S.A. Resolution #43
Opposing Re-envisioning the College of Human Ecology to the College of Public Policy

ABSTRACT: This resolution expresses the student body’s disapproval of the proposed re-envisioning of the College of Human Ecology to a College of Public Policy,

Sponsored by: Masa Haddad ’21

Whereas, the Social Sciences Implementation Committee was tasked with establishing a “world class” entity for public policy at Cornell;  

Whereas, the Social Sciences Implementation Committee proposed two models for establishing a public policy school: a cross-college School of Public Policy between the College of Arts and Sciences and a proposed “College of Public Policy” (CPP), which would fully rebrand the College of Human Ecology;  

Whereas, the Social Sciences Implementation Committee offered its recommendation in a final report submitted to President Martha E. Pollack and Provost Michael I. Kotlikoff and released publicly Jan. 16;  

Whereas, the final report included several recommendations on how to “enhance the visibility and impact of the social sciences at Cornell”;  

Whereas, the majority of the committee (6 members) concluded that re-envisioning the College of Human Ecology into a College of Public Policy is the best way to elevate public policy at Cornell, and 4 members were in support of creating a shared school of public policy instead;  

Whereas, the final report makes a recommendation on the establishment of a public policy entity and strengthening social sciences departments across the university;  

Whereas, approximately 70 percent of current College of Human Ecology students are not in policy-related majors, and approximately 72 percent of the College of Human Ecology’s faculty are not in the Policy Analysis and Management department;  

Whereas, the College of Human Ecology has a century-long record of being the center of interdisciplinary, community engaged and diverse research excellence;

Whereas, the College of Human Ecology has constructed their own set of academic policies and multi- and inter-disciplinary programs that best serves its unique student population;

Whereas, the committee recognized in their report that “the coexistence of policy and non-policy elements within the CPP obviously creates significant tension and uncertainty about what CPP would look like and when and how it would best serve policy over time”;

Whereas, the report states that “the feedback from non-policy College of Human Ecology faculty, staff, students, and alumni toward the idea of transforming CHE into CPP was mostly negative, with a non-negligible share of stakeholders vehemently opposed to the “college” option”;

Whereas, the committee did not include any undergraduate, graduate, or professional students nor did it include any employees;

Whereas, the College of Human Ecology has strong alumni who would oppose this change and cease their support of a new school, which was shown through multiple Cornell Daily Sun articles and op-eds;

Be it therefore resolved, that Student Assembly strongly rejects the notion of re-envisioning the College of Human Ecology as a College of Public Policy;

Be it therefore resolved, that Provost Kotlikoff and President Pollack adopt the opinion of the Student Assembly on re-envisioning the College of Human Ecology as a College of Public Policy and review the suggestion of creating a shared school of public policy deeply;


Be it finally resolved, that Cornell University continue to solicit community feedback, engage with all shared governance organizations, and set up at least three town-hall forums so that all University constituencies may comment on the set of suggestions from the initial report.
Bibliography:


Respectfully Submitted,

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College of Human Ecology Representative, Student Assembly

Cat Huang ’21
Executive Vice President, Student Assembly

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(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 5-0-1, 2/26/2020)