

Cornell University
University Assembly

Cornell University's University Assembly

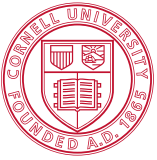
Agenda of the November 2nd, 2021 Meeting

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

401 Physical Sciences Building

- 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. [October 19, 2021](#)
- III. Open Forum
 - a. CUPD Chief Honan
 - b. President Pollack and Vice President Malina visit to the University Assembly, 11/16/21
 - i. Qualtrics survey for question submission forthcoming – deadline for submission is deadline 11/8/21
 - c. Meeting and Membership Attendance Policy Reminder
- IV. Business of the Day
 - a. [Resolution #2 - Calling on Cornell University to Appropriately Recognize and Honor Veterans Day](#)
- V. Assembly Reports
 - a. Student Assembly
 - b. Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
 - c. Employee Assembly
 - d. Faculty Senate
- VI. Committee Reports
 - a. Executive Committee
 - b. Codes and Judicial Committee
 - c. Campus Welfare Committee
 - d. Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology and the Environment
- VII. Liaison Reports
- VIII. New Business
- IX. Late Additions to the Agenda
- X. Open Discussion
- 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.



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Minutes of the October 19th, 2021 Meeting

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

700 Clark Hall | Zoom

- I. Call to Order
 - a. B. Fortenberry called the meeting to order at 4:32pm.
 - b. *Members Present:* I. Akisoglu, V. Aymer, M. Benda, R. Bensel, D. Cady, E. DeRosa, J. Feit, B. Fortenberry, T. Fox, P. Hanley, D. Hiner, D. Howell, J. Withers.
 - c. *Members Absent:* N. Danev, C. Levine, A. Ononye, J. Richards, M. Louis, S. Tanis
- II. Land Acknowledgment of the Gayogoho:nq (Cayuga Nation)
- III. Late Additions
 - a. No late additions were called.
- IV. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. 9/28/2021
 - i. D. Cady motioned to amend clause VI.a.iii.2 to read “...President Pollack and published to the Student Assembly.”
 - 1. J. Feit seconded the motion.
 - 2. The motion passed with unanimous consent.
 - ii. J. Withers motioned to approve these minutes
 - 1. D. Cady seconded the motion.
 - 2. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent
 - b. 10/5/2021
 - i. R. Bensel motioned to amend IV.d.iii.2 and add “At that faculty senate meeting there was an alternative proposal that was submitted to the faculty senate and it was passed over strong opposition” to reflect the most recent vote.
 - 1. W. Treat stated that they should add it to the Faculty Senate updates or to the 10-19 minutes as it did not take place during the last meeting.
 - 2. R. Bensel agreed and rescinded the motion.
 - ii. D. Cady motioned to amend grammatical error in IV.d.ii that should read “due to COVID.”
 - 1. J. Feit seconded the motion.
 - 2. The motion was passed with unanimous consent.
 - iii. I. Akisoglu motioned to approve the minutes.
 - 1. D. Cady seconded the motion.
 - 2. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.
- V. Open Forum



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- a. CUPD Chief Honan to visit the University Assembly 11/2/21
 - i. B. Fortenberry stated that there will be a presentation during the beginning of the meeting and then move to discussion. Additionally, on November 16th President Pollack and Vice President Malina will join the UA meeting. They recommend the body to send questions in advance as to allow the speakers to find and prepare the adequate information needed in response.
 - ii. D. Cady asked how far in advance should they send their questions and to whom they would send them.
 - 1. B. Fortenberry suggested a week in advance and stated they should be sent to either the Executive Committee or the Office of the Assemblies.
- b. Updates in the search for a new University Ombudsman
 - i. B. Fortenberry confirmed D. Cady has fully accepted their nomination to be on the Ombudsman search.

VI. New Business

- a. Resolution #2: Calling on Cornell University to Recognize Veteran's Day
 - i. J. Feit stated that this resolution calls on the University to recognize Veteran's Day. They also stated there will be amendments presented and an amended version of the resolution was passed the previous night. The resolution as it stands cancels classes and allows veteran staff to take the day off work on campus jobs.
 - ii. J. Feit moved to amend the resolution, replacing "veteran staff" with "University affiliates" on line 5 and 47.
 - 1. P. Hanley seconded the motion.
 - 2. T. Fox asked the meaning of "University affiliate."
 - 3. P. Hanley stated that this was used to encompass everyone.
 - 4. D. Cady stated that from the S.A. perspective the "University affiliate" delineated the resolution to be applied in the same manner the University observes any special day off.
 - 5. V. Aymer stated that they could change it to "everyone associated with the University including faculty, staff, and students" to be more precise.
 - 6. D. Cady stated that this language has been passed in the other assemblies, and they could vote on this change now. After the meeting, they could look at previous university language and make amendments accordingly.
 - 7. T. Fox notes the difference between specifying veterans in 'veteran staff' as opposed to 'University affiliates.'
 - 8. D. Cady seconded the amendment



