S.A. Resolution #19

In Opposition to the Department of Education's Proposed Title IX Changes

ABSTRACT: This resolution strongly condemns the changes proposed by the Department of Education and urges the Cornell Student Body to partake in the 60-day commenting period.

Sponsored by: Joe Anderson '20, Savanna Lim '21, and Ian Wallace '20

Whereas, on November 16th, 2018 the Department of Education release their proposed revisions for the handling of sexual misconduct cases under Title IX1;

Whereas, in response to these proposed changes, several survivor advocate organizations have denounced these proposed changes as changes that would increase barriers to reporting and minimize the effects of sexual misconduct on college campuses;

Whereas, Columbia University2 and several other universities have pledged support to maintain support for students, even in the wake of these proposed changes;

Whereas, these changes would drastically change the process in reporting, investigating, and deciding cases of sexual misconduct, including:

- Eliminating the single investigator model
- Requiring live hearing, which would be conducted by a neutral decision maker
- Allowing for a period of cross-examination period
- Complicates the duties of reporting for off-campus incidents
- Choosing a higher evidentiary standard
- Allowing for an appeals process3

Be it therefore resolved, the Student Assembly vehemently denounces the proposed changes made by the Department of Education;

Be it therefore resolved, the Student Assembly actively encourages students to voice their opinions and to partake in the 60-day commenting period.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Anderson '20

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Executive Vice President, Student Assembly
Savanna Lim ‘21
Vice President of External Affairs, Student Assembly
Women’s Liaison at-Large, Student Assembly
Ian Wallace ‘20
LGBTQ+ Liaison at-Large, Student Assembly
Natalia Hernandez ‘21
Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion, Student Assembly
Minority Students Liaison at-Large, Student Assembly
Debbie Nyakaru ‘20
First Generation Students Liaison at-Large, Student Assembly
(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, VOTE, 11/28/2018)