S.A. Resolution #8

Condemning Hate Crimes and Hate Speech, and Supporting Students

ABSTRACT: This resolution affirms the Student Assembly’s solidarity with the Cornell community and requests the appropriate considerations and additions to the Campus Code of Conduct through the University Assembly Codes and Judicial Committee.

Sponsored by: Tristan Magloire ’20, Mayra Valadez ’18, Alec Martinez ‘18, and Matthew Indimine ‘18

Whereas, over the past year there has been an increase in hate-based incidents on college campuses across the country;

Whereas, on September 6, 2017 one or more Zeta Psi member(s) shouted “build a wall around the LLC” at the Latino Living Center;

Whereas, on September 15, 2017 multiple alleged Psi Upsilon members, a fraternity no longer affiliated with Cornell University, used racial slurs against a Black Cornell student and violently assaulted him and other members of his fraternity on their own property;

Whereas, later the same day on September 15, 2017, two or more Cornell students were captured on video using racial slurs against another student;

Whereas, all of these incidents appear to be clear violations of the Campus Code of Conduct, should the allegations prove true, as it is a violation of the Campus Code of Conduct to:

• “harass another person...by acting toward that person in a manner that is by objective measure threatening, abusive, or severely annoying and that is beyond the scope of free speech,” or

• “assault or cause any physical injury to another person on the basis of disability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, religion, or sexual orientation or affectional preference;”

Whereas, the Ithaca Police have arrested John P.A. Greenwood ‘20 involved on September 15 and charged said student with one count of assault in the third degree; and later the

Whereas, the Ithaca police are investigating the events of September 15 as a possible hate crime;

Whereas, pursuant to New York State Penal Law Article 485, hate crimes “do more than threaten the safety and welfare of all citizens” because they “inflict on victims incalculable physical and emotional damage and tear at the very fabric of free society,” “send a powerful message of intolerance and discrimination” and “disrupt entire communities and vitiate the civility that is essential to healthy democratic processes;”
Whereas, bias, discrimination, and hate crimes, by their nature, affect the fabric of the Cornell community, prevent the fulfillment of and are deeply antithetical to Cornell’s motto “I would found an institution where any person can find instruction in any study;”

Whereas, these recent events place the onus on Cornell University to establish and justify its members’ trust in our community;

Whereas, we, the Student Assembly, acknowledge that violence is not merely interpersonal, but also institutional and historic;

Be it therefore resolved, that the Student Assembly unequivocally condemns all forms of the kyriarchy which these racist actions are a manifestation of;

Be it further resolved, that the Student Assembly calls on all members of the Cornell community to join us in this condemnation;

Be it further resolved, that the Student Assembly charges all members of the Cornell community to consider how best to heal these harms, and how best to accord all members of our community the equal dignity and respect due to them as our peers;

Be it further resolved, that the Student Assembly unequivocally supports all of the demands made to the Administration by Black Students United and La Asociación Latina;

Be it further resolved, that the Student Assembly calls on the University Assembly Codes and Judicial Committee to expedite consideration of Campus Code of Conduct changes requested by Black Students United; by the end of the fall 2017 semester.

Be it further resolved that Cornell University fulfills its commitment to students by never recognizing the Chi Chapter of Psi Upsilon again;

Be it finally resolved, that the Student Assembly calls on the University Assembly Codes and Judicial Committee to add “documentation status” to the Campus Code of Conduct Title III, Article II, Section A.

Respectfully Submitted,

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President, Cornell Democrats
Reviewed by: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 5-0-1, 09/19/2017
Approved by the Student Assembly, 9/21/17; vote: 21-0-1 (ayes included 2 community votes)