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- a. The motion **passed**.
- iii. I. Akisoglu asked to added as a sponsor.
 - 1. J. Feit agreed.
- iv. T. Fox stated that they voted against the amendment as they wanted to vote for the resolution as it was presented. They worked for the University Calendar Revision and reported that there are many constraints such as a New York state mandated 75 days of classes a semester. Additionally, large courses that have laboratory will loose of week of instruction. They suggest giving those affiliated with Veterans a day off, in a similar manner of how they handle religious holidays, as a floating day off for all students has a low chance of being approved by the administration.
- v. D. Howell stated they are the veteran's representative to the EA and chair of the Veteran's Colleague Network Group. The VCNG met to review this resolution last Thursday and declined to support the resolution as the VCNG feels that the University sufficiently supports and recognizes Veteran's Day.
- vi. R. Bensel stated a current New York law may require more credit hours. They suggest asking someone to visit the UA and speak to this subject.
- vii. V. Aymer asked if there is a compromise in choosing a weekday day, similar to how the University navigates observing Martin Luther King Jr. Day, to observe Veterans Day. They inquire if D. Howell's constituents might be interested in this option or if the university would be more amendable.
- viii. I. Akisoglu stated in the case Veteran's Day is treated the same as a religious exemption, students will most likely not feel free take a day off for fear of falling behind in classes.
- ix. D. Cady responded the V. Aymer. They stated that the administration is capable of making adjustments if necessary and they should support this resolution in the most direct way by addressing the actual date of November 11th.
- x. J. Withers stated that if they wish for EA support, they rely on the VCNG, so working with them might garner more support.
- xi. P. Hanley asked why the VCNG did not support this resolution.
 - 1. D. Howell stated that there is clear acknowledgment and support from the University already and the resolution brings into question how to treat other days that are not observed by the University.
- xii. R. Bensel stated that the UA should be clear in what they want.
- xiii. J. Feit acknowledged that if they pass the resolution as-is then the results may not be favorable. They propose to amend line 5 and 47 of the resolution to add "University holiday where course and employment attendance does not require the veteran affiliates of Cornell University".



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1. D. Cady seconded the motion.
2. I. Akisoglu stated that this is better than no solution, but students may not be inclined to use this exemption.
3. T. Fox stated this accommodation isn't an empty gesture as classes are required to accommodate for exemptions, even in the case of no-make-up prelims.
4. D. Howell stated that there are Veteran's Day events and recognition that happens.
5. D. Cady motioned to vote on the amendment.
 - a. T. Fox seconded the motion.
 - b. The motion **passed** with 7-1-4.
- xiv. B. Fortenberry passed chair ship to R. Bensel.
- xv. J. Feit motioned to strike the line from "cancel" to "on" in the resolution. Additionally, they motioned to amend line 46 to read "Be it finally resolved that Cornell University administration will establish Veteran's Day as a university holiday where course and employment attendance is not required for veteran affiliates of Cornell University on November 11."
 1. D. Cady motioned to vote on the amendment.
 - a. T. Fox seconded the motion.
 - b. The motion **passed** with 7-1-3.
- xvi. J. Feit motioned to amend line 46-48 to read "Be it finally resolved that Cornell University administration will establish November 11 as Veteran's Day, a university holiday where course and employment attendance is not required for veteran affiliates of Cornell University"
 1. D. Cady seconded the motion.
 2. The motion **passed** with 7-1-3.
- xvii. J. Feit motioned to table the resolution.
 1. D. Cady seconded the motion.
 2. The resolution was **tabled** with 11-0-1.

