



Cornell University University Assembly

Cornell University Assembly

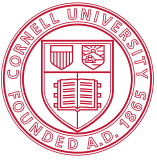
Agenda of the December 8, 2020 Meeting

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

- I. Call to order - 4:30pm
- II. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda – 4:32pm to 4:35pm
- III. Business of the Day
 - a. Approval of Meeting Minutes ([Nov. 24, 2020](#), [Dec. 1, 2020](#))
 - b. [Resolution 3: Bylaw Changes to Require Recorded Voting](#)
 - c. [Resolution 6: Maintaining the University Assembly's Jurisdiction Over the Code of Conduct](#)
- IV. New Business
 - a. [Resolution 7: In Support of an Independent Review of Cornell Admissions Practices](#)
 - b. [Resolution 8: Expressing the U.A. Opinion on the New Student Code of Conduct](#)
 - c. [Resolution 9: Resolution to re-name “Goldwin Smith Hall” in order to foster an increasingly inclusive campus environment](#)
- V. Committee Updates
 - a. Executive Committee
 - b. Campus Infrastructure Committee
 - c. Campus Welfare Committee
 - d. Codes and Judicial Committee
- VI. Constituent Group Updates
 - a. Student Assembly
 - b. Graduate & Professional Student Assembly
 - c. Employee Assembly
 - d. Faculty Senate
- VII. Open Floor Discussion
- VIII. Adjournment at 6pm

If you are in need of special accommodations, contact 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 November 24, 2020 Meeting

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Zoom

I. Call to Order

- a. L. Kenney called the meeting to order at 4:32pm
- b. *Member's Present:* V. Aymer, U. Chukwukere, H. Depew, N. Danev, C. Duell, J. Feit, B. Fortenberry, T. Fox, A. Hong, C. Huang, L. Kenney, C. Levine, J. Pea, B. Sherr, L. Smith, C. Van Loan, P. Thompson, J. Withers
- c. *Member's Absent:* R. Howarth
- d. *Also Present:* C. Benedict.

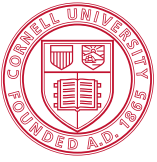
II. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda

- a. B. Sherr motioned to have a roll call vote for all votes during the meeting.
 - i. L. Kenney seconded the motion.
 - ii. B. Sherr believed that all votes should be public. He wanted to motion for roll call in the beginning rather than recording the names at the end so that individuals would be aware when voting.
 - iii. L. Kenney asked clarification on whether this would apply to all votes including procedural.
 - iv. B. Sherr said that it is everything outside of organizational votes, but he would be open to amendments. He stated that with the shift to online this could potentially be easier.
 - v. L. Kenney proposed that someone keep track of names through the checkmarks in Zoom for procedural votes and perform roll call voting for resolutions.
 - vi. B. Sherr agreed and stated he aims to have names recorded with votes, so individuals are held accountable.
 - vii. J. Feit agreed with holding representatives accountable through posting their votes on the website for the public to see.
 - viii. B. Fortenberry agreed with the idea that the public should see their representative's votes. He advocated for a way to record these votes and names without going one-by-one in the interest of time.
 - ix. L. Kenney noted that roll call voting and vote accountability is something she advocated for last year, so she understands the importance. She also agreed with B. Fortenberry that they should not have a roll call vote on every motion or procedure in the interest of time.



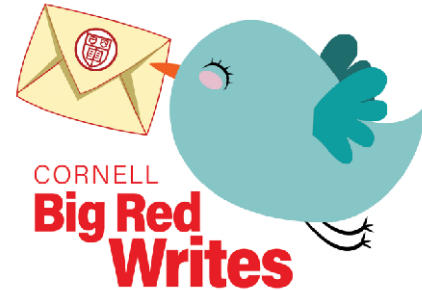
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- x. B. Sherr clarified that the Office of the Assemblies can see the list of people voting and he is advocating for the recording and publishing of that information.
 - xi. H. Depew asked if it would be possible to record something from the chat to record in the minutes or take screenshots of participants. She agreed with L. Kenney that there is a faster way to hold individuals accountable without a roll call vote.
 - xii. L. Kenney recommended that members call for a vote to add this to the agenda.
 - xiii. J. Feit motioned to vote on the late addition to the agenda.
 - 1. C. Duell seconded the motion.
 - 2. The motion **passed** with 14-0-1
 - b. B. Sherr motioned to allow C. Benedict to finish his presentation of Native American and Indigenous Students at Cornell's (NAISAC) resolution after "Big Red Rights" and before going into voting procedure on Resolution 2.
 - i. B. Sherr stated that it was informally implied that C. Benedict would be given more time to finish their presentation NAISAC's demands.
 - 1. J. Feit seconded the motion.
 - 2. The motion **passed** with 16-0-0
 - c. B. Sherr motioned for the University Assembly to recognize the passing of the Transgender Day of Remembrance through reading the names of the 37 murdered due to anti-trans violence in the US during 2020. He stated that this would be read and recorded in the minutes before discussion before Resolution 4 as it will not have a formal vote in the meeting.
 - i. L. Kenney seconded the motion
 - ii. The motion was **passed** with 16-0-1
- III. Business of the Day
- a. Approval of the Minutes (Aug. 5, 2020 and Nov. 10, 2020)
 - i. J. Feit motioned to approve the Aug. 5th minutes and table the Nov. 10th minutes due to L. Kenney's name being recorded as both yes and abstained in a motion and to add in the CJC discussion that C. Van Loan had asked certain individuals to give their opinion.
 - 1. N. Danev seconded the motion.
 - 2. The motion **passed** with 14-0-1
 - b. Presentation by Amy Layton regarding "Big Red Writes"

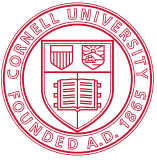


Goals

- **Build relationships across generations and/or Cornell constituencies**
- **Exposure to new experiences, skills, languages, and cultures**
- **Reduce feelings of isolation caused by COVID-19**
- **Help children develop writing/storytelling skills and improve literacy**
- **Forge lifelong friendships**



- A. Layton presents on the program “Big Red Writes.”
- L. Kenney thanked A. Layton for her presentation. L. Kenney said that she is on the planning committee and was excited to hear others interested in connecting people during the pandemic when there is increased isolation.
- H. Depew also thanked A. Layton. She stated that through the priorities poll one main issues was mental health and she felt as though Big Red Writes is a good program to help be connected with each other. She asked A. Layton for any materials to share so she can bring present the program in the Employee Assembly meeting.
- A. Layton said that they had received a lot of feedback that retirees and students were struggling.
- L. Kenney stated that she wanted to bring it to the UA’s attention and proposed that they could send information about the program to the community or attach it to the meeting minutes. She opens the floor for ideas to help further the initiative.
- B. Sherr moved to have the presentation slides move into the minutes for today’s meeting.
 - J. Pea seconded the motion.
 - The motion **passed** with 15-0-1



