

Cornell University  
University Assembly

**U.A. Resolution # 15**

**Opposing the Merger of the College of Human Ecology  
and the ILR School**

*April 24, 2018*

1 **Sponsored by: Joseph Anderson, Chair of the Campus Welfare Committee, University**  
2 **Assembly**

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4 **On Behalf Of: Against The Merger Coalition**

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6 **Whereas,** the Committee on Organizational Structures in the Social Sciences submitted their  
7 final report on February 28, 2018;

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9 **Whereas,** the final report included several recommendations on how to “Develop concrete  
10 models of potential organizational structures for the social sciences that might be put in place at  
11 Cornell.”;

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13 **Whereas,** one of the recommendations included in the final report was the potential combination  
14 of the College of Human Ecology and the ILR School;

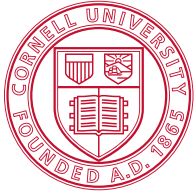
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16 **Whereas,** the College of Human Ecology and the ILR School both rank at the top of their  
17 respective fields,

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19 **Whereas,** the College of Human Ecology and the ILR School have vastly different cultures and  
20 differ in size, which has caused each school to construct their own academic policies and  
21 programs that best serve their unique student populations;

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23 **Whereas,** the committee was charged with considering (among other items) “the broad impacts  
24 of different organizational structures, including, for instance, how different organizational  
25 structures position us for success in recruiting faculty and students, external funding, and  
26 international scholarship.”

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28 **Whereas,** the committee recognized that the “resulting college might not be a good fit for all  
29 units,” that “some might need to move elsewhere,” the merge has the “potential to harm the  
30 unique external identities of both units,” and that “both units have loyal alumni that may not  
31 support a new college.”

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34 **Whereas**, the committee further stated that “it was not evident what problems exist with the  
35 existing structure that this is meant to cure”,

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37 **Whereas**, the ILR faculty, the dean of ILR, and the former deans of the ILR School all strongly  
38 condemn the decision to merge,

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40 **Whereas**, the Trustees of the University have the ultimate responsibility for amending the  
41 Bylaws of the University to create this new school; then

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43 **Be it therefore resolved**, that University Assembly strongly opposes the idea of a merger between  
44 the College of Human Ecology and the ILR School;

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46 **Be it further resolved**, that Provost Kotlikoff and President Pollack withdraw the idea of a merger  
47 from consideration and that they review other recommendation, including creating a center for the  
48 social sciences;

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50 **Be it further resolved**, that Cornell University continue to solicit community feedback, engage with  
51 all shared governance organizations, and set up at least three town-hall forums so that all University  
52 constituencies may comment on the set of suggestions from the initial report,

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54 **Be it finally resolved**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Chairman of the Board of  
55 Trustees, the Alumni-Elected Trustees, the Community-Elected Trustees, and the Provost.