

Cornell University
University Assembly

Cornell University's University Assembly

Agenda of the March 22nd, 2022 Meeting

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

401 Physical Sciences Building | Zoom

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Roll Call
 - b. Land Acknowledgment of the Gayogohono (Cayuga Nation)
 - c. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda
- II. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. 02/22/2022 Meeting Minutes
- III. Open Forum
 - a. Cornell Faculty teach-in on inhumanity of Chinese government (Prof. Bensel)
 - b. Upcoming Visit(s)
 - i. Liz Davis Frost – Free Period Product Initiative (4/12)
- IV. Business of the Day
 - a. Presentation on University Signage by Landscape Architect David Cutter
 - b. [Resolution #3- Increasing the Number of Sustainable Waste Receptacles on Campus](#)
- V. New Business
 - a. [Resolution #6- Alterations to Codes and Judicial Committee Name and Function](#)
 - b. [Resolution #7- Establishing the first Tuesday in November of each year as "Election Day," a Cornell University Recognized Civic Holiday](#)
- VI. Assembly Reports
 - a. Student Assembly
 - b. Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
 - c. Employee Assembly
 - d. Faculty Senate
- VII. Committee Reports
 - a. Executive Committee
 - b. Codes and Judicial Committee
 - c. Campus Welfare Committee
 - i. UA Campus Crisis Response Forum Discussion
 - d. Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology, and the Environment
- VIII. Liaison Reports
- IX. 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.



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Minutes of the February 22, 2022 Meeting

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

401 Physical Sciences Building | Zoom

- I. Call to Order
 - a. B. Fortenberry called the meeting to order at 4:32.
 - b. *Members Present:* I. Akisoglu, M. Benda, R. Bensel, D. Cady, N. Danev, E. DeRosa, J. Feit, B. Fortenberry, T. Fox, P. Hanley, D. Hiner, D. Howell, A. Ononye, J. Richards, D. Sharp, J. Withers
 - c. *Members Absent:* V. Aymer, C. Levine, M. Louis
 - d. *Also Present:* M. Pollack, J. Malina
- II. Land Acknowledgment of the Gayogohó:nq' (the Cayuga Nation)
 - a. B. Fortenberry recited the Land Acknowledgement.
- III. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. February 8th, 2022 Minutes
 - i. R. Bensel motioned to approve the minutes.
 - ii. P. Hanley seconded the motion.
 - iii. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.
- IV. Business of the Day
 - a. Cornell University Present Martha Pollack
 - i. M. Pollack presented on academic distinctions, wellness, sports acknowledgments, and sustainability.
 - b. Q&A
 - i. B. Fortenberry asked about graduate student payments as many institutions have increased payments across the staff and students.
 1. M. Pollack stated that they are planning for a larger stipend for Graduate and Professional students.
 - ii. B. Fortenberry relayed a question proposed by R. Bensel on academic freedom.
 1. Discussion by M. Pollack and R. Bensel ensued on if and how the current statement of academic freedom applies to programs abroad.
 - iii. B. Fortenberry asked about the student growth on campus and the faculty-to-student ratio.
 1. M. Pollack stated that their target is 15,800 students by 2025. They would like to allocate those slots to the places that have the capacity and strengthen departments that are overfilled.



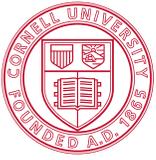
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- iv. J. Feit asked about how they plan to maintain diverse faculty and respond to the skyrocketing housing prices.
 - 1. Discussion by M. Pollack and J. Malina ensued on their current efforts and status in the local housing arena.
 - v. D. Cady asked about the new health officers and their current progress towards goals.
 - 1. Discussion by M. Pollack, D. Cady, and J. Richards ensued on the mental health review, gym reimbursement, alumnae funding, and free speech.
 - vi. A. Ononye asked about how they are thinking about COVID moving forward.
 - 1. M. Pollack stated that they will be following the science and trying to find the best way to keep the community as safe as possible while facilitating learning. Currently, M. Pollack noted, there are no plans to restrain Spring Break.
 - c. Presentation on the Natatorium
 - i. A. Newman presented about the Natatorium.
 - ii. Discussion by D. Howell, J. Withers, A. Newman, T. Fox, A. Ononye, D. Cady, J. Feit, and R. Bensel ensued on development, the current state of the pools, predicted declines, potential new locations, and anchor donors.
 - iii. B. Fortenberry motioned to move UA R5 up the agenda.
 - 1. The motion **passed** without objection.
 - d. UA R5: Support for Faculty Senate Proposed Resolution: Inclusion and Prioritization of a New Natatorium in the 'Do the Greatest Good' Capital Campaign.
 - i. D. Howell presented UA R5 and asked that the assembly review the resolution then bring the resolution back next session for a vote.
 - ii. D. Cady made a friendly amendment to add themselves as a co-sponsor as a Welfare Committee Member and Undergrad.
 - 1. D. Howell stated that there were updates in the Box, one of which reflected this addition.
 - 2. D. Cady retracted the motion.
 - iii. D. Cady motioned to table UA R5 until the next meeting.
 - 1. J. Withers seconded the motion.
 - 2. The motion passed and the resolution was **tabled** with 13-0-1.
 - e. Attendance
 - i. B. Fortenberry outlined attendance expectations as stated in the by-laws.
- V. Assembly Reports