VII. Assembly Reports

- a. Student Assembly
 - i. D. Cady stated that they had two meetings since the last meeting. They swore in new representatives and heard a presentation on Interim Policy 6.3 from the Office of Student Equity and Title IX. They also saw and approved appropriations committee bylaw reports for Slope Day and Collegiate Readership Program. Additionally, new appropriation reports came from EARS and MGLC.
- b. Graduate and Professional Student Assembly



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- i. P. Hanley stated they had a presentation on PSAC and Interim Policy 6.3, passed a variation of the resolution presented today, and performed internal housekeeping.
- c. Employee Assembly
 - i. J. Withers stated they are currently voting in a special election and filling liaison roles. They are returning to EA Resolution 2 tomorrow on Interim Policy 6.3, and they have scheduled a hybrid President's address to staff.
- d. Faculty Senate
 - i. E. DeRosa stated that three resolutions were approved. Two resolutions were title changes and the third was a Senate-sponsored resolution for the Senate to play a role in approving new academic programs. They brought the updated consensual relationships policy from the EA to the Faculty Senate, and LaDreena Walton gave a presentation on that update. They updated the senate on the academic year plan for the Financial Policy Committee. The Faculty Senate also introduced the implementation of the New York State credit hour compliance through the Education Policy Committee. The Vice Provost for International Affairs gave a presentation on a "Global Hugs" program. The Faculty Senate are also creating a taskforce for reviewing the research, teaching, and extension (RTE) faculty.
 - ii. R. Bensei stated the Faculty Senate resolution that was approved is the aforementioned resolution that faced stiff opposition from the central University. The Provost and Vice Provost were invited to weigh in, but the Faculty Senate approved over their opposition. R. Bensei also reports three resolutions are not being added onto the agenda, constraining the ability of the Faculty Senate to act as a free assembly for discussion of major issues.
 - iii. J. Feit asked why the resolutions are running into difficulties being added to the agenda.
 - 1. R. Bensei stated before the first meeting of the Faculty Senate there were three resolutions submitted to the Dean of Faculty. Those resolutions have not come before the faculty senate as New Business.
 - iv. V. Aymer asked about impetus behind committee to review RTE positions and the goal of the committee.
 - 1. R. Bensei stated E. DeRosa would be the best person to answer.

VIII. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Committee
 - i. J. Feit stated that they did not have a meeting last week.
- b. Codes and Judicial Committee
 - i. T. Fox stated they had a meeting a week ago and discussed what role they may have.

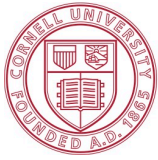


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- c. Campus Welfare Committee
 - i. D. Howell stated they had their first meeting yesterday. They are hoping to invite past members to speak about their experience and what they were previously working on. Additionally, they are looking to invite chairs of other assembly groups to see how they could best work together. They also reported their two Faculty Representatives are both non-Senators.
 - d. Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology, and the Environment
 - i. I. Akisoglu stated they had their first meeting. They discussed several initiatives: placement of trash and recycling receptacles around campus, construction of additional lighting in commonly walked areas, and the construction of electric vehicle charging stations. There was some discussion to obtain more information, namely safety studies done by architects, on the Earth Source Heating Project's trial well.
 - ii. R. Bensele asked for their thoughts on the borehole project.
 - 1. I. Akisoglu stated that they believe switching to earth-sourced heating is admirable but does not have enough information about the technicalities of the project to formally put forward an opinion.
- IX. Liaison Reports
- a. J. Feit asked about the Campus Planning Committee.
 - i. I. Akisoglu stated the committee has not met yet.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:49pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Clerk of the Assembly



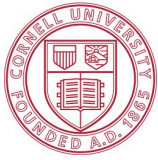
Resolution 2:

Calling on Cornell University to Appropriately Recognize and Honor Veterans Day

Abstract: This resolution calls on University Administration to establish Veterans Day as a University-holiday where course and employment attendance is not required for veteran affiliates of Cornell University

Sponsored by: Logan R. Kenney CHE '15, JD '21, Past Chair, University Assembly (UA), Past President, Cornell Law Veterans Association (CLVA), Cornell Military Network (CMN); Ian Akisoglu JD '22, Graduate Student Representative, UA, Chair, UA Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology, and the Environment (CITE), Former Anti-Submarine/Anti-Surface Warfare Tactics Instructor, NSMWDC, United States Navy; Weston Boose MBA '22, Vice President, Johnson Association of Veterans (AoV); Duncan Cady ILR '23, Representative, UA, Students with Disabilities Representative, Student Assembly (SA); Nikola Danev PhD Candidate, CVM, Ranking Member, UA, Counsel to the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GPSA); Jacob J. Feit CALS '22, Executive Vice Chair, UA, Former Chair, UA Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology, and the Environment (CITE); Michael Glenn CALS '24, Co-Founder & Vice President, Veteran's Social Club (VSC), Cornell Undergraduate Veterans Association (CUVA); Isa Goldberg MBA '22, Vice President of International Veterans, AoV; Preston Hanley MPA '22, President, GPSA, Representative, UA; Dakota Johnson HADM '22, Co-Founder & Treasurer, VSC, Former Representative, UA Ad Hoc Committee for Veteran Affairs, CUVA Member; Dan Meyer CAS '87, Sphinx Head Society, CMN, Past President, CUAIFC, Past Delegate, CUGALA Cornell Federation; Mark Minton AAP '23, Vice President, CUVA, Past Cornell Student Veteran Ambassador; Roland Molina A&S '22, President, CUVA; Patrick O'Neal CALS '19, Past President, CUVA; Anuli Ononye A&S '22, President, SA; Caleb Perkins MBA '22, President, AoV; Konner Robison MBA '21, JD '24; James Rowe MBA '14, JD '22; Michael Sanchez ILR '23, Affairs Coordinator, CUVA; Patrick Shaffer MBA '22, Past President, AoV; Bennett Sherr ILR '21, Past Undergraduate Representative, UA; Andy Shin CALS '23, Representative, Student Congress South Campus; Samantha Weil CALS '24, Midshipman, Cornell Naval ROTC, Resident, Cornell Veterans House