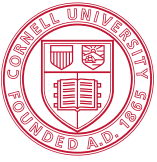
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- vii. L. Kenney thanked A. Layton and said that maybe they could peruse future avenues of sharing even if it is directly to constituent groups.
- c. Resolution 2: Support for Native American and Indigenous Students at Cornell's Demands
 - i. Sponsored by Colin Benedict and Uchenna Chukwukere.
 - ii. C. Benedict presented the resolution.
 - iii. L. Kenney opened the floor for questions.
 - iv. T. Fox asked about the logistics on teaching a required course for all freshmen.
 - v. C. Benedict thanked T. Fox for the question and stated that similar indigenous studies courses have been implemented in other universities successfully and they would draw from said plans. He recognized that this would be a highly collaborative and extensive effort, however he also believed students in Cornell should have a basic understanding of indigenous peoples and land and how to navigate those relationships.
 - vi. J. Feit supported the necessity of these courses for Cornell students. He also reaffirmed that it would not be one course, but several from which students may choose.
 - vii. C. Benedict said once staffing and the infrastructure of the American Indian and Indigenous Studies Program (AIISP) develops then this goal will be more achievable. He stated that he was aiming to have this requirement for student's first year at Cornell, however he is opened to changing it to be at any time within their enrollment. He also stated that because these courses are mostly intersectional there should be less of an issue about adding it to student's courses.
 - viii. L. Kenney thanked C. Levine for recognizing that two indigenous individuals joined the English department yesterday.
 - ix. C. Levine clarified that one is not themselves indigenous but studies the intersection between Ingenious and Asian studies, while the other comes from ingenious heritage.
 - x. L. Kenney thanked C. Levine.
 - xi. L. Kenney opened the floor for motions.
 - xii. B. Sherr asked if there would be any opposition to enter a vote.
 - xiii. B. Sherr motioned to vote on Resolution 2.
 - 1. J. Withers seconded the motion
 - 2. B. Fortenberry said that he believes some clauses may be challenging to include due to the amount of information concentrated in one resolution.



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3. B. Sherr recalled his motion to vote.
 4. J. Feit seconded the motion.
 5. The motion is recalled with no opposition.
- xiv. C. Benedict stated that he is unsure how to answer the question as all the clauses are necessary.
- xv. B. Fortenberry said that the resolution contains many items that might need better clarity due to the gravity of their nature such as the definition of academic spaces.
- xvi. C. Benedict said that they are expecting to have push back from the administration, however they would like to see the University Assembly support the current resolution. He said that while they are open to negotiation, they would like to have a strong front when entering talks with the university.
- xvii. L. Kenney reminded the body of time constraints.
- xviii. J. Pea said that there is a lot of value in the message and not necessarily the feasibility. He also said that it was their responsibility to communicate with these campus leaders to work out the next steps with the administration.
- xix. B. Sherr asserted that they are not voting on the feasibility but rather aiding in getting NAISAC to the negotiation floor.
- xx. B. Sherr motions that the chat be included in the minutes and to allow members to issue their support or opposition in the chat. He motions to table the vote until after Resolution 3.
1. L. Kenney stated that the chat is already recorded in the minutes
 2. J. Withers seconded the motion
 3. The resolution is **tabled** with 18-1-0
- d. Resolution 3: Bylaw Changes to Require Roll Call Voting
- i. Sponsored by Bennett Sherr
 - ii. B. Sherr restated that individuals should put their opinions in the chat as a place for a community forum.
 - iii. B. Sherr stated that this resolution acknowledges the want for transparency within the voting process in order to hold their representatives responsible. He said that they need to improve and sustain the communication and engagement of students with shared governance in line with the charter. He understands that rollcall voting might be difficult in terms of time so he would be open to amendments such as a list published with every vote.
 - iv. L. Kenney asked K. Jordan and G. Giambattista if it would be possible to retain names through the 'yes' and 'no' feature within Zoom.



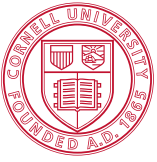
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- v. K. Jordan stated that currently the office records the votes through screenshots, however with how quickly the assembly votes they are not able to capture individual votes. She offered to look into the matter.
 - vi. L. Kenney stated that a possibility that they could explore is waiting a bit more to capture the vote.
 - vii. K. Jordan affirmed.
 - viii. C. Van Loan suggested that they vote through the chat so it is recorded through the transcription.
 - ix. L. Kenney stated that it would be up to B. Sherr to change that language.
 - x. P. Thompson thanked C. Van Loan for the recommendation. P. Thompson stated that this would get a lot more buy in if it did not propose another logistical step. She recommends that one could look through the video to gather the member's votes.
 - xi. B. Sherr said he would be open to voting on the basis of the chat. He stated that his intention was to have this proposal persist through to future sessions. B. Sherr proposed that this resolution that pertains to Zoom would be posted on Friday and voted on in the next session under the understanding that they would revisit this issue for in person sessions when the time arises.
 - xii. G. Giambattista stated that the Office of Assemblies closes the next day due to the holidays.
 - xiii. L. Kenney stated that both of these avenues make sense and one must keep in mind the work needed to go through and record for each vote on behalf of the Office of Assemblies.
 - xiv. J. Feit believed that this is an important resolution and B. Sherr is accurate to point out low voter turnout as evidence of declined faith in shared governance.
 - xv. B. Sherr motioned for the Resolution 3 to be tabled with the acknowledgement that further discussion and amendments will be made to make the resolution more logistically sound.
 1. P. Thompson seconded the motion.
 2. The resolution is tabled with 18-0-0.
- e. Resolution 2 tabled vote
- i. L. Kenney apologized that there was not open forum discussion as she was not aware of this addition and due to time constraints. She thanked individuals for writing in the chat.
 - ii. B. Sherr motions to affirm Resolution
 1. P. Thompson seconded the motion.



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2. The motion **passed** with 18-0-0
- f. Discussion of an additional meeting (December 1, 2020)
 - i. B. Fortenberry motioned to vote for a Dec. 1st meeting.
 1. P. Thompson seconded the motion.
 2. The motion **passed** with 16-0-1
 - g. Executive Session
 - i. B. Fortenberry motions to enter an Executive Session
 1. N. Danev seconded the motion.
 2. The motion **passes** with 15-0-1
 - ii. L. Kenney said there they discussed changes happening in the OJA office once B. Krause leaves her position.
 - iii. B. Fortenberry motion to extends the motion to 6:20pm
 1. B. Sherr seconded the motion
 2. The motion **passed** with 12-0-0
 - h. Resolution 4: Acknowledging the Passing of Transgender Day of Remembrance, Upholding the University Assembly's Commitment to Representing Trans and Genderqueer Members of the Campus Community, and Establishing the LGBTQIA+ Intermediary to the University Assembly
 - i. B. Sherr motioned to table Resolution 4 to December 1st
 1. P. Thompson seconded the motion
 2. L. Kenney clarified that they previously voted on considering reading the names so they would need a formal motion to read the names.
 3. B. Sherr rescinds the motion to vote.
 - ii. B. Sherr motioned to read the names of those who died due to trans violence this year and apply them in the minutes
 1. L. Kenney seconds the motion
 2. The motion **passed** with 13-0-0
 3. L. Kenney read the names as follows: Dustin Parker, 25; Neulisa Luciano Ruiz; Yampi Méndez Arocho, 19; Monika Diamond, 34; Lexi, 33; Scott or Scottlynn Devore, 51; Johanna Metzger; Penélope Días Ramírez, 31; Serena Angelique Velázquez Ramos, 32; Layla Pelaez Sánchez, 21; Nina Pop, 28; Helle Joe O' Regan, 20; Jayne Thompson, 33; Tony McDade; Selena Reyes-Hernandez, 37; Dominique "Rem'mie" Fells; Riah Milton, 25; Brian "Egypt" Powers, 43; Brayla Stone, 17; Merci Mack, 22; Shaki Peters, 32; Bree Black, 27; Summer Taylor; Marilyn Cazares; Dior H Ova; Queasha D Hardy, 22; Aja Raquell Rhone-Spears; Kee Sam; Lea Rayshon Daye,



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28; Aerrion Burnett; Mia Green, 29; Michelle Michellyn Ramos Vargas, 30s; Felycya Harris, 33; Brooklyn Deshuna, 20; Sara Blackwood; Angel Unique, 25; and Yunieski Carey Herrera, 29.

