U.A. Resolution # 8

Request for Documents Relating to Mental Health

January 30*, 2018

Sponsored by: Joseph Anderson, Undergraduate; Chair of the Campus Welfare Committee

Whereas, on January 11*, 2018 Cornell President Martha Pollack responded to a request to form an independent externally led task force to investigate mental health concerns and practices at Cornell;

Whereas, in her response President Pollack mentioned that “we reviewed our most recent external assessment provided by the JED Foundation along with their subsequent visit to our campus this past summer. We will continue ongoing engagement with the foundation to ensure we are providing holistic support”;

Whereas, on January 18th, 2018 Cornell Vice President for Student and Campus Life Ryan Lombardi provided a statement to the Cornell Chronicle detailing three areas related to mental health services “that need further attention”;

Whereas, this article in the Cornell Chronicle references “the 2017 external assessment and campus visit summary by the JED Foundation”

Whereas, Vice President Lombardi additionally states to the Cornell Chronicle “From these reviews, we identified three areas that need further attention” indicating that information within the JED Foundation review is being used by Cornell to supplement Cornell’s mental health framework and initiatives;

Whereas, while both President Pollack’s and Vice President Lombardi’s statements reference results of an external assessment from the JED Foundation, no associated documents from this review and visit to Cornell’s campus last summer have been shared with the public;

Whereas, these documents should be made available to the public so that appropriate stakeholders and interested community members can review the findings;

Whereas, sharing these documents with the Cornell community allows the public to not only determine how Cornell identified the three areas that require further attention but also may provide insight into why President Pollack rejected an independent review on Cornell mental health practices”;

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1 https://thesophiefund.org/2018/01/13/cornell-says-no-to-independent-review-of-mental-health-policies/
2 http://news.cornell.edu/stories/2018/01/cornell-reviews-its-mental-health-approach-looks-ahead
Be it therefore resolved, that the documents from the most recent external assessment provided by the JED Foundation along with the documents from their subsequent visit to Cornell’s campus this past summer be released to the public.

Be it finally resolved, that administrators and staff involved in reviewing the JED Foundation assessment and identifying areas within Cornell’s mental health framework and initiatives that require further attention attend a University Assembly meeting to answer public questions.