S.A. Resolution #16
In Support of the Cornell University Caribbean Students’ Association’s Demands

ABSTRACT: This resolution asks for the Student Assembly to support the demands of the Cornell University Caribbean Students’ Association (CSA).

Sponsored by: Matthew Arthur ‘21, Aurora McKenzie ‘21, Justin Lowe ‘23, Elijah Gallimore-Repole ‘22, Catherine Huang ‘21, Uchenna Chukwukere ‘21

Whereas, Cornell is a private university in New York which houses 4 statutory colleges, all of which receive partial funding from the State of New York;

Whereas, the population in 2020 of Cornell undergraduate students from New York was 4,887 with a total undergraduate enrollment of 14,743, amounting to an approximate 33% of Cornell undergraduates hailing from New York;

Whereas, the population in 2020 of undergraduate students from New York belonging to a statutory college was 2,880, with the total enrollment across these colleges being 6,647, amounting to 43%;

Whereas, no data is supplied regarding the population of New York students from specific regions within the state, including New York City, an assumption can be made that a reasonable fraction of all New York Students are from New York City, considering that the population of New York City is approximately 43% of that of New York State;

Whereas, data on the Caribbean population in New York state is not readily available;

Whereas, approximately 1,161,177 million NYC residents are immigrants from the Caribbean, representing 35% of the entire foreign-born/immigrant population of New York City, and 14% of the entire population of New York City;

Whereas, in addition to the approximate 1.16 million NYC residents that are Caribbean immigrants, the entire population representing NYC residents of Caribbean descent, including both immigrants and those born in the U.S, is undoubtedly higher although this data is not readily available;

Whereas, as a university partially funded by New York State, Cornell has a responsibility to cater to the interests of its constituents, including within New York City, which comprises a sizable population relative to that of the entire State;

Whereas, data representing the population of persons from New York City attending Cornell is not readily available, but the population of NYC relative to that of NY may serve as a proxy for the population of students from New York City attending Cornell;
Whereas, data representing the population of Caribbean persons in New York State is not readily available, but the population of Caribbean persons in New York City may serve as a proxy for the population of Caribbean persons in New York State;

Whereas, Cornell has a moral imperative to not only cater to its Caribbean students who are grossly misrepresented amongst the student body demographic, there is also a moral imperative owed to its founder whose vision called for the pursuit of instruction in any study by any person wishing to do so;

Whereas, the objective of “Any Person, Any Study,” was formed in response to the lack of access to education for minority groups;

Whereas, the population of Caribbean persons was nearly desolate in 1865, Ezra Cornell’s vision would have applied to the current Caribbean Students at Cornell who are now requesting that Caribbean representation in academic spaces, amongst others be rightfully acknowledged;

Whereas, Cornell has an economic imperative to cater to not only the needs of its Caribbean students who are already misrepresented amongst the population of the student body, but to the evidently large Caribbean community in New York, whose labor yields capital for the state in the form of taxes, a portion of which is subsequently awarded to Cornell for the upkeep and maintenance of its statutory colleges;

Be it therefore resolved, in order to improve the lack of representation of the Caribbean in academic spaces amongst others, the members of the Caribbean Students’ Association at Cornell present the demands in appendix A to the University Administration;

Be it further resolved, the Undergraduate Student Assembly will recognize these demands, and support the efforts of Caribbean students, staff, and faculty, in moving these demands into practice;

Be it finally resolved, that the Student Assembly calls on the University to meet these demands, and in doing so subsequently acknowledge the vision of its founder to provide a space for unabated provision of any study, which would inherently include study of the Caribbean region and its constituents as demanded by the Caribbean students of Cornell;

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew Arthur ‘21
Aurora McKenzie ‘21
Elijah Gallimore-Repole ‘22
Justin Lowe ‘23
Catherine Huang ‘21
President, Student Assembly
Uchenna Chukwukere ‘21
Vice President of Finance, Student Assembly

(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 6-0-1, 11/18/2020)