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- a. Student Assembly
 - i. A. Ononye reported the SA approval of Resolution 40: Spring Festival Gala Special Funding Project, Resolution 39: Zoom Live Transcription Implementation, Resolution 38: Establishing the Public Health and Safety Committee, and special project funding. Additionally, Resolution 42: Establish Feb 21st as the US-China Friendship Day at Cornell was tabled indefinitely.
 - ii. J. Feit asked if A. Ononye could speak more to Resolution 42.
 - iii. A. Ononye stated that the resolution was proposed by an international student representative to re-affirm support for Chinese students on campus. They attempted to do this through a proposed letter to the ambassador which also recommended actions in foreign policy.
- b. Graduate Professional Student Association
 - i. P. Hanley reported that they passed Resolution 13: Commending the Service of Wendy Treat.
 - ii. D. Cady asked if Resolution 13 is available for the SA to see.
 1. P. Hanley confirmed.
- c. Employee Assembly
 - i. J. Withers relayed COVID in the New Semester forum metrics.
 - ii. G. Giambattista stated that the 600 plus staff turn-out is more than they had in in-person years.
- d. Faculty Senate
 - i. E. DeRosa affirmed G. Giambattista's point. They reported the Faculty Senate had two discussions surrounding the pool and will give the UA an update in two weeks.
 - ii. R. Hanley motioned to extend the meeting by 10 minutes.
 1. J. Feit seconded the motion.
 2. The motion passed with unanimous consent.
- e. Executive Committee
 - i. J. Feit stated that they discussed the attendance expectations and questions submitted to M. Pollack.
- f. Campus Judicial Committee
 - i. J. Richards stated that they are scheduling their next meeting and presenting a resolution regarding CJC in the UA.
- g. Campus Welfare Committee
 - i. D. Howell did not have an update.
- h. Campus Committee on Infostructure, Technology, and the Environment
 - i. A. Akisoglu did not have an update.

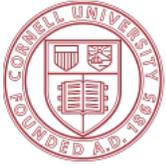


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- VI. Liaison Reports
 - a. Carbon Neutral Campus Committee
 - i. I. Akisoglu relayed an update on the CUBO funding status.
 - b. B. Fortenberry thanked W. Treat for their hard work.
- VII. Adjournment
 - a. D. Sharp motioned to adjourn the meeting
 - i. J. Feit seconded the motion
 - ii. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kassandra Jordan
Clerk of the Assembly



U.A. Resolution #3

Increasing the Number of Sustainable Waste Receptacles on Campus

[11/30/2021]

1 **Sponsors:** Jacob J. Feit, Executive Vice Chair of the University Assembly; Ian Akisoglu, Chair of
2 the Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology, and the Environment; Duncan Cady,
3 Undergraduate Representative to the University Assembly
4

5 **ABSTRACT:** In order to ensure Cornell University remains a clean, safe, environmentally
6 sustainable, and ecologically compatible educational and living community, investments must be
7 made to increase the number of sustainably compatible waste receptacles across the University's
8 Ithaca, New York campus. Additionally, waste receptacles ought to be strategically placed such that
9 both financial and natural resources are conserved, recycling habits are rationally incentivized, in
10 order to protect these lands, public health, natural resources, and regional biodiversity.
11

