

# Cornell University University Assembly

## Cornell University's University Assembly

Agenda of the March 29th, 2022 Meeting

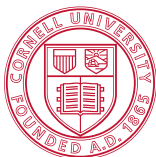
4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

401 Physical Science Building | Zoom

- I. Call to Order
  - a. Roll Call
  - b. Land Acknowledgment of the Gayogõhoˀnoˀ (Cayuga Nation)
  - c. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda
- II. Approval of the Minutes
  - a. [03/08/2022 Meeting Minutes](#)
- III. Open Forum
  - a. Updates on Cornell Faculty teach-in on inhumanity of Chinese government
  - b. Upcoming Visit(s)
    - i. Liz Davis Frost – Free Period Product Initiative (4/12)
- IV. Business of the Day
  - 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](#)
- V. New Business
  - a. [Resolution #8- Examining Cornell University’s Existing Waste Management Practices](#) (including highlighted amendments)
- 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
    - ii. Mental Healthcare [Problems](#) and Solutions
  - 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](mailto:assembly@cornell.edu) prior to the meeting.*



# Cornell University University Assembly

## Cornell University Assembly

Minutes of the March 8, 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 4:34 PM.
  - b. *Members Present:* I. Akisoglu, M. Benda, R. Benschel, 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:* S. Swanson, C. Liang
- II. Land Acknowledgment of the Gayogohono (Cayuga Nation)
  - a. B. Fortenberry recited the Land Acknowledgement.
- III. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda
  - a. J. Feit motioned to add UA Resolution 3: Increasing the Number of Sustainable Waste Receptacles on Campus.
    - i. I. Akisoglu seconded the motion.
    - ii. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.
- IV. Business of the Day
  - a. Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (OSCCS) - Christina Liang, Director
    - i. C. Liang presented on the (Director) Student Code of Conduct
    - ii. Discussion ensued on procedure, ramifications of the informal resolution process, interactions with federal and state laws, code councilor roles, mitigating bias, and resolution turn-around time.
  - b. UA Resolution 5: Support for Faculty Senate Proposed Resolution: Inclusion and Prioritization of a New Natatorium in the 'Do the Greatest Good' Capital Campaign
    - i. D. Howell stated that UA R5 was brought forward to the Faculty Senate. They haven't received any comments and would like to bring the resolution forward for a vote.
    - ii. A. Ononye motioned to vote on the resolution.
      1. D. Cady seconded the motion.
      2. The resolution was **passed** with 16-0-1.
- V. Late Addition
  - a. I. Akisoglu presented UA Resolution 3: Increasing the Number of Sustainable Waste Receptacles on Campus.
    - i. Discussion ensued on the resolution material, position of the Campus Sustainability Office, and other possible solutions.



## Cornell University University Assembly

- ii. A. Ononye motioned to table the resolution.
  - 1. D. Sharp seconded the motion.
  - 2. The resolution was **tabled** with 11-5-1.

### VI. Assembly Reports

- a. Student Assembly
  - i. A. Ononye stated they passed SA Resolution 43: Proposed Charter Amendment To The Process of Conducting Referenda, SA Resolution 44: Resolution Commending the Service of Wendy Treat, Office of the Assemblies Senior Coordinator, and SA Resolution 45: Amendments to Election Rules for Spring 2022. They also reported the SA solidified its election calendar.
- b. Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
  - i. P. Hanley stated they are going to vote on Resolution 3 and Resolution 5.
- c. Employee Assembly
  - i. J. Wither relayed VP Mary Opperman's visit to the last EA meeting. They also reported that the Elections Committee is currently planning for the spring election and the Welfare Committee presented on the UA Resolution 5.
- d. Faculty Senate
  - i. E. DeRosa stated that Senator Newman is bringing the revised Natatorium resolution to a vote. They also reported VP Donica Varner visited the Faculty Senate. Additionally, a presentation on a pilot program to create a flat cost for student books was held. E. DeRosa stated that they will be bringing more Senate reports on the Part-Time Bachelor's Degree for Nontraditional Students.
  - ii. D. Cady asked about the pilot program and talked to a similar Instant Access program presented to the Student Assembly.
    - 1. E. DeRosa noted that the program presented to the Faculty Senate was different from the Instant Access pilot program.
  - iii. P. Hanley motioned to extend the meeting by 10 minutes.
    - 1. J. Feit seconded the motion.
    - 2. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.

### VII. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Committee
  - i. B. Fortenberry stated that on March 25<sup>th</sup> they will be presenting on the UA to the Board of Trustees. They encouraged the body to email feedback on what to present and noted that it would last 6 minutes.