4. L. Kenney thanked B. Sherr for bringing this resolution to the U.A. and she hopes that although this is the first time, this will not be the last time that they acknowledge trans violence and read the names who are killed due to said violence.

iii. B. Sherr motioned to table Resolution 4 to December 1st

1. P. Thompson seconded the motion.

2. L. Kenney commented that there is a clarity in the wording whether this is required of chairs in the future and therefore a bylaw and charter change or whether it is recommended to the body as a whole.

3. The motion **passed** with 14-0-0

i. Resolution 5: In Recognition and Appreciation of Cornell University Students

i. Sponsored by Hei Hei Depew and the Executive Board.

ii. H. Depew stated that this was a formal response and acknowledgement of student's efforts to follow campus guidelines during COVID-19.

1. This resolution was unanimously approved by the Employee Assembly and has shared this with multiple publications.

iii. H. Depew motioned to table this motion for a vote next week.

1. B. Fortenberry seconded the motion.

2. The motion is passed and the resolution is **tabled** with 14-0-0

IV. Committee Reports

a. B. Sherr motioned to suspend formal committee updates until next meeting for the exception of the CJC in the interest of time.

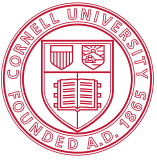
i. C. Duell seconded the motion.

ii. N. Danev stated that the GSPA would like to share some information, however he can post them in the chat in the interest of time.

iii. The motion **passed** with 12-0-1.

b. Codes and Judicial Committee

i. B. Fortenberry encouraged individuals to read the CJC Recommendation final document. He stated that at the top are in support of or resolved by the CJC and the bottom outlines reoccurring themes. He stated that the first four bulleted are supported by the CJC and the lower items are not necessarily supported or recommended but were reoccurring throughout the public comments. B. Fortenberry stated that they will be receiving an edited version the next day from M. Wessel to be discussed in the next meeting. He



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recommends people to look at the documents attached to the agenda and they will have an edited version on December 1st to review and formulate the final document of recommendations on the 8th.

- ii. L. Kenney thanked B. Fortenberry and asked if M. Wessel will send the updated draft to the CJC as well as to the U.A.
- iii. B. Fortenberry said that he was unsure, but he would forward the document to L. Kenney to distribute.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:21pm.

Chat Transcription:

00:28:02 Pilar Villablanca Thompson: Sorry I was late as I just wrapped up another meeting.

00:34:48 Robert Platt: How about excluding procedural motions and just main motions?

00:35:16 UA - Jacob Feit: I'd agree, I think we should move this to later in the meeting out of respect for our guests

00:43:58 Gina Giambattista:

<https://cornell.app.box.com/file/745121462386?s=3ttby2f3pctfcdp8fnh20smcphk2z23v>

00:44:35 UA - Charles Van Loan: I have a hard commitment at 6 and will have to leave this meeting at that time even if it is formally extended.

01:08:15 UA - Caroline Levine: Just wanted to let everyone know that just yesterday two amazing indigenous studies faculty accepted offers to join the English Department: Jodi Byrd, citizen of the Chicksaw Nation; and Juliana Hu Pegues who studies Asian American and Native American intersections.

01:21:34 UA - Bennett Sherr: If all members who are here on behalf of NAISAC could please message into the general chat to provide your support, We will vote directly after

01:22:53 UA Chair - Logan Kenney (she, her): I apologize to anyone who feels unable to have time on the floor. I was not informed prior to the meeting regarding the community discussion. However, the chat function is recorded in our minutes and taken seriously by the UA voting members

01:25:33 Wayva Lyons: I am the recruiter and student support specialist for the American Indian and Indigenous Studies Program. I agree with Colin that all of these things do need to happen at Cornell. Basic knowledge about Indigenous people is dismal in the greater public and even among Cornell students. I think the demands are thoughtful and comprehensive in that they take into account not only the needs of Cornell students but also the needs of Indigenous communities across the country.

01:27:19 Robert Platt: The AIIP is currently with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. It is not clear to me whether the negotiations should be with the Cornell University administration or whether it might be more appropriate to take this up with SUNY and the New



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York State Board of Regents. If the goal is to provide the Cayuga Nation with tuition-free higher-education, that opportunity probably could be addressed SUNY-wide, including the other university units as well as the community college campuses.

01:28:32 Della Keahna Uran: I've been so proud of the conversations we have had within and beyond our community since the demands were released. We recently met with AIISP Director Dr. Kurt Jordan who walked us through his ideas of the process of making each point a reality. One thing that is consistently brought up is how our demands are not "easy" — it is my hope and understanding that if this work was easy it would already be done. I am thankful for the support, demonstrating that even though this will not be easy it will be worth it and there are people willing to put in the work to make it happen.

01:29:45 Uche Chukwukere: ^^^^

01:31:04 Shaawano Uran: I support the NAISAC resolution. The far-reaching demands are necessary given the issues of Indigenous dispossession have been largely ignored since the founding of Cornell, so of course redress requires large moves from several angles at once. It seems that the real matter here is simply does the UA support redress, since most of the moves proposed lie outside the purview of the UA. The entirety of our experiences at Cornell, be they as faculty, staff, or students, have been subsidized by Indigenous dispossession through the Morrill Land Grant Act—which is specific to Cornell. This is really a matter of how we hold ourselves accountable as Cornellians to the history of the university's founding, and that will of course require efforts from all sectors of Cornell.

01:32:20 Colin Benedict: In response to Robert's comment, the AIISP as it's been called for years now is not specifically tied to any one college at Cornell, and there have been discussions about which college it should be apart of. Based on this, the negotiations would be with University administration. As far as the free tuition for indigenous students from communities displaced from the Morrill Act, that would probably be a collaborative effort between the communities effected, the Cornell University administration, and the SUNY system where it applies to Cornell's colleges and schools.

01:33:58 Colin Benedict: Correction: the AIISP is officially affiliated with CALS. However there have been discussions on shifting it to another college in the past

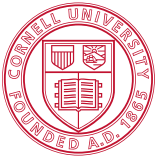
01:35:11 Colin Benedict: Thank you for your support!

01:35:17 UA - Bennett Sherr: In past meetings we have allowed for guests to simply raise there hand to participate in the debate, But due to time constraints I guess that was not in todays protocol

01:38:45 UA - Jeff Pea (he/him): You can manually add people into a breakout room

01:44:18 JCC - Marisa O'Gara: For thursday I believe

01:51:26 Eirene Kim: I would definitely have taken it where the AC was offered as well. I have to hop off for a client meeting! Good to see everyone! Sorry I was just a fly on the wall trying to get an assignment done.



