

U.A. Resolution # 14

Making Cornell's Economics program STEM-certified

March 13th, 2018

1 **Sponsored by: Christopher Schott, Undergraduate; Chair, Campus Infrastructure**
2 **Committee**

3
4 **On Behalf Of: International undergraduate students in the Economics department**

5
6 **Whereas,** CIP code 45.0603 is a STEM-certified program¹, while Cornell's current Economics
7 major CIP code 45.0601 (Economics, General) is not;

8
9 **Whereas,** international graduates of STEM-certified majors can apply for a two-year extension of
10 their OPT (Operational Practical Training) work authorization, granting them a total of three
11 years of work authorization²;

12
13 **Whereas,** non-STEM majors, including Cornell's Economics major, grant only one year of work
14 authorization³;

15
16 **Whereas,** the opportunity of a three-year work authorization conveys enormous benefit upon the
17 employment prospects of international students, including additional opportunities to apply
18 for H1-B visas, increased employability and extended professional training;

19
20 **Whereas,** Cornell's Economics program meets the general description of the 45.0603 code:

21
22 "A program that focuses on the systematic study of mathematical and statistical analysis of
23 economic phenomena and problems. Includes instruction in economic statistics, optimization
24 theory, cost/benefit analysis, price theory, economic modeling, and economic forecasting and
25 evaluation."⁴

26
27 **Whereas,** our peer institutions Brown, NYU, Princeton, MIT, Yale, Columbia, Williams, Pomona,
28 Wellesely and Wisconsin-Madison have all recently recertified their Economics majors to
29 CIP code 45.0603 (Econometrics and Quantitative Economics)⁵

30

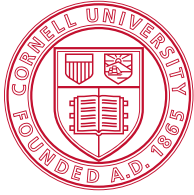
¹ According to the US Department of Education

² According to the Department of Homeland Security

³ Ibid

⁴ As found on the US Dept. of Ed. website under CIP code 45.0603 or Appendix D (Appendix p.10)

⁵ See Appendix A (Appendix p.1)



Cornell University University Assembly

31 **Whereas**, Cornell’s Economics program has identical or nearly identical quantitative course
32 requirements to those of its peer institutions⁶,

33
34 **Whereas**, Cornell’s Economics major certainly possesses a more technical curriculum than STEM-
35 certified majors such as New York University’s “Media, Culture and Communications”⁷;

36
37 **Whereas**, the recertification of our peer institutions’ Economics programs has involved a mere
38 technical change in the description of the Economics program;

39
40 **Whereas**, Columbia University achieved aforementioned recertification of their Financial
41 Economics program within 3 months (September 2017 – December 2017) and of their
42 general Economics program in 5 months (September 2017 – February 2018)⁸;

43
44 **Whereas**, the Chair of the Faculty Senate, Dean Van Loan, has deemed this initiative “a nice idea”⁹

45
46 **Whereas**, Professor Blume, Chair of the Cornell Economics program, said of this initiative: “[It]
47 seems like something we should attempt”¹⁰

48
49 **Be it therefore resolved**, that President Martha Pollack, Provost Kotlikoff and Dean Ritter apply to
50 the New York State Department of Education, in cooperation with Economics department faculty
51 such as Professor Blume and Professor O’Donoghue, to initiate the recertification of the Cornell
52 Economics program to CIP code 45.0603 (Econometrics and Quantitative Economics) as soon as
53 possible,

54
55 **Be it finally resolved**, that the application to the New York State Department of Education for the
56 reclassification of the Cornell Economics major be submitted within one month of the conveyance
57 of this resolution.

⁶ See Appendix B (Appendix p. 3)

⁷ See Appendix C (Appendix p. 4)

⁸ See Appendix E (Appendix p. 11)

⁹ See Appendix D (Appendix p.10)

¹⁰ *ibid*