## Cornell University University Assembly

1. G. Giambattista stated there was an invitation sent out to the UA members.
2. B. Fortenberry also reminded the body of the upcoming social with the Board of Trustees' executive members.
- b. Codes and Judicial Committee
  - i. J. Richards stated that they will be bringing forth a resolution in the next meeting.
- c. Campus Welfare Committee
  - i. D. Howell stated they have just finished UA Resolution 5 and are shifting their attention to crisis response and communication.
- d. Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology, and the Environment
  - i. I. Akisoglu stated that there were no updates.

### VIII. Liaison Reports

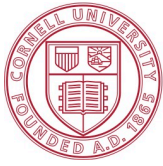
- a. I. Akisoglu stated that the CPC discussed a new sports recreational activity and is still selecting sites. They note that this runs counter to the Campus Master Plan.
- b. R. Bensel asked what happens to Barton Hall.
  - i. I. Akisoglu stated that this was not discussed but speculated that after the new space is built it may be torn down.
- c. J. Richards asked if there was any discussion about possible disturbances to the synchrotron.
  - i. I. Akisoglu stated that there were no issues identified during the meeting but there might be some concerns.
- d. P. Hanley asked if they talked about the Natatorium.
  - i. I. Akisoglu stated that the discussion of the natatorium didn't come up in conjunction with the new athletic building.

### IX. Adjournment

- a. P. Hanley motioned to adjourn.
  - i. J. Feit seconded the motion.
  - ii. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kassandra Jordan  
Clerk of the Assembly



## 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.

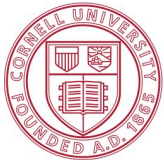
**Whereas,** prior to this update, the University Assembly By-laws state “By delegation from the Assembly, the Codes and Judicial Committee will review any proposed motion related to:

- 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



## Cornell University Employee Assembly

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

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

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

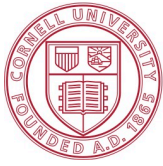
"By delegation from the Assembly, the **Campus Codes & Conduct Committee** (hereinafter "CCCC") shall be authorized to:

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

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

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

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



## Cornell University Employee Assembly

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.”

57

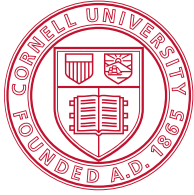
58 **Be it finally resolved,** that future editions of the University Assembly By-laws contain such  
59 language.

60

61 Respectfully Submitted,

62 James Richards

63 Codes and Judicial Committee, Chair



# Cornell University University Assembly

## U.A. Resolution #7

Establishing the first Tuesday in November of each year as “Election Day,” a Cornell  
University Recognized Civic Holiday

[03/22/2022]

**Sponsors:** Patrick J. Mehler '23, Former President of Cornell Votes; Jacob Feit '22, Executive Vice Chair  
of the University Assembly; Duncan Cady '23 Undergraduate Representative to the University Assembly

**On Behalf Of: Cornell Votes Executive Board: Isaac D. Chasen '23, Dana Karami '22, Rahul  
Verma '24, Elena Woo '24, Belle Zachary '23**

**Whereas**, as an institution dedicated to service, democracy, and civic engagement, Cornell  
University strives to promote and imbed these values into all students, faculty, and staff; and

**Whereas**, Cornell students, faculty, and staff have become significantly more engaged in the  
political process both on and off campus; and

**Whereas**, efforts by Cornell Votes have directly impacted and improved campus-wide voter turnout in  
federal elections, demonstrated by voting participation increases of nearly 20%, from 47.4% in 2016 to  
66.1% in 2020, pushing Cornell University *over* the national average of voter turnout for the first time in  
recorded history; and

**Whereas**, these increases in civic engagement have been accomplished with, and because of, strong  
partnerships with the Student Assembly, the Cornell University administration, and over one-hundred  
student organizations; and

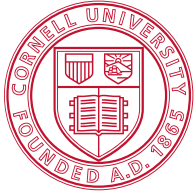
**Whereas**, peer institutions such as Columbia University, Stanford University, and, as recently as 2020,  
Brown University has implemented similar days of service on Federal Election Day; and

**Whereas**, a Civic Holiday shall constitute a day of service, celebration of democracy, and programming  
that assists and facilitates voting for all Cornell community members; and

**Be it therefore resolved**, in order to substantively and fully dedicate itself to service, democracy, and  
civic engagement, Cornell University must cancel all university activities on Federal Election Day; and

**Be it further resolved**, Cornell University will continue their partnerships with Cornell Votes, the  
Einhorn Center for Community Engagement, and other stakeholders to facilitate programming, assist  
voters, and promote democracy; and





## Cornell University University Assembly

37 **Be it further resolved,** Cornell University will officially recognizes 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



Cornell University  
University Assembly

## U.A. Resolution #8

### Examining Cornell University's Existing Waste Management Practices

[03/29/2022]

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

**ABSTRACT:** In order to ensure Cornell University remains a clean, safe, environmentally sustainable, and ecologically compatible educational and living community, investments must be made to investigate existing waste management practices as a means of identifying existing shortcomings and opportunities to incorporate technology, engineering, and innovation.

