

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.”;

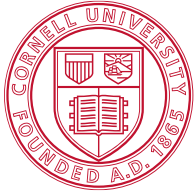
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13 **Whereas,** one of the recommendations included in the final report was the potential combination
14 of the College of Human Ecology and the ILR School;

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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 and the living former deans of the ILR School overwhelming
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**, the University Assembly supports the most highly rated
44 recommendation of the report, which is creating a Center for the Social Sciences colleges, but
45 opposes the recommendation for the merger of the College of Human Ecology and ILR School;

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

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