- iii. D. Cady stated that there has been a lot of conversation within the Assembly on student organizations, particularly Greek organizations, regarding sexual assault. He asked M. Pollack for context of her statement on the issue.
1. M. Pollack stated that she was horrified by the behavior of the students in question and that she had put a series of regulations that seemed not to fix this kind of behavior. She stated that she believe community discussion is necessary to eradicate this kind of behavior from the University.
 2. J. Malina stated that the university community should become active in halting this kind of behavior.
 3. S. Williams stated that she believe the structure of the Council, a student organization, needs more oversight. M. Pollack stated that there is an office of university administrators in charge of Greek life.



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4. A. Juan stated that as a member of Greek life, this is an issue that is hard to address. He stated that he believes there are benefits to being in a fraternity and that there has not been an occurrence of a member being kicked out of a fraternity for sexual assault.
 5. M. Pollack asked whether the benefits of the fraternity system outweigh its downsides.
 6. D. Hiner stated that the punishment of the whole fraternity for the actions of a few students is contradictory to the idea that these organizations should come forward with the truth in the future because of a lack of trust.
 7. A. Juan stated that the removal of Greek life from Cornell should not be considered because of its importance to the culture of Cornell, that there are processes in place for the removal of a member from a fraternity, and that asked whether the fraternity itself should be punished for the actions of one or a few members.
 8. M. Pollack stated that the more important issue to look at is the rates of sexual assault are higher among fraternities.
 9. A. Juan stated that Cornell is just one university and there are numerous other universities facing the same struggles.
 10. D. Cady stated that Cornell is in a unique position as a leader of universities. M. Pollack stated that the eradication of Greek life would have a massive national impact.
- iv. B. Milles stated that she has brought the issue of mental health to the Faculty Senate and that many faculty members have asked her to come forward about the exacerbation of administrative tasks on staff, faculty, and employees. She asked how the Cornell community can participate in a positive change in mental wellness at the university.
1. M. Pollack stated that it is helpful for her to know how the bodies of the Cornell community are feeling about post-pandemic mental wellness and that there are programs being initiated with the goal of preventing the need for therapy. She also stated that the Assembly's position as possessing great influence among their constituents can be used as a vehicle for further discussion on the issue.
- v. D. Cady asked about updates on the resolutions passed by the Assemblies on the Natatorium Project.
1. M. Pollack stated that the administration hears the Assemblies in their efforts to put in a new pool, but that a pool would require the construction of a new building and that this requires a resource of



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funding that the University currently does not have. She also stated that the administration is focused on improving people-focused issues such as salary.

- vi. A. Haenlin-Mott stated that the work that has gone into the employee survey sent out by Human Resources has increased interest in what the office plans to do with the data they have collected.
 1. M. Pollack emphasized the importance of the data collected by the survey and that the administration's awareness of the primary concerns of employees will allow the administration to better understand where they should prioritize their resources.

VI. Business of the Day

- a. D. Cady thanked the Assembly for their focus and interest in President Pollack's visit and encouraged the Assembly members to continue the conversations brought up during the visit.
- b. Should meetings end at 6:00 or 6:15 pm?
 - i. D. Cady introduced the question of whether meetings should end at 6pm or 6:15pm. He stated that the day's agenda reflected a 4:45-6:15pm meeting time while the the minutes from August 30, 2022 read 4:45-6:00pm.
 - ii. D. Howell stated that she did not have any additional comments and that she is rather seeking clarification on the meeting end-time.
 - iii. A. Juan stated that he remembered assigning the meeting time as 4:45-6:00pm.
 - iv. P. Hanley motioned the issue of whether meetings should end at 6:00 or 6:15pm to a vote, R. Bensel seconded.
 1. In a vote of 14-2-1, the Assembly voted to allow meetings to continue to take place from 4:45-6:15pm.

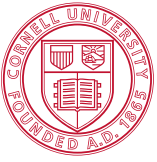
VII. Assembly Reports

- a. Student Assembly
 - i. V. Valencia stated that the Assembly acknowledged the crime alerts that occurred last weekend and released a statement and passed a resolution supporting the basic needs coalition. She also stated that the Assembly elected a new University Assembly representative, Shelby Williams. She also stated that over the past few semesters, the Assembly worked on the Office of Ethics bylaws.