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- 02:02:36 UA- Catherine Huang: Thank you Bennett <3
- 02:07:27 UA - Pilar Villablanca Thompson: I have to head out. Happy Thanksgiving everyone.
- 02:09:28 UA- Catherine Huang: I do have to leave promptly when our time expires as I have to take a semifinal tonight :(so if we do extend time I won't be able to stay
- 02:09:53 Gina Giambattista: Best wishes on your semi-final, Cat!
- 02:09:57 UA - Jeff Pea (he/him): Good luck on your semi-final Cat!
- 02:10:08 UA - Nikola Danev: The GPSA has passed a resolution that came from a petition from 110 graduate students related to the code changes. The link is here:
<https://assembly.cornell.edu/resolutions/gpsa-r6-proposed-changes-student-code-conduct>
- 02:10:09 UA - Bennett Sherr: Good luck Cat! You've got this!
- 02:10:14 UA - Nikola Danev: Good luck Cat
- 02:10:43 UA- Catherine Huang: Thank you everyone :) Very quick updates from the SA - we'll be voting on three new resolutions at our next meeting that were tabled from our last meeting, they can be found on our SA agenda from last week.
- 02:11:05 UA Chair - Logan Kenney (she, her): Thank you, everyone. I am sorry we had to skip updates!
- 02:11:12 UA - Bennett Sherr: I will just add, CWC voted to approve our meeting schedule during the organizational meeting; however, there are questions on whether we had quorum or not so I am still waiting on a reply back about that from the OoA
- 02:12:01 UA Chair - Logan Kenney (she, her): Nik, would you or David please send that resolution to the UA list-serv?
- 02:12:05 Barbara Krause: It is Madelyn who will get the current version to you. Brandon misspoke.
- 02:12:22 UA- Catherine Huang: Thank you Brandon for these updates! Have a great evening everyone!
- 02:12:22 UA - Nikola Danev: Yes, Logan if that's in order I can do that
- 02:12:27 Robert Platt: How will this be shared with the UA and the public?
- 02:13:46 UA - Brandon Fortenberry (He/Him): have a great break all!
- 02:13:51 Robert Platt: Thanks
- 02:13:53 Gina Giambattista: Happy Thanksgiving all!
- 02:13:59 UA - Bennett Sherr: By Y'all!

Respectfully Submitted,
Kassandra Jordan
Clerk of the Assembly



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Minutes of the December 1, 2020 Meeting

4:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Zoom

- I. Call to Order
 - a. L. Kenney called the meeting to order at 4:32.
 - b. *Member's Present:* V. Aymer, U. Chukwukere, H. Depew, C. Duell, D. Dunham, J. Feit, B. Fortenberry, T. Fox, C. Huang, L. Kenney, C. Levine, J. Pea, B. Sherr, L. Smith, C. Van Loan, P. Thompson, J. Withers
 - c. *Members Absent:* A. Hong, R. Howarth
 - d. *Also Present:* B. Krause, M. O'Gara
- II. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda
 - a. B. Sherr motioned to add Resolution 6: Maintaining the UA's Jurisdiction Over the Code of Conduct to the agenda
 - i. J. Pea seconded the motion
 - ii. The motion **passed** with 14-0-1
- III. Business of the Day
 - a. Approval of the Minutes (Nov. 11, 2020)
 - i. L. Kenney stated that the approval of the 24th minutes would be voted on next week. She also said that the Nov. 11th minutes were tabled last meeting to fix issues regarding the duplication of a name on voting and specifying C. Van Loan's request for individuals within the UA to comment.
 - ii. K. Jordan affirmed and stated that there were also some grammatical issues that were fixed.
 - iii. B. Fortenberry motioned to approve the Nov. 11th minutes
 1. P. Thompson seconded the motion
 2. The motion **passed** with 17-0-0
 - b. Resolution 3: Bylaw Changes to Require Roll Call Voting
 - i. Sponsored by Bennett Sherr.
 - ii. L. Kenney stated that she understands the importance of this resolution, however she recommends they table this motion for next session. She also recommends that individuals may call for a roll call vote on a case-by-case basis until next semester.
 - iii. J. Feit agreed with L. Kenney and stated that connection and infrastructure may be an issue. He stated they need to find a way to cast votes in a system that takes those potential issues into account.
 - iv. L. Kenney reiterated that she agrees with holding persons accountable for their votes, however she isn't sure how they would go about that considering



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the aforementioned concerns. She recommends that they have individual roll call votes proposed for resolutions if desired.

- v. B. Sherr stated that they specified and added language to the resolution specifying that they would decide on the method in which to record these votes in the first organizational meeting next session. He also stated they are considering a separate website or page to track the votes rather than recording them in the minutes.
 - vi. L. Kenney asked where the language on the website is on the resolution.
 - vii. B. Sherr said that is located on lines 37-39
 - viii. L. Kenney clarified that this is a vote for the first organizational meeting to decide on roll call voting, and in the event now they would decide after as a group.
 - ix. L. Kenney retracted her statement that the resolution should be tabled.
 - x. D. Dunham moved to postpone the resolution until the next scheduled meeting on next Tuesday.
 1. B. Fortenberry seconded the motion.
 2. The motion **passed** with 16-0-1.
- c. Resolution 4: Acknowledging the Passing of Transgender Day of Remembrance, Upholding the University Assembly's Commitment to Representing Trans and Genderqueer Members of the Campus Community, and Establishing the LGBTQIA+ Intermediary to the University Assembly
- i. Sponsored by Bennett Sherr.
 - ii. B. Sherr stated that he amended the line that stated the UA has never acknowledged the Transgender Day of Remembrance to the UA first formally recognized the Transgender Day of Remembrance on Nov. 24th. He also stated that he changed the phrase "LGBTQIA+ Intermediary" to exclude "intermediary" as it implied a conflict.
 - iii. L. Kenney proposed a friendly amendment that replaces the word "pledges" on line 82 with "is encouraged" to reflect that the UA is a changing body.
 - iv. B. Sherr said that he is willing to accept the amendment.
 - v. B. Fortenberry agreed and stated that the change in language is not an out, but rather just acknowledges that the assembly is a moment in time.
 - vi. L. Kenney asked G. Giambattista if this would need a formal motion.
 - vii. G. Giambattista affirmed.
 - viii. B. Fortenberry motioned for the words "pledges" on line 82 to be replaced with "encourages future assemblies."
 1. B. Sherr seconded the motion.
 2. The motion **passed** with 16-0-1
 - ix. B. Sherr motioned to amend line 105 and replace "shall appoint" with "is encouraged to appoint."



