

Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Agenda of the Thursday, March 31, 2022 Meeting

4:45 PM – 6:30 PM

IN PERSON | WILLARD STRAIGHT MEMORIAL ROOM

- I. Call to Order
- II. Land Acknowledgment of the Gayogohono (Cayuga Nation)
- III. Late Additions to the Agenda
- IV. Consent Agenda
 - a. [SAIFC Alumni Fields Landscape Improvement Project](#)
- V. Open Microphone
- VI. Announcements and Reports
 - a. [Teach-In: “Academic Freedom, Global Hubs, and Cornell’s Involvement in the People’s Republic of China”](#) - Richard F. Bensel
- VII. Initiatives
- VIII. Presentations and Forums
- IX. Business of the Day
- X. New Business
 - a. Resolution 52: [Approving Special Projects Funding Request for the Cornell Undergraduate Research Board’s Spring Symposium](#)
- XI. Adjournment

If you are in need of special accommodations in order to fully participate, please contact Student Disability Services at (607) 254-4545 or the Office of the Assemblies at (607) 255-3715 or assembly@cornell.edu prior to the meeting.



Estimates for Costs of Improvements

Considered Cost	Price
Compost	\$1176.00
Mulch	\$1680.00
Jute roll for erosion control	\$200.00
Plants	\$9,500.00
Excavator Rental	\$500.00
Labor	\$2,500.00

Administrative Contacts and routing number

Administrative contacts	Project name	Account number
Nina Bassuk (Urban Horticulture Institute) David Cutter (University Landscape Architect) Dan Schied (Grounds Department)	Alumni Field Slope Pollinator Support and Erosion Control Landscape	Internal Transfer

Rationale of the Commission

The Student Assembly Infrastructure Fund Commission is a committee which evaluates applications for funding through the Student Assembly Infrastructure Fund (SAIF). The SAIF acts as an endowment and is independent of byline and SAFC funding. The purpose of the Commission is to provide financial support to projects and/or initiatives that improve infrastructure or facilities on campus that contribute to the undergraduate experience of Cornell students.

On March 28, the Infrastructure Fund Commission voted 11-0-1 to allocate an award of \$15,556.00 for the Alumni Field Slope Pollinator Support and Erosion Control Landscape Improvement project. An award of \$15,556.00 is equivalent to 20.00 percent of Commission's 2021-2022 budget. The committee collaborated with Professor Nina Bassuk with whom the committee also partnered with in 2020-2021 to support a landscape improvement project on the Cornell campus. This project is the capstone result of two semesters of coursework by students in the Landscape Architecture (LA)/Horticulture Sciences (PLHRT) 4920 class led by Professor Bassuk. The project will be completed by the students with assistance of the university grounds department.

Students enrolled in LA/PLHRT 4920 learned about key aspects of urban design and utilization of natural plants to reimagine landscapes. They applied these skills with guidance from professors and staff members from several different departments to develop the plan for the project. The cost estimates approved by the commission for this project are based upon the design as approved in consultation with the university landscape architect and material costs sourced from both local vendors and Cornell affiliated entities.

This pollinator support and erosion control project will rejuvenate an area of campus that is currently difficult to manage and aesthetically unappealing. The diversity of plant species selected for this project will attract a robust population of pollinators and serve as an outstanding showcase of native plant species for staff, faculty, students, and visitors alike. The landscape improvement will also serve a functional benefit by preventing soil erosion into the neighboring parking lot.



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In conclusion, the SAIFC believes the Alumni Field Slope Pollinator Support and Erosion Control Landscape Improvement project is a productive use of student funds. The project supports a student-led educational project which will create a positive lasting impact on the Cornell University landscape.

Submitted by Lucas Smith '22

on behalf of The Student Assembly Infrastructure Fund Commission.

General information on the Teach-In: “Academic Freedom, Global Hubs, and Cornell Involvement in the People’s Republic of China.”

Title: The Teach-In will have three elements, each element represented in the title: “Academic Freedom, Global Hubs, and Cornell Involvement in the People’s Republic of China.”

- a. Academic Freedom concerns both the Ithaca campus and international programs involving Cornell. For example, the March 10 event involving the Cornell Institute for Public Affairs on the Ithaca campus raises questions concerning freedom to criticize the People’s Republic of China.
- a. The Global Hubs initiative was launched almost a year ago but has never come before the Faculty Senate for a vote. In the meantime, the central administration has repeatedly refused to say whether or not the Cornell Statement on Academic Freedom will apply to the programs that they are rapidly creating and expanding.
- a. Cornell’s involvement in the People’s Republic of China has rapidly expanded in almost lock-step with increasing political surveillance and repression with increasing implications for academic freedom both in that country and in Ithaca. That involvement, for example, was a major factor in the March 10 CIPA event.

Timing: Sometime in late April, depending on sponsorship and space availability.