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1. S. Williams introduced herself to the Assembly, stating that she is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Sciences studying government.
- b. Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
 - i. P. Hanley stated that President Pollack attended their last meeting, that they currently have a few elections, and that they are working on a pilot program with Big Red Barn bringing together graduate students for dinners as a method of community building. He also stated that they are bringing together applied economics, microbiology, and nutrition as their next dinner.
- c. Employee Assembly
 - i. A. Haenlin-Mott stated that Cassie Josephs from Employee Experience will attend their November 16th meeting and that she will present on a new guide on diversity issues of Ithaca. She also stated that the Assembly's Priorities Poll has not yet closed and that they are beginning to analyze the results they have. She also stated that there are a few openings in the Assembly and that J. Withers's position has been filled. She also stated that the President's Address to Staff will take place on February 8th and that the EA Appreciations award will be presented at that address.
- d. Faculty Senate
 - i. B. Milles stated that the Senate met on November 9th and that President Pollack attended that meeting. She also stated that an issue of interest is the pilot project for faculty navigating Student Disability Services and that she is worried about individuals who cannot report their struggles.
 1. A. Haenlin-Mott asked whether B. Milles would be willing to expand on the accommodations concern.
 - a. B. Milles stated that the number of requests and the lack of information presented with a request poses issues for faculty in offering students accommodations.
 2. M. Heeney stated that there is a lot of confusion since a lot of rooms have been equipped for Zoom options, which has restricted the ability of students who cannot attend class to participate.
 - a. D. Cady stated that the Assembly could draft a resolution on the issue.
 - b. J. Kruser stated that he is unaware of CIT taking down technology in rooms and that since each college has its own IT department that dictate what kind of technology is within each room, it is possible that college IT departments disequipped the rooms mentioned by M. Heeney.



Cornell University University Assembly

VIII. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Committee
 - i. Nothing to report
- b. Codes and Judicial Committee
 - i. R. Bensel stated that the Assembly's passing of the motion to request a meeting with President Pollack has resulted in the scheduling of said meeting on November 29th and that the delay in meeting with the President is odd. He also stated that the Committee met on November 14th and drafted a few ideas for revamping the Committee. He also stated that while he does not expect to have a full proposal (5:56 pm) completed by the end of the semester, but that they intend to work on this throughout the semester. He stated that one issue that is pertinent to the Assembly is the question of whether trustees can veto the bylaws of the Assembly. He also stated that the Committee needs additional members, as they only have five members as of now.
 1. A. Haenlin-Mott asked whether the committee meets via Zoom or in-person. R. Bensel stated that the Committee is in-person, but that a Zoom option could possibly be coordinated with a laptop.
 2. D. Cady asked what constituencies are underrepresented in the Committee. R. Bensel stated that there is one position occupied by the Student Assembly, the Employee Assembly has no members, and the Graduate and Professional School Assembly and Faculty Senate are both short one position. D. Cady stated that they will send out an email to constituency leaders on the expectations for serving on the committee.
- c. Campus Welfare Committee
 - i. A. Juan stated that the Committee has doubled in size but was unable to meet last week. He stated the Committee's new meeting time will likely be Mondays from 1:30 to 2:30 and that the Committee hopes to continue working on their Public Safety Forum resolution.
- d. Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology, and the Environment
 - i. D. Hiner stated that he intends to meet within the next few weeks and hopes to plan a standard meeting time on off-weeks.

IX. Liaison Reports

- a. Nothing to report



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University Assembly

X. Adjournment

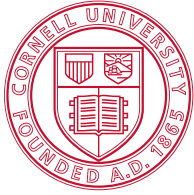
- a. D. Cady stated that he hopes the Assembly members will continue to keep in mind the issues brought up by President Pollack and encouraged the Assembly to draft resolutions on these issues for their committees and constituencies.
- b. R. Bensel motioned to adjourn the meeting, P. Hanley seconded.

This meeting was adjourned at 6:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

PJ Brown

Clerk of the Assembly



Cornell University
University Assembly

U.A. Resolution # 2
Requesting that the University Provide Funds for an MD
Gynecologist at Cornell Health

10/25/2022

1 **Sponsored by:** Michelle Heeney, Voting Member - Graduate & Professional Student
2 **Representative;** Kate Carter-Cram, Voting Member - Graduate & Professional Student
3 **Representative;** Valeria Valencia, President – Student Assembly; Duncan Cady, Chair -
4 **University Assembly;**

5
6 **On Behalf Of:**

7 Arielle Johnson, Treasurer, Pelvic Pain Association at Cornell; Jane Bowman Brady, Vice-
8 President, Pelvic Pain Association; Pelvic Pain Association at Cornell; Planned Parenthood
9 Generation Action at Cornell; PERIOD@Cornell; The Advocacy Project from Cornell
10 University; Law - Women of Color Collective; Cornell Law School - Women's Law Coalition;
11 Disability+; Multicultural Academic Council; Cornell University Women's Health Initiative; I-
12 An "Amy" Su, President, Cornell's Graduate & Professional Women's Network (GPWomen)

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15 **Abstract:** The student health service at Cornell's Ithaca campus, Cornell Health, does not
16 **4** currently have an MD gynecologist on staff, which impedes many students from receiving
17 **5** necessary gynecological care. This resolution requests that the university provide funding
18 **for 6** Cornell Health to employ an MD gynecologist who is able to diagnose and treat the
19 **most 7** common gynecological issues in the student population, including chronic
20 **vulvovaginal 8** conditions and pelvic pain conditions.