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1. B. Sherr rescinds his motion
- x. B. Sherr motioned to amend lines 105-106 and replace “Chair shall appoint someone from the general membership of the Assembly” with “the Vice Chair of Operations is encouraged to appoint someone from the general membership of the Assembly with the consultation of the Executive Board.”
 1. P. Thompson seconded the motion.
 2. The motion **passed** with 16-0-1.
- xi. B. Sherr motioned to vote on Resolution 4
 1. P. Thompson seconded the motion.
 2. The motion **passed** with 16-0-1.
- d. Resolution 5: In Recognition and Appreciation of Cornell University Students
 - i. Sponsored by Hei Hei Depew and the Executive Board
 - ii. H. Depew stated that this resolution is to show gratitude to the student body for their efforts in keeping the Cornell community safe by adhering to the health and safety guidelines.
 - iii. J. Withers moved to vote on Resolution 5
 1. H. Depew seconded the motion
 2. The motion **passed** with 15-0-1
 - iv. L. Kenney thanked H. Depew to allow the UA to work with the EA to also pass this resolution.
- e. Resolution 6: Maintaining the UA’s Jurisdiction Over the Code of Conduct
 - i. Sponsored by L. Kenney.
 - ii. L. Kenney presented Resolution 6. She stated that the resolution is to keep the jurisdiction of the Student Code with the UA as an independent body with the addition of consultations with the SA and GPSA considering it is a Student Code. She asked M. Wessel for her rationale and she stated that it was due to the time taken to build a student code.
 - iii. C. Huang said that during the CJC, where it was proposed the Code remain under the jurisdiction of the UA, she motioned to add the SA and the GPSA and the CJC decided that because there are SA and GPSA representation in the UA it should just be under their jurisdiction. She asks what their current stance is on her amendment.
 - iv. L. Kenney stated that asking for consultation encourages more debate and ideas. She believed they should ask the SA and the GPSA to weigh in on the matter.
 - v. D. Dunham stated that he supports the resolution. He said that a compromise can be found in regard to the delays which caused this discussion of jurisdiction. He also stated that the Code does not enumerate whose jurisdiction it can be amended under. D. Dunham recommended that the Code should have procedural clauses for amendments in the future written in to make precedence and expediency for future changes.



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- vi. L. Kenney stated that the main change is Ryan Lombardi would be the main decision maker and it is not outlined how he would consult other bodies. She stated that consultation can be vague, which is why she is open to amendments on Resolution 6 regarding consulting, that it needs to be defined. L. Kenney is open to asking M. Wessel for clarity. She stated her rationale stems from the belief that the University Assembly is an unbiased stage for discussing the Code.
 - vii. C. Van Loan stated that he would prefer if the resolution would be structured differently.
 - viii. L. Kenney agreed and stated that she will work on those structural changes.
 - ix. P. Thompson agrees with the spirit of this resolution. She stated that there was an email on November 30th from M. Wessel that discussed how the UA did not make certain deadlines and accomplishments in the last three years. P. Thompson recommended sharing this communication with the larger UA body.
 - x. L. Kenney affirmed and stated that she would appreciate any help with Resolution 6.
 - xi. R. Platt stated that it was understandable that the UA would take time to consider the proposal in 2018. He stated that the current language proposed by the Counsel is problematic and concentrates power with Ryan Lombardi. He stated that once one separates the code from the community voice, it delegitimizes the legislation in the view of the community.
 - xii. L. Kenney agreed and stated that the current language under work.
 - xiii. B. Fortenberry stated that currently his statements are his opinion and not reflective of the CJC. He states that the Code is not trying to create an autocracy, but rather put the Code with those whose concentration revolves around Student Life. B. Fortenberry stated they should provide clarification on the roles of the GPSA and the SA. He also said that now that it is a Student Code of Conduct, the student campus life role is important and how that role interacts with the Code should be defined.
 - xiv. B. Sherr supported the resolution. He stated that he wants to build back the trust and legitimacy of the UA. B. Sherr said that providing Ryan Lombardi with unilateral control delegitimizes and undermines the public trust as there is no guarantee that their voices will be heard.
 - xv. B. Sherr motioned to table Resolution 6 to next week's meeting.
 - 1. P. Thompson seconded the motion.
 - 2. The motion passed and the resolution is **tabled** with 16-0-1.
 - xvi. L. Kenney stated that she would be more than open to help sponsor or help with any effort to bring this resolution to other constituent groups.
- IV. Campus Code of Conduct Discussion
- a. B. Fortenberry said that some key topics to discuss are the jurisdictional changes



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and the standard of evidence. He also notes the standard of evidence as it regards student organizations, especially with Fraternity and Sororities. He stated that there was a change that the “preponderance standard” would be used for student organizations.

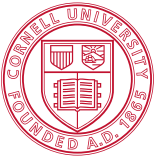
- b. R. Platt said that an interim document was created on “clear and convincing.” He stated that it would be awkward to have two parties hold the same individual to different standard. R. Platt stated that many people support “clear and convincing” whether or not it is used in the Student Code of Conduct.
- c. L. Kenney asked if the alumnae on “clear and convincing” are in the comments of the Code.
- d. R. Platt stated that it is the Alumni Interfraternity Council (IFC) and signatories in the groups seen last May and November 17th.
- e. B. Krause stated that there is a very prominent voice supporting the “clear and convincing” evidence. She does not agree that the argument surrounding irrevocable repercussions can apply to organizations as it is currently used with individuals. B. Krause stated that they support the “preponderance standard” or a common standard across all student organizations.
- f. R. Platt stated that students and organizations under the Campus Code are subject to “clear and convincing.” He said when a student organization is suspended or disbanded then millions of dollars, facilities, and the living arrangement of students are at issue.
- g. J. Feit said that he agrees with restoration under the judicial process. He said they should not focus on the repercussions, but rather focus on finding the truth of the situation. He stated that they should strive to have correct convictions for code violations. J. Feit stated that they must ensure every student has a fair opportunity to defend themselves no matter their socio-economic status and their identity and are not subject to these standards that have a higher possibility of convicting students.
- h. B. Sherr stated that the “clear and convincing” standard should be used for the individual level and that the “preponderance” standard should be used to the Greek system. He said there is a clear imbalance of power.
- i. U. Chukwukere said that he wants to push back against the narrative that the entire Greek community is against the “preponderance” standard. He also stated that the Greek system is impacted by the IFC when the organizations have violations against them. U. Chukwukere agrees that there must be more oversight with Greek communities. He agrees that the “preponderance standard” should be used especially in light of Antonio Tsialas, there doesn’t seem like there was enough accountability. He states that Greek organizations getting away with gross violations and reiterates that he wants to push back against the idea that everyone in the Greek community is against this.
- j. J. Feit stated that the “preponderance” standard should apply to all student organizations because it would be wrong to assume that this behavior is solely within the Greek organization community. He restated that they should hold a



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higher level of evidentiary standard, “clear and convincing,” for individuals.

- k. R. Platt supported the “clear and convincing” standard for individuals. He stated that this standard should also be applied to these student organizations equally as it also has an impact on the reputation and life of those people who are involved with said organization.
- l. B. Fortenberry stated that the addition of the “good Samaritan” piece in the code is a good addition. He believes that there are a few other items that are good. He said that he would like to get insight on perspectives to share later.
- m. L. Kenney thanked B. Fortenberry and stated that she pushed for “good Samaritan” last year. She also recommended that they try to speak to Greek students in regard to this issue. L. Kenney stated that one cannot tell if someone is from the Greek system via comments.
- n. B. Sherr said that one cannot compare the suspension of an organization to the suspension of a student. He said that this is unfair to students due to the monetary and social backing that Greek institutions have. B. Sherr stated that the “preponderance” standard is needed to combat this inequality.
- o. B. Krause said that both students and organizations can be suspended. She said for individuals a suspension cannot exceed three to four years, and in organizations hazing issues the minimum is three years as it is recognized as a public health issue.
- p. B. Fortenberry said that he would like some discussion on the ability to discuss a case unless stated otherwise and public hearings. He was wondering if the changes accurately addressed the comments. He asks them to move to that next topic of discussion.
- q. L. Kenney asked if it was alright to ask M. O’Gara to speak to cross examination and witnesses.
- r. M. O’Gara asked if B. Fortenberry had a specific question.
- s. B. Fortenberry stated that he was wondering if the changes accurately addressed the comments.
- t. M. O’Gara stated that the current language outlines current practices. She said on cross-examination the default is a written submission, with space for the chair to make digressionary permissions which would include verbal speaking and cross examination. She believes that it is better than the previous draft, but she would rather have speaking rights be codified in a more explicit manner. M. O’Gara stated that they also discussed language that stated if there was an individual student complainant then it would written submission only.
- u. B. Fortenberry thanked M. O’Gara. He said the statement on the impact on non-cooperation and non-participation codified that it does not make one guilty. He asked if there were any other language the UA wanted to review.
- v. L. Kenney said that one should look at the cross-examination language and compare it to the comments received.
- w. R. Platt said that the CJC should consider what happens to the regulations and maintenance of public order once this the Code passes. He stated that all of this old



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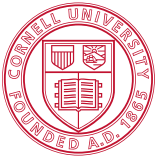
language is disappearing or not addressed with regards to a Campus Code with faculty, staff, and students.