12 **Whereas,** Cornell University is recognized as a “global leader in sustainability and climate change
13 research, teaching and engagement,” specifically, such that our “campuses are living laboratories for
14 developing, testing and implementing solutions that address these most challenging issues,” as
15 digitally noted by administrators,¹ and
16

17 **Whereas,** Cornell University is currently “the leading Ivy League institution rated by AASHE
18 STARS, and one of just eight universities in the world to achieve the highest possible STARS rating
19 of Platinum,”² and
20

21 **Whereas,** Cornell University's Campus Master Plan promotes the important role of stewardship
22 ensuring that the University's continued development “respect[s] and manage[s] the physical
23 environment of the campus and its broader land base for the health of the university, its
24 constituencies, its neighbors and the larger regional ecosystem,”³ and
25

26 **Whereas,** in their November 16, 2021 visit to the Assembly, President Pollack and Vice President
27 Malina expressed their support for the sustainable development of campus, noted the important role
28 that sustainable infrastructure plays in the daily happenings of the Cornell community, and
29

30 **Whereas,** the installation of such “smart” waste and recycling infrastructure has the potential to
31 “measure diversion rates,”⁴ by employing using self-harnessed solar power to continuously provide

¹<https://sustainability.cornell.edu/#:~:text=Cornell%20is%20a%20global%20leader,change%20research%2C%20teaching%20and%20engagement>

²<https://sustainablecampus.cornell.edu/about/reports-awards-facts/awards-rankings#:~:text=In%202019%2C%20Cornell%20University%20became,possible%20STARS%20rating%20of%20Platinum.>

³https://masterplan.cornell.edu/doc/CMP_PART_1/campus_maste__plan_principles_essential_features.pdf

⁴ <https://bigbelly.com/solutions/campus/>

32 waste accumulation metrics, resulting in informed decision making with respect to collection times,
33 cycles, and/or patterns, and

34
35 **Whereas**, “smart” waste management and recycling infrastructure are similarly outfitted with the
36 technology necessary to “periodically compact[s] the trash inside, creating space for more,”⁵ and
37

38 **Whereas**, in the current absence of a similar method of remotely tracking metrics of waste
39 accumulation, our current waste disposal and recycling system inefficiently and unnecessarily burns
40 fossil fuels and wastes financial resources surveying and collecting waste from receptacles that are
41 not fully filled, and

42
43 **Whereas**, in the current absence of a similar method of remotely tracking metrics of waste
44 accumulation, admirable attempts to conserve financial resources and reducing greenhouse gas
45 (GHG) emissions inadvertently neglect overfilled waste receptacles, resulting in a greater likelihood
46 of wildlife accessing waste, posing a potential danger physical danger, as well as perpetuates existing
47 issues of waste ending up in our local waterways and natural environment(s), resulting in devastating
48 environmental/ecological consequences, and

49
50 **Whereas**, our peer institutions, including Massachusetts Institute of Technology,⁶ Brown
51 University,⁷ and Boston University⁸ have all implemented “smart waste & recycling” initiatives on
52 their campuses with phenomenal success, and

53
54 **Be it therefore resolved**, Cornell University shall efficiently invest the funds and resources
55 necessary for the full, successful implementation of a campus-wide network of solar-powered waste
56 receptacles, outfitted with monitorization technology allowing for the efficient tracking of waste
57 receptacle capacity in order to strategically plan collection timing, ultimately reducing greenhouse gas
58 emissions necessarily involved in waste collection and processing, and

59
60 **Be it further resolved**, such waste receptacles must be limited in quantity as a means of reducing
61 greenhouse gas emissions and the financial burden of sustaining this initiative, however, these
62 installed “smart” receptacles ought to be strategically placed with respect to foot-traffic and living
63 spaces, facilitating practical, equitable access to proper waste disposal, in totality ensuring adequate
64 waste and recycling disposal is rationally incentivized, limiting the propensity for littering and
65 dumping, and

66
67 **Be it finally resolved**, the commencement of this initiative will continue to support the historic and
68 thriving environmentalist values of Cornell University, making good on promises of sustainable
69 development.