Whereas, each year, Veterans Day is nationally recognized in the United States of America on November 11th as a day of reverence.



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Whereas, November 11th represents the eleventh hour of the eleventh month of 1918, the day, time, and hour that signaled the end of World War I.

Whereas, Veterans Day was originally recognized as Armistice Day, with Congress passing a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance.

Whereas, in 1938, November 11th became a national holiday, followed shortly thereafter by New York State's own declaration of November 11th to be recognized as "Veterans Day."

Whereas, Cornell University is currently home to over 400 veterans among its staff, faculty, and students.

Whereas, the University benefits in the form of gifts and income derived from the global economy veterans have sacrificed to maintain.

Whereas, without official University recognition, Cornell's veteran community are annually forced to spend their vacation or personal time-off in order to participate in Veterans Day events.

Whereas, Veterans Day honors all American veterans, giving thanks to individuals who honorably served and sacrificed for our country. Furthermore, a debt incurred is a debt to be repaid.

Be it therefore resolved, the University must fully acknowledge and honor our country's veterans, both past and present, especially those affiliated with Cornell University.

Be it finally resolved, the Cornell University Administration will establish November 11th, the date of the national holiday, as Veterans Day, a University-holiday where course and employment attendance is not required for veteran affiliates of Cornell University.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacob J. Feit

Executive Vice Chair, University Assembly



University Assembly Presentation

November 2, 2021

Charge to the Committee

July 2020

President Pollack outlined new initiatives to promote racial justice, including:

- Evaluate and reimagine the university safety and security protocols through a methodical, open, and inclusive process.

PSAC Report Progress

- Draft report feedback requested from several community members to ensure report was comprehensive and fully vetted
- On July 27, 2021, PSAC submitted its recommendations
- The full report can be viewed on the PSAC website

Recommendation 1:

Public Statement and Commitment to Enacting Anti-Racist Public Safety

- Statement must acknowledge that policing in the U.S. is a structurally racist institution.
- “By acknowledging that policing can be interpersonally neutral but still have systematically biased outcomes, Cornell will take the first step toward meaningful reform and away from the criminal justice system’s ignoble history of structural racism.”
- The university must commit itself to the principle that legacies of racism continue to influence contemporary public safety structures.
- “This must be a positive, forward-looking commitment to take substantial anti-racist action with regard to public safety reform.”
- Commitment to continuous examination of Cornell’s public safety infrastructure for racism and rectifying all problems found.

Recommendation 2:

Develop and Implement an Alternative Public Safety and Response Model

Background:

- The data provide evidence that Cornell's public safety system is excessively dependent on CUPD, and is partially responsible for experiences of fear, anxiety, and mistrust which are racially inequitable in distribution.
- Recent analyses of police activity, suggest that police officers are employed even more frequently in situations which do not require their specific skill sets.
- Current public safety practices and the absence of alternative resources to the CUPD are responsible for racially disproportionate impacts, including the current erosion of trust between campus law enforcement and significant portions of the broader Cornell community.
- Students do not feel safe to be around armed police officers

Recommendation 2 (Cont'd):

Develop and Implement an Alternative Public Safety and Response Model

Recommendations:

- Limit responsibilities of armed CUPD officers in favor of alternative service providers trained to address the health and safety needs of the campus community.
- Create a working group to investigate alternative public safety models (WG-APSM); composed of representative experts and students from across campus.
- Three stages of development in no more than 2 years:
 - Stage 1: Investigate existing models of public safety response in use elsewhere
 - Stage 2: Conduct an analysis of Cornell Calls for service and current university public and health safety operations
 - Stage 3: Build, test, and deliver a user-manual for public safety responses
- Second year of implementation should involve practical execution including