

Cornell University
University Assembly

U.A. Resolution #16

Calling for a Veterans Support Center

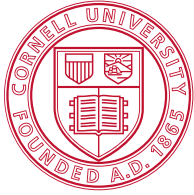
[03/16/2021; 05/10/2021]

1 **Sponsored by:** Logan Kenney, Graduate & Professional Student Representative, ex-officio
2 member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Veteran Affairs (within the Campus Welfare
3 Committee); Christopher Austin '22 JD, Vice President, Cornell Law Veterans
4 Association; Michael Caprietta, member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Veteran Affairs;
5 Christopher Denkovic '20 SHA; Jacob Feit, Undergraduate Student Representative,
6 member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Veteran Affairs; Mary Mildred Fisk, Student
7 Veteran Advisor & Program Manager; Mitchell Hoy, Veteran Association Liaison to the
8 Cornell University Student Assembly, member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Veteran
9 Affairs; Debra Howell, Chair, Cornell Veterans Colleague Network Group; Dakota
10 Johnson '22 SHA, member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Veteran Affairs; Jeramy Kruser,
11 Staff Veteran and Communications Director for Team RWB Ithaca; Aubrey Lang,
12 Disability Colleague Network Group co-chair & Team Timmy founder; Philip Kay; Ryan
13 Kokell '17 SHA; Rachelle LaCroix, PhD Candidate, CALS; Mark Minton; Roland Molina,
14 President, Cornell Undergraduate Veterans Association; Dennis Morrisroe '21 JD/MBA;
15 Joseph Mullen '24, member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Veteran Affairs; Seamus Murphy
16 '17 CALS, Co-Founder of the Cornell Undergraduate Veterans Association and Co-
17 Founder and Secretary of the Cornell Military Network; Trent Nachbar '22 JD/MBA,
18 President, Cornell Law Veterans Association; Anthony Nash '22 AAP; Patrick O'Neil '19
19 CALS; David Outlaw '17 SHA, Co-Founder of the Cornell Undergraduate Veterans
20 Association; Luke Opyd '18 ILR; Denesha Record; Paul Rojas '20 Dyson; Michael
21 Sanchez; Patrick Shaffer '22 MBA

22
23 **Abstract:** This resolution aims to increase on-campus support for veteran students, faculty, and
24 staff through the creation of a support center for members of the Cornell University community
25 who have served, plan on serving, or are affiliated with the Armed Forces of the United States of
26 America.

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28 **Whereas,** there is currently no support center that is specific to the needs of veteran students,
29 faculty, and staff and as a result these Cornellians have reached out University Assembly;
30 and

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32 **Whereas,** members of the Cornell veteran community have been asking for a service center for
33 approximately one decade; and
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35 **Whereas**, the Provost received a proposal for a “Veterans and Military Services Center”
36 approximately one year ago; and

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38 **Whereas**, veterans of the Armed Forces risked their lives and livelihoods serving the United
39 States, thus maintaining a global trading system that not only protects University assets
40 and investments, but defends the values of democracy and promotes the security
41 necessary for the sustainability of our community; and

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43 **Whereas**, Cornell University counts more than 500 veterans among students, faculty, and staff;
44 and

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46 **Whereas**, Cornell University, a private and land-grant research institution, seeks to promote an
47 inclusive campus environment; and

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49 **Whereas**, veterans have unique needs in recruitment, admission, financial aid, and support that
50 are unlike those of civilian students; and

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52 **Whereas**, veteran resource centers are common-place in many universities; and

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54 **Whereas**, other comparable institutions such as Brown University and Syracuse University
55 house veteran resource centers and have support staff that support the recruitment,
56 empowerment, and transition of veterans through accessible staff members and resources;
57 and

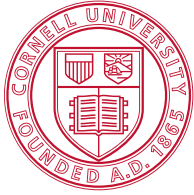
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59 **Whereas**, in 2013, the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs,
60 and the U.S. Department of Defense set forth a voluntary initiative titled “8 Keys to
61 Veterans’ Success” which details steps that postsecondary institutions can take to assist
62 Veterans and Servicemembers in transitioning to higher education, including “Coordinate
63 and centralize campus efforts for all veterans, together with the creation of a designated
64 space for them;” and

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66 **Whereas**, as of the first of May 2021, at least 2,323 colleges and universities have committed to
67 supporting veterans as they pursue their education and employment goals; and

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69 **Whereas**, we recognize the University’s commitment to increasing the number of veterans
70 admitted each admission cycle; and

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72 **Whereas**, we recognize more space is going to become available on the Ithaca Cornell Campus
73 due to the restructuring of workplace norms.

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75 **Be it therefore resolved**, Cornell University Administration must fully recognize and support
76 the unique needs of the Cornell veteran community in order to be inclusive; and



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78 **Resolved**, a centralized location on the Ithaca Cornell Campus be repurposed as a Veterans
79 Resource and Support Center; and
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81 **Resolved**, this Center will provide Cornell’s veteran community with a wide array of specifically
82 tailored services in order to address veterans’ unique needs, promoting an increasingly
83 equitable University environment by which all members have greater access to reach
84 their full academic, professional, and personal potential(s); and
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86 **Be it finally resolved**, the University Assembly asks the Administration to support a veteran
87 support center and assist in establishing a committee in furtherance of this.

Passed by the University Assembly with 14-0-1

{V. Aymer – yes; H. Depew – yes; N. Danev – yes; D. Dunham – yes; J. Feit – yes; B. Fortenberry – yes; T. Fox – yes; D. Hiner – yes; C. Levine – yes; J. Pea – yes; L. Smith – yes; C. Van Loan – yes; P. Thompson – abstain; J. Withers – yes; L. Kenney – yes.}