- x. C. Van Loan suggested that they vote on these topics individually.
- y. L. Kenney agreed, however she stated that she can't divide all of these topics and would require help.
- z. C. Van Loan stated that the GPSA identified 6-7 topics. He stated that at the end they could also have a vote on the entire resolution.
- aa. L. Kenney stated that having two divisions would be manageable with one focused on jurisdiction, the other on everything else in the code, and a last vote on the resolution as a whole.
- bb. B. Fortenberry said that they have a meeting on Thursday and agreed that there needs to be individuals who are willing and able to aid in writing and dividing up these resolutions. B. Fortenberry stated that removing the employee section of the code is necessary and that employees answer to Human Resources.
- cc. L. Kenney stated that they should look towards the comments and reflect that within the Code. She said that in the comments the majority stated "clear and convincing" as the standard. She states that they need to discuss with persons in Greek life to get information on their stance with regard to the Code.
- dd. J. Feit said as a member of a Greek organization, there are a lot of confusion with the rules. He that there needs to be concrete rules for all members of organizations to follow and keep these houses responsible.
- ee. D. Dunham asked what they are doing with Resolution 6.
- ff. L. Kenney apologized for not adhering to Roberts Rules when presenting. She stated that next week they will have a new resolution, and if the drafters would like to use the language in Resolution 6 she would be happy to table Resolution 6 indefinitely. L. Kenney stated if that isn't the case then Resolution 6 would be a separate resolution and they would have another resolution with the changes discussed today and one more with the Code as-is.
- gg. D. Dunham stated that they don't need to reconsider their position
- hh. L. Kenney affirmed and stated that they can table the resolution indefinitely if needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00pm.

Chat Transcription:

00:14:26 Robert Platt: Uche is here
00:14:35 Jacob Feit: Jacob Feit is prresent
00:14:42 Jacob Feit: As of now
00:14:53 Catherine Huang: me too :) sorry i think i joined a second after my name was called!
00:15:00 Jacob Feit: ^^



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00:15:01 Office of the Assemblies: All good!

00:15:05 Office of the Assemblies: Got yall

00:34:10 Catherine Huang: Well done Bennett! Thank you :)

00:34:24 Jacob Feit: ^

00:34:36 UA - Bennett Sherr: Glad we got that to pass, thank you everyone for your support!

00:37:02 UA - Catherine Huang: Thank you Hei Hei!!

00:37:14 UA - Bennett Sherr: ^^

00:37:31 UA - Lucas Smith: ^

00:38:00 UA - Hei Hei Depew: Thank you for the support.

00:44:41 UA - Catherine Huang: Yes thanks Logan! No worries

01:10:26 UA - Pilar Villablanca Thompson: I have to head out early today. See you all next week.

01:11:37 UA - Jacob Feit: I agree with Bennett on that point

01:11:49 UA - Jacob Feit: Greek Orgs must be held to a higher standard than individuals

01:13:07 UA - Jacob Feit: *to clarify, I am in favor of “preponderance” for greek orgs, and “clear and convincing” for individuals

01:13:41 UA - Bennett Sherr: Echoing what Jacob just wrote; Preponderance for greek and student orgs, clear and convincing for individual students

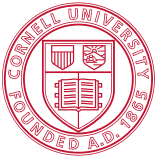
01:20:03 UA - Jacob Feit: Yes!

01:23:40 UA - Bennett Sherr: To clarify, to say that an organization being suspended is the same as students being suspended is an unfair argument. A suspension on an individual could ruin a persons life. I’m sorry, but not being able to drink with your friends on a Tuesday night is NOT the same. To even imply that they’re of the same caliber is misguided at best, malicious at worst.

01:25:49 Robert Platt: Bennett: If you are an organization officer, and the organization is suspended on your watch, how do you answer a question during a security clearance about whether you were ever involved in a college disciplinary case?

01:29:36 UA - Bennett Sherr: Their is the ability for blame to be disseminated across an organization in a way that is not possible with individuals. When an organization fails, it is the fault of organizational culture and is more often then not permissible. When an individual is found responsible for hazing, that is a reflection of their morality and theirs alone.

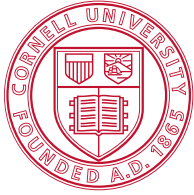
01:38:32 UA - Bennett Sherr: I think an important point is that faculty and staff are able to unionize and many are represented by unions. Graduate, Professional, and Undergraduate students cannot do that. Because of this, faculty and staff have a lot more grievance protection than students. This is in part why students MUST have a clear and convincing evidentiary standard as individuals, to make it as equitable as possible across students, faculty, and staff



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- 01:39:02 UA - Brandon Fortenberry (He/Him):Interesting perspective Bennet, I appreciate that
- 01:39:44 Robert Platt: Thank you everyone for a thoughtful discussion.
- 01:40:52 UA - Brandon Fortenberry (He/Him):Thank you all for the insight

Respectfully Submitted,
Kassandra Jordan
Clerk of the Assembly



Cornell University University Assembly

U.A. Resolution #3

Bylaw Changes to Require Recorded Voting

[11/24/2020]

1 **Sponsored By: Bennett Sherr, Undergraduate Student Representative; Jacob Feit,**
2 **Undergraduate Student Representative**

3 **Abstract:** This resolution proposes adding a subsection to Article II of the Bylaws of the
4 University Assembly that would require recorded votes be taken for all voting matters outside of
5 executive session or organizational meetings.