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

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

**Whereas,** Cornell University’s Campus Master Plan promotes the important role of stewardship ensuring that the University’s continued development “respect[s] and manage[s] the physical environment of the campus and its broader land base for the health of the university, its constituencies, its neighbors and the larger regional ecosystem,”<sup>3</sup> and

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

**Whereas,** the installation of such “smart” waste and recycling infrastructure has the potential to “measure diversion rates,”<sup>4</sup> by employing using self-harnessed solar power to continuously provide waste accumulation metrics, resulting in enabling informed decision making with respect to collection times, cycles, and/or patterns, and

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

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

<sup>3</sup>[https://masterplan.cornell.edu/doc/CMP\\_PART\\_1/campus\\_maste\\_\\_plan\\_principles\\_essential\\_features.pdf](https://masterplan.cornell.edu/doc/CMP_PART_1/campus_maste__plan_principles_essential_features.pdf)

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

33  
34 **Whereas**, in the current absence of a similar method of remotely tracking metrics of waste  
35 accumulation, our current waste disposal and recycling system inefficiently and unnecessarily burns  
36 fossil fuels and wastes financial resources surveying and collecting waste from receptacles that are  
37 not fully filled, and

38  
39 **Whereas**, in the current absence of a similar method of remotely tracking metrics of waste  
40 accumulation, admirable attempts to conserve financial resources and reducing greenhouse gas  
41 (GHG) emissions inadvertently neglect overfilled waste receptacles, resulting in a greater likelihood  
42 of wildlife accessing waste, posing a potential danger physical danger, as well as perpetuates existing  
43 issues of waste ending up in our local waterways and natural environment(s), resulting in  
44 detrimental devastating environmental/ecological consequences, and.

45  
46 ~~Whereas, our peer institutions, including Massachusetts Institute of Technology,<sup>5</sup> Brown~~  
47 ~~University,<sup>6</sup> and Boston University<sup>7</sup> have all implemented “smart waste & recycling” initiatives on~~  
48 ~~their campuses with phenomenal success, and~~

49  
50 ~~Whereas, Brown University’s sustainability program manager in the Office of Energy and~~  
51 ~~Environmental Initiatives in Facilities Management noted that, according to their research, such~~  
52 ~~technology “streamlined process for separating recycling will have a direct financial and~~  
53 ~~environmental impact for the University,” and~~

54  
55 **Be it therefore resolved**, Cornell University shall form a working group comprised of  
56 representatives from the Department of Facilities Management, the Office of the University  
57 Architect, the Department of Energy and Sustainability, the Department of Finance and  
58 Administration, and the various Cornell Assemblies to study the efficacy of updating the University’s  
59 outdoor waste management infrastructure to include the incorporation of smart waste receptacles.  
60 The working group shall be charged with, but not limited to, developing an accurate representation  
61 of the location of all outdoor waste receptacles on the University’s Ithaca campus, determining the  
62 frequency with which these outdoor waste receptacles are serviced, determining the weekly fuel and  
63 labor cost rate associated with servicing such receptacles, projecting and evaluating the differential  
64 fuel and labor cost rate associated with replacing existing outdoor waste receptacles with smart waste  
65 receptacles, and considering the holistic integration of smart waste receptacles into the broader  
66 infrastructure and sustainability strategy of the University.~~efficiently invest the funds and resources~~  
67 ~~necessary for the full, successful implementation of a campus wide network of solar powered waste~~  
68 ~~receptacles, outfitted with monitorization technology allowing for the efficient tracking of waste~~  
69 ~~receptacle capacity in order to strategically plan collection timing, ultimately reducing greenhouse gas~~  
70 ~~emissions necessarily involved in waste collection and processing, and~~

71  
72 **Be it further resolved**, that should such a working group conclude that the general replacement of  
73 existing waste receptacles throughout the University’s Ithaca campus with smart waste receptacles  
74 will likely result in a net reduction in fuel and labor required to service waste from outdoor  
75 receptacles as well as a net reduction in the University’s carbon emissions compared to the current  
76 baseline, the University shall develop and implement a plan to update the University’s existing waste

<sup>5</sup> <https://news.mit.edu/2011/bigbelly-solar-at-mit>

<sup>6</sup> <https://news.brown.edu/articles/2011/02/belly>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.bu.edu/articles/2009/big-bellied-trash-eaters-arrive/>

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

~~receptacle infrastructure in a manner that comports with the working group's findings. such waste receptacles must be limited in quantity as a means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the financial burden of sustaining this initiative, however, these installed "smart" receptacles ought to be strategically placed with respect to foot traffic and living spaces, facilitating practical, equitable access to proper waste disposal, in totality ensuring adequate waste and recycling disposal is rationally incentivized, limiting the propensity for littering and dumping, and~~

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jacob J. Feit

Executive Vice Chair, University Assembly