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

April 24, 2018

U.A. Resolution # 15

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

On Behalf Of: Against The Merger Coalition

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

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

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

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

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

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

Whereas, the committee recognized that the “resulting college might not be a good fit for all units,” that “some might need to move elsewhere,” the merge has the “potential to harm the unique external identities of both units,” and that “both units have loyal alumni that may not support a new college.”
Whereas, the committee further stated that “it was not evident what problems exist with the existing structure that this is meant to cure”,

Whereas, the ILR faculty and the living former deans of the ILR School overwhelming condemn the decision to merge,

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

Be it therefore resolved, the University Assembly supports the most highly rated recommendation of the report, which is creating a Center for the Social Sciences colleges, but opposes the recommendation for the merger of the College of Human Ecology and ILR School;

Be it further resolved, that the University Assembly encourages the President respect the will of the faculty of the two colleges and formally state her opposition to the proposed merger;

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