6 **Whereas,** Article II of the Charter of the Cornell University Assembly states, “The object of the
7 Assembly is to improve and sustain the involvement of the campus community in the governance
8 of campus affairs affecting the broad campus community by establishing open, effective, and
9 efficient channels of communication between and amongst the community and university
10 administration,”

11 **Whereas,** the University Assembly votes on decisions that are within the general interest of the
12 Cornell community,

13 **Whereas,** students have become disinterested in and untrusting of shared governance,

14 **Whereas,** voter turnout in undergraduate elections to the SA and UA during the Fall 2020
15 semester ranged from 16.85% to 29.77%,

16 **Whereas,** with minimal exception, Student Assembly elections have maintained turnout rates
17 lower than 50%,

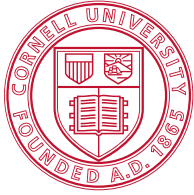
18 **Whereas,** voter turnout in Employee Assembly elections was 14.55% during the Fall 2020
19 semester,

20 **Whereas,** students lack faith in shared governance due to the lack of transparency between the
21 legislative bodies and the general population,

22 **Whereas,** secret ballots and non-roll call votes lessen transparency and reduce the Cornell
23 community’s ability to hold elected representatives accountable,

24 **Whereas,** Section 2.4 of the Cornell University Assembly Bylaws requires adherence to
25 Robert’s Rules of Order for all things not addressed in Article II of the Bylaws,

26 **Whereas,** Robert’s Rules of Order does not mandate recorded votes on all voting matters of the
27 body,



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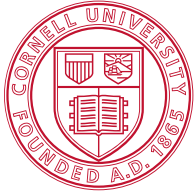
28 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the University Assembly will amend its Bylaws by adding the
29 existing language to Article II immediately following Section 2.14, to read:

30 **“Section 2.15: Voting Protocol**

31 The Assembly will require votes be recorded in such a way that the names of the yeas, nays, and
32 abstentions are accessible to the Cornell community for all voting matters except during
33 executive session or organizational meetings. How the votes are taken will remain at the
34 discretion of the Assembly and should be decided upon during the first organizational meeting;
35 however, in the event that no decision is made, the Chair is encouraged to decide how voting
36 should take place.”

37 **Be it further resolved**, the Assembly, in conjunction with the Office of the Assemblies, shall
38 create a website accessible to the Cornell community where community members can see a full
39 record of all recorded votes cast by each voting member;

40 **Be it finally resolved**, this change to the Cornell University Assembly Bylaws shall remain
41 active beyond the end of the 2020-2021 academic year, or until it is removed by a subsequent
42 amendment.



Cornell University
University Assembly

U.A. Resolution # 6

**Maintaining the University Assembly's Jurisdiction Over
the Code of Conduct**

[December 1, 2020]

1 **Sponsored by: Logan Kenney, GPSA**

2
3 **Whereas**, prior to 1970, regulation of student conduct was vested in the Faculty through its
4 Faculty Committee on Student Affairs, a committee that included two undergraduate students
5 as voting members, and
6

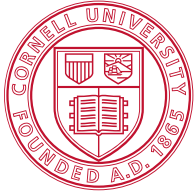
7 **Whereas**, the Faculty has retained jurisdiction over Academic Integrity standards and
8 adjudication, and
9

10 **Whereas**, since 1970, the Henderson Law (NY Education Law Section 6430) requires the Board
11 of Trustees of each college in New York State to adopt Regulations for the Maintenance of
12 Public Order "and provide a program for the enforcement thereof." "Such rules shall govern
13 the conduct of students, faculty and other staff as well as visitors and other licensees and
14 invitees on such campuses and property. The penalties for violations of such rules shall be
15 clearly set forth therein." Ever since this law was enacted, the Cornell Board of Trustees has
16 delegated this duty to the University Senate and later the University Assembly (UA) subject
17 only to the Board performing the final enactment (as required by the statute,) and
18

19 **Whereas**, in 1970, the Board of Trustees acted with strong community support to delegate to the
20 University Senate (and later the UA, its successor) jurisdiction over a Campus Code of
21 Conduct and the campus judicial system. Most recently, the UA charter specifies this as, (1)
22 "The Assembly may examine, on its own initiative, ... common standards of conduct," and
23 (2) "the Assembly shall be allowed a period of at least one calendar month to review and
24 respond to proposed changes of the following policies: ... the Campus Code of Conduct," and
25

26 **Whereas**, the UA Bylaws established a Codes and Judicial Committee to consider changes to the
27 Code and the process for selection of the University Hearing Board and University Review
28 Board. The UA also participates in the selection of the Judicial Administrator to assure that
29 office's independence from the central administration, and
30

31 **Whereas**, the current draft of the Code removes jurisdiction from the UA and provides Code
32 jurisdiction will be handled by the Vice President of Student & Campus Life (VP SCL) or
33 their designee with consultation from other assemblies, and



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34

35 **Whereas**, the current draft of the Code proposes that the Office of Student Conduct and
36 Community Standards (OSCCS) reports to the VP SCL directly, and

37

38 **Whereas**, in the spirit of shared governance, the Code and Procedures should be reviewed and
39 amended by an independent body that represents the diverse and valuable perspectives of all
40 members of the University community to prevent bias and to ensure the Code has the full
41 buy-in of all University stakeholders.

42

43 **Be it therefore resolved**, the Administration, also providing Resolution 6 to the Board of
44 Trustees, re-affirms the UA's jurisdiction over the Codes and Procedures. The language in
45 the proposed Code of Conduct changes should shift jurisdiction from the VP SCL to the UA,
46 with consultation with the Student Assembly (SA) and Graduate & Professional Student
47 Assembly (GPSA),

48

49 **Be it further resolved**, the VP SCL or its designee may still propose amendments to either the
50 Codes or Procedures that shall be reviewed by the University Assembly,

51

52 **Be it further resolved**, any changes or amendments to the Code or Procedures will still be
53 subject to approval by the President of Cornell University and the Board of Trustees,

54

55 **Be it finally resolved**, the Code and Procedures remain independent documents reviewed by an
56 independent body, the UA, that does not oversee any office that makes decisions on student
57 responsibility.



Cornell University University Assembly

U.A. Resolution #7

In Support of an Independent Review of Cornell Admissions Practices

[12/8/2020]

1 **Sponsors: Bennett Sherr, Undergraduate Student Representative**

2

3 **Abstract:** This resolution calls for the University to create a committee to look at and
4 admission's practices and make recommendations as to how the University can increase
5 economic diversity on campus.

6

7 **Whereas,** in 1868, Cornell University founder Ezra Cornell sought to, "found an institution
8 where any person can find instruction in any study";

9

10 **Whereas,** through the class of 2013 only 3.8% of Cornell students come from the bottom 20% of
11 family incomes as opposed to the 64% who come from the top 20% of family income¹;

12

13 **Whereas,** only 16% of Cornell graduates moved up two or more income quintiles, amongst the
14 lowest in the state of New York²;

15

16 **Whereas,** in 2020, Cornell University ranked 1303rd in terms of social mobility out of all
17 colleges and universities in the United States³, an increase from the 2019 ranking putting Cornell
18 at 1336th⁴;

19

20 **Whereas,** the 2020 percent of low-income students at Cornell University is 8.5%, this is the 5th
21 lowest in the state of New York⁵;

¹Economic Diversity and Student Outcomes at Cornell University:

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/projects/college-mobility/cornell-university#:~:text=Cornell%20University&text=The%20median%20family%20income%20of,but%20became%20a%20rich%20adult.>

² ibid

³2020 Social Mobility Index:

<https://www.socialmobilityindex.org/>

⁴Social Mobility Index 2019:

<https://socialmobilityindex.org/Social%20Mobility%20Index%202019%20-%20College%20Rankings%20by%20CollegeNET.pdf>

⁵2020 Social Mobility Index:

<https://www.socialmobilityindex.org/>



Cornell University University Assembly

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Whereas, in 2020, the average amount of debt amongst Cornell graduates at the time of graduation is \$14,000⁶;

Whereas, Cornell’s 2020 Freshman class ranks in the top 10 lowest by percentage of freshman with Pell Grants⁷;

Whereas, despite the COVID-19 pandemic’s far reaching ramifications on the economy, Cornell University chose to raise the cost of tuition by 3.6%, this was \$6 less than the tuition increase the year prior during good economic conditions and has climbed every year for at least a decade⁸;

Whereas, during a February 2019 interview acknowledged that the undergraduate population is “not socioeconomically diverse”⁹;

Be it therefore resolved, the University should create a committee to look at our admission’s practices;

Be it further resolved, the committee shall consist of equal members of undergraduate students, graduate and professional students, faculty, and staff members;

Be it further resolved, the committee’s charter should grant the committee the authority to perform a full audit of Cornell University’s admissions practices as well as task the committee with drafting a formal report on the state of Cornell’s admissions process and provide recommendations for increasing economic diversity amongst the student body;

Be it further resolved, members of the committee should be selected from the Cornell community and should not be restricted to members of the University Assembly, Employee Assembly, Student Assembly, Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, and Faculty Senate;

Be it finally resolved, the committee should strive to be economically diverse in its membership.