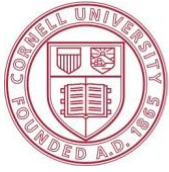
Participants:

- 1. Peidong Sun (Associate Professor of History: Ph.D. Sociology, Paris Institute of Political Studies 2007 and Ph.D. Law, Sun Yat-Sen University 2007). Her research focuses on the social and cultural history of post-1949 China. Her major publications include Who Will Marry My Daughter (Beijing: 2012) and Fashion and Politics (Beijing: 2013).
- 1. Eli Friedman (Associate Professor and Chair of International & Comparative Labor in the ILR School: Ph.D. Sociology, University of California, Berkeley 2011). His research centers on economic development, education, social movements and urbanization in China. His major works include Insurgency Trap: Labor Politics in Postsocialist China (Cornell: 2014) and China on Strike: Narratives of Worker Resistance from the Pearl River Delta (co-edited: Haymarket, forthcoming).
- 1. TJ Hinrichs (Associate Professor of History: Ph.D. History, Harvard 2003). Her research primarily focuses on illness, medical training, religious ritual, the Confucian civil service system during the Song dynasty. In addition to many articles, she has a forthcoming book, Shamans, Witchcraft, and Quarantine: The Medical Transformation of Governance and Southern Customs in Mid-Imperial China (Harvard East Asia Series).

1. The moderator will be Richard Bensel (Gary S. Davis Professor of Government: Ph.D. Government, Cornell 1978). His research centers on comparative state formation, political economy, and political culture). His major publications include Yankee Leviathan (Cambridge: 1990), Political Economy of American Industrialization (Cambridge: 2000), and The Founding of Modern States (Cambridge: forthcoming).
1. We also hope to invite someone from Human Rights Watch and someone from the central administration here at Cornell.

Sponsors: We already have several sponsors but will need more in order to reserve space for the event

Please reach out to Richard Bensel (rfb2) directly regarding this event with any questions or request for follow up information:



Resolution 52: Approving Special Projects Funding Request for the Cornell Undergraduate Research Board's Spring Symposium

Abstract: This resolution approves \$1,252.44 of Special Projects Funding to the Cornell Undergraduate Research Board for their Spring Symposium.

Sponsored by: Valeria Valencia '23

Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 03/29/2022, 6-0-1

Type of Action: Recommendation

Originally Presented: 03/29/2022

Current Status: New Business

Whereas, the Student Assembly Standing Rules, Section 8: Spending Guidelines, Part B: Special Projects Funding outlines the purpose of Special Projects Funding and the process of approving funding requests.

Whereas, lines 281-283 of the Student Assembly Standing Rules explains the purpose of Special Projects Funding as follows:

Rule 5: The Student Assembly may choose to fund any project, program or service through SA Special Projects that it deems to improve the quality of undergraduate student life or to further the goals of the SA. Special Projects funding is a type of category spending.

Whereas, lines 294-297 of the Student Assembly Standing Rules describes the approval process of Special Projects Funding as follows:

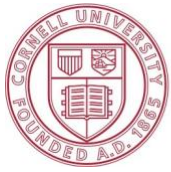
Rule 8: The Executive Committee shall decide upon special projects requests over \$400 and under \$1500 by a majority vote. The SA, at large, may reverse an Executive Committee decision to fund amounts over \$400 by a two-thirds vote. The request should be presented to the Student Assembly in the form of a resolution.

Whereas, the Cornell Undergraduate Research Board hosts a symposium that gives undergraduate students in all fields the opportunity to share their findings and results with the Cornell community in a poster competition;



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- 31 **Whereas**, this year's Spring Symposium will be held in the Duffield Atrium.
- 32 **Whereas**, by hosting the Spring Symposium, the Cornell Undergraduate Research Board hopes
33 to stress the importance of undergraduate research and give student presenters the opportunity to
34 gain valuable feedback on their work, practice their scientific and practice their professional
35 communication skills.
- 36 **Whereas**, the Cornell Undergraduate Research Board's Symposium committee will send out
37 various mail merges to a variety of classes and organizations to promote the event;
- 38 **Whereas**, the Cornell Undergraduate Research Board's publicity committee has been and will
39 continue to post Spring Symposium advertisements on a variety of social media platforms such
40 as Facebook and Instagram;
- 41 **Whereas**, the Cornell Undergraduate Research Board is receiving \$152.44 in funds from SAFC;
- 42 **Whereas**, the Cornell Undergraduate Research Board anticipates approximately 100 people will
43 attend the Spring Symposium;
- 44 **Whereas**, the Cornell Undergraduate Research Board will be using a coupon system for
45 presenters to have access to poster boards at a reduced cost. These will be distributed on a first-
46 come-first-served basis;
- 47 **Whereas**, the Cornell Undergraduate Research Board is collaborating with Cornell Wardrobe to
48 offer professional business attire to interested participants;
- 49 **Whereas**, the Cornell Undergraduate Research Board remains committed to making the Spring
50 Symposium inclusive and accessible to all so that anyone that wishes to participate is able to,
51 regardless of financial circumstances;
- 52 **Whereas**, the breakdown of expenses is as follows: \$300 for custodial care, \$300 for furniture
53 rental (podium, sound system, chairs), \$500 for posters (\$32 per poster, 50% off coupons for first
54 20 people to sign up, 25% off coupons for next 20 people to sign up), \$152.44 for four (4)
55 awards. All expenses added up total \$1,252.44;
- 56 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Student Assembly approves the \$1,252.44 Special Projects
57 Funding disbursement to the Cornell Undergraduate Research Board for their Spring
58 Symposium;
- 59 **Be it further resolved**, that the Student Assembly necessitates that this funding be used to cover
60 part of the cost of the event and other sufficient line items.
- 61 **Be it finally resolved**, that the Student Assembly encourages all undergraduate students who can
62 to attend and participate in the Cornell Undergraduate Research Board's Spring Symposium that
63 will be mostly funded by Special Projects Funding.



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- 64 Respectfully Submitted,
65 Valeria Valencia '23
66 *Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly*