

## U.A. Resolution #28

### Transparency and Accountability into the University's Process for Certifying Enrollment with the Department of Veteran Affairs

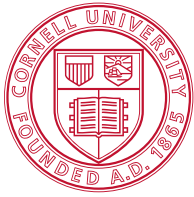
[05/10/2021]

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

**Abstract:** This resolution calls for the University to define and amend its processes and procedure for the certification of enrollment for student-veterans with the Department of Veterans Affairs (V.A.) to ensure transparency and accountability in the process. Additionally, we recommend the Cornell University affirm support for the 8 Keys to Veterans' Success and become a signatory to the Principles of Excellence Program.

**Whereas,** the absence of clearly defined processes and procedures for the certification of enrollment for student-veterans has led to considerable delays in receiving V.A. benefits; and

**Whereas,** the delay in receiving benefits puts undue hardship on student-veterans as they continue their studies; and



## Cornell University University Assembly

**Whereas,** a Cornell University staff member is drafting procedures, but that information does not appear to be accessible to the campus community yet; and

**Whereas,** this issue falls within the purview of the Campus Welfare Committee under the Bylaws of the University Assembly.

**Be it therefore resolved,** the University Assembly calls on the Administration to support transparency and accountability into the University's process for certifying enrollment with the Department of Veteran Affairs (V.A.) and visibility into the benefits available for student veterans; and

**Resolved,** we recommend that student veterans be informed, after accepting their offer to attend Cornell University, of the articles related to Cornell's process and procedures for V.A. funding; and

**Resolved,** we recommend that Cornell University create and agree to disseminate regularly (at least yearly) a consolidated list of V.A. benefits and resources for student veterans; and

**Resolved,** we recommend that returning student veterans be informed again of this information before the beginning of each academic year or relevant semester; and

**Resolved,** we recommend that Cornell University prioritize the processing of student veteran forms to ensure there is no delay and that they are received on time; and

**Resolved,** in keeping with the United States Department of Veteran Affairs School Certifying Official Handbook, which states for Chapter 33 Post 9/11 G.I. Bill, "Schools should submit certifications as early as possible, in order to ensure that students receive their benefit payments in a timely manner," the University Assembly, in agreement with the resolution sponsors, suggests that Cornell University submit these forms at least 90 days prior to the start of the relevant semester for returning student veterans and at least 30 days prior to the beginning of the relevant semester for newly enrolled student veterans; and

**Resolved,** we recommend that Cornell University affirm support for the 8 Keys to Veterans' Success and become a signatory to the Principles of Excellence program.

**Be it finally resolved,** the University Assembly calls on the Administration to create the appropriate measures for accountability for best ensuring Cornell students receive their benefits on time and are aware of all opportunities available.

**Passed by the University Assembly with 13-0-1**