⁶ Ibid
⁷ Ibid
⁸ Cornell Introduces Smallest Recent Tuition Increase--\$6 Less than Last Year’s Hike:
<https://cornellsun.com/2019/02/11/cornell-introduces-smallest-recent-tuition-increase-6-less-than-last-years-hike/>
⁹ Ibid



Cornell University University Assembly

U.A. Resolution #8

Expressing the U.A. Opinion on the New Student Code of Conduct

[12/8/2020]

1 **Sponsors: Logan Kenney, Chair; Bennett Sherr, Undergraduate Student Representative;**
2 **Jacob Feit, Undergraduate Student Representative**

3

4 **Whereas,** the University Assembly was tasked with redrafting the Campus Code of Conduct,
5 and;

6

7 **Whereas,** the University Assembly acknowledges the support provided throughout this process
8 by the Codes and Judicial Committee, the Office of the University Counsel, community
9 stakeholders, and community opinions received through the public comment periods, and;

10

11 **Whereas,** a revised draft of the Student Code of Conduct is to be deliberated at the December
12 10th special meeting of the Board of Trustees.

13

14 **Be it therefore resolved,** the University Assembly extends its gratitude to all individuals who
15 helped throughout this process, and;

16

17 **Be it further resolved,** the University Assembly is satisfied with the majority of the proposed
18 changes, specifically the following:

19

1. Retaining the evidentiary standard of Clear and Convincing evidence for all
20 individual cases,

20

21

2. Maintaining a good samaritan provision,



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- 22 3. Allowing Judicial Codes Counselors the ability to speak at significant hearings
23 unless a student otherwise opposes that action,
24 4. Maintaining the ability for public hearings,
25 5. Prioritizing restorative justice and alternative dispute methods.

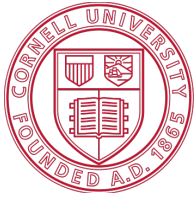
26

27 **Be it therefore resolved,** the University Assembly believes there should be more discussion on
28 the following changes:

- 29 1. Jurisdiction over the Student Code of Conduct,
30 2. The reduced ability of advisors to speak on behalf of parties and to engage in
31 questioning witnesses directly in all hearings, particularly lower level hearings,
32 3. The change in cross-examination and witness testimony,
33 4. The ability for students to be able to bring forward their own evidence,
34 5. Organizational and off-campus jurisdiction.

35

36 **Be it finally resolved,** the University Assembly maintains jurisdiction over the Cornell
37 University Student Code of Conduct language, amendments, and revisions, including and not
38 limited to, the aforementioned provisions regarding jurisdiction. This would remain subject to
39 approval by the President and the Board of Trustees.



Cornell University
University Assembly

U.A. Resolution #9

**Resolution to re-name “Goldwin Smith Hall” in order to foster
an increasingly inclusive campus environment**

[12/8/2020]

1 **Sponsored by: Jacob J. Feit, Chair, Campus Infrastructure Committee, Undergraduate**
2 **Student Representative; Bennett Sherr, Chair of Campus Welfare Committee,**
3 **Undergraduate Student Representative**
4

5 **Whereas,** Ezra Cornell sought to found “an institution where any person can find instruction in
6 any study.”
7

8 **Whereas,** Cornell University strives to embody “its founding commitment to diversity and
9 inclusion.”
10

11 **Whereas,** Cornell University President, Martha E. Pollack, expressed her commitment to
12 fostering a community of increased inclusion following repeated examples of national
13 and local injustice rooted in a lacking awareness of the historical wrongs still active and
14 destructive in modern societal structures and institutions.
15

16 **Whereas,** Goldwin Smith, a former Cornell University professor of English and Constitutional
17 History is the namesake of Goldwin Smith Hall, the formally recognized home of Cornell
18 University’s College of Arts and Sciences.
19

20 **Whereas,** Goldwin Smith’s ideology directly contradicts both the founding and current
21 University vision, evidenced in his proclamation: “a University which, in advance of
22 public opinion, offers itself as the corpus vile for public experiments will certainly forfeit
23 public confidence.”
24

25 **Whereas,** Goldwin Smith possessed a deeply-rooted faith in white-supremacist imperialism,
26 evidenced by his belief that British imperialism in India was the “nobelist [act] the world
27 had ever seen” in “attempt[ing] to make conquest the servant of civilization.”
28

29 **Whereas,** Goldwin Smith was then-recognized as “the most vicious anti-Semite in the English-
30 speaking world,” personified by his beliefs that Jewish people were “parasites” whose
31 “preoccupation with money making” made the Jewish people the “enemies of society.”
32

33 **Whereas,** Goldwin Smith “declared himself an uncompromising opponent of female suffrage,”
34 justified on the “American women, he had observed [sic]” who had “violated every
35 tradition and law of nature [by] straying beyond the proper feminine sphere to enter male
36 professions, adopt[ing] male clothing... and had even taken up bike riding.”

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Whereas, Goldwin Smith reportedly confided in Cornell University co-founder and Founding President, A.D. White, that Cornell University’s decision to admit women to the University’s prominence and reputation to “sink at once from the rank of a University to that of an Oberlin or a High School,” diminishing all hopes of Cornell’s “future greatness” for [in his view] the institution would be lost.”

Whereas, Goldwin Smith abandoned his position of professor at Cornell University due, in large part, to the University’s decision to admit female students.

Whereas, the resources of Cornell University, the College of Arts and Sciences, and Goldwin Smith Hall must be structured to facilitate the intellectual, professional, and emotional growth of all students, faculty, and employees, regardless of gender identity, race, ethnicity, religion, and/or sexual orientation in order to live up to the ideals of Cornell University’s founding.

Whereas, a university that values diversity, inclusion, and mutual respect should not honor individuals who promote(d) an ideology of exclusion, racial/religious-supremacy, and sexism.

Whereas, the intellectual and personal growth of students, faculty, employees, and community members is unattainable and stifled in an environment that honors bigotry, sexism, and anti-semitism.

Be it therefore resolved, Cornell University must disavow bigotry, sexism, and all forms of intolerance in order to live up to goals of inclusivity in order to foster an effective learning community.

Be it further resolved, in order to facilitate such a community, Cornell University must remove the name “Goldwin Smith” from the currently named “Goldwin Smith Hall,” located at 232 East Ave, Ithaca, NY 14850.

Be it finally resolved, the formally recognized “home” of the Cornell University College of Arts and Sciences must be named for an influential scholar of the humanities who demonstrated a great love for, and dedication to, the Cornell community and who advocated for causes of identity-based justice and equity.

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.