21
22 **Whereas,** the mission of Cornell Health is "to foster lifelong learning and well-being through
23 innovative services and strategies that promote the physical, emotional, and social health of
24 individuals and our diverse campus community" and

25
26 **Whereas,** pelvic pain conditions, including endometriosis, vulvodynia, and polycystic ovary
27 syndrome (PCOS), affect up to 16% of cisgender women of reproductive age¹²³⁴, and

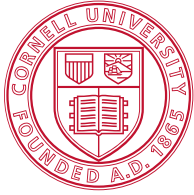
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¹ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/endometriosis>

² https://www.monash.edu/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1412644/PCOS_Evidence-Based-Guidelines_20181009.pdf

³ <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14681994.2013.842969>

⁴ <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/roughly-one-quarter-us-women-affected-pelvic-floor-disorders>



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29 **Whereas**, untreated pelvic pain can cause short and long-term health consequences, including
30 anxiety, depression, poorer quality of life, anemia and infertility, as well as causing absenteeism
31 and productivity declines⁵, and

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33 **Whereas**, we commend Cornell Health for providing quality gynecological treatment to many
34 students despite limited resources, while affirming that an MD gynecologist could provide
35 services that are currently unavailable, and

36

37 **Whereas**, other peer institutions including Harvard and Yale have MD gynecologists available
38 through their student health services, and

39

40 **Whereas**, Cornell students do not have access to convenient and accessible off-campus
41 gynecological care because the majority of MD gynecologists in the Ithaca area specialize in
42 childbirth services, which does not cover the full scope of gynecological care that Cornell
43 students need; this forces many students to travel to Rochester or New Haven to receive quality
44 care for common conditions, and

45

46 **Whereas**, on December 2, 2021, 136 students published an editorial in the Cornell Daily Sun to
47 “urge Cornell to provide funding for Cornell Health to hire an MD gynecologist. Specifically, we
48 need a gynecologist with experience diagnosing and treating chronic vulvovaginal and pelvic
49 pain conditions such as vulvodynia, endometriosis, PCOS, and pelvic floor dysfunction”⁶, and

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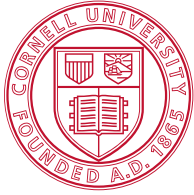
51 **Whereas**, on June 24th, 2022 following the U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v.
52 Wade, Dean Augustine M.K. Choi sent an email to the entire Cornell community stating that
53 “Cornell clinicians, across all our campuses, will continue to provide quality health care services
54 to women, as is legal in the state of New York, and will continue to serve the health care needs
55 of all our patients, faculty, staff and students”, despite the fact that students needing
56 gynecological care do not have access to an MD gynecologist on Ithaca’s campus, and

57

58 **Whereas**, considering that historically marginalized groups, including racial and ethnic minority
59 groups and LGBTQ+ persons, often have disproportionately low access to comprehensive

⁵ [https://www.fertstert.org/article/S0015-0282\(19\)32292-7/fulltext](https://www.fertstert.org/article/S0015-0282(19)32292-7/fulltext)

⁶ <https://cornellsun.com/2021/12/02/letter-to-the-editor-cornell-health-needs-a-gynecologist/>



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60 gynecological care, Cornell Health could reduce access disparities in the student population by
61 providing inclusive care from an MD gynecologist⁷⁸⁹, and

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63 **Whereas**, we believe that providing quality gynecological care to students on the Ithaca campus
64 is an urgent issue, and such care could greatly improve the wellbeing of many students.

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66 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the University secure funding and develop a projected timeline for
67 hiring an MD gynecologist who can treat the most common gynecological issues faced by the
68 Cornell student population, and

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70 **Be it further resolved**, that the University provide regular updates on the hiring process to the
71 UA, and

72

73 **Be it finally resolved**, that the University adequately communicate gynecological services,
74 including those by the MD gynecologist, that are available at Cornell Health to the student body.

⁷ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26595584/>

⁸ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/12712135>

⁹ <https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/committee-opinion/articles/2012/05/health-care-for-lesbians-and-bisexual-women>