70
71 Respectfully Submitted,
72 Jacob J. Feit

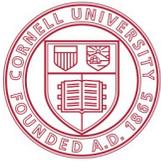
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74 Executive Vice Chair, University Assembly

⁵ <https://news.brown.edu/articles/2011/02/belly>

⁶ <https://news.mit.edu/2011/bigbelly-solar-at-mit>

⁷ <https://news.brown.edu/articles/2011/02/belly>

⁸ <https://www.bu.edu/articles/2009/big-bellied-trash-eaters-arrive/>



U.A. Resolution #6

Alterations to Codes and Judicial Committee Name and Function

[03/22/2022]

Sponsors: James Richards, with agreement from the Codes and Judicial Committee

ABSTRACT: The University Assembly By-laws must be updated after adoption of the Student Code of Conduct this academic year. As the CJC is no longer tasked with approval/rejection of all Resolutions, it will instead function as a non-judicial body providing an avenue for objective review of regulations of conduct across the entire Cornell population. Additionally, the CJC will undergo a name-change and role-clarification to reflect the structure of the new disciplinary hearing process and University Hearing and Review Panel appointment procedure.

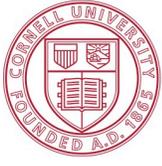
Whereas, prior to this update, the University Assembly By-laws state “By delegation from the Assembly, the Codes and Judicial Committee will review any proposed motion related to:

- Campus Code of Conduct; and
- recruitment and appointment of members to the University Hearing and Review Boards”,
and

Whereas, the By-laws also state “The Committee may propose, review, and amend resolutions as it deems appropriate. The Committee must approve resolutions referred for its consideration before they can be advanced to the Assembly for a vote and for debate. The Judicial Administrator and Judicial Codes Counselor serve as non-voting, ex-officio members of the Committee,” and

Whereas, the CJC is no longer tasked with mandatory review of UA resolutions under the Student Code of Conduct, and

Whereas, recruitment and appointment of University Hearing and Review Panel (hereinafter “UHRP”) members is no longer delegated to this Committee, but to the Director of the OSCCS, Executive Committee, and the Assemblies & Senate, and



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28

29 **Whereas**, replacement of the Campus Code of Conduct with the Student Code of Conduct has
30 raised concerns about the ability of a non-administrative, non-judicial body to ensure fair and
31 even-handed regulation of conduct across every constituency within Cornell

32

33 **Be it therefore resolved**, the language of the By-laws will be altered to reflect the CJC's new
34 role and new name, both of which shall reflect the new Student Code of Conduct, and

35 **Be it further resolved**, the By-laws shall be amended to state:

36 "By delegation from the Assembly, the **Campus Codes & Conduct Committee** (hereinafter
37 "CCCC") shall be authorized to:

- 38 • Upon request from the Senate and Assemblies, provide information and guidance
39 regarding the UHRP solicitation and appointment process, in order to facilitate the
40 smooth and timely appointment of UHRP members,
- 41 • Receive and consider complaints or concerns regarding inconsistent regulation of conduct
42 within the Cornell community, and
- 43 • In its discretion, bring forth to the University Assembly any such complaints or concerns
44 that it has received and considered."

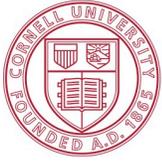
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46 **Be it further resolved**, the By-laws shall be amended to clarify these responsibilities, by stating:

47 "The Committee will function as a non-judicial, non-administrative body authorized to receive
48 and consider complaints or concerns from any member of the Cornell community regarding
49 inconsistent application of Cornell's codes or regulations of conduct. Such issues can include but
50 are not limited to: freedom of speech issues, collective bargaining restraints, and general
51 application of standards of conduct."

52

53 **Be it further resolved**, the By-laws shall be amended to clarify these responsibilities by stating:



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54 “After receipt and consideration of such complaints and concerns, this committee shall be
55 authorized to bring forth such complaints and concerns at the soonest practicable University
56 Assembly meeting.”

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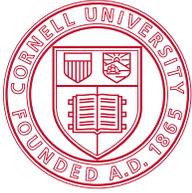
58 **Be it finally resolved,** that future editions of the University Assembly By-laws contain such
59 language.

60

61 Respectfully Submitted,

62 James Richards

63 Codes and Judicial Committee, Chair



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37 **Be it further resolved,** Cornell University will officially recognize Election Day every year as the
38 Cornell University Civic Holiday, as reflected on University-wide official calendars; and

39

Be it finally resolved, that the Cornell Civic Holiday shall begin its inaugural celebration on
Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

40

41 Jacob J. Feit

42

43 Executive Vice Chair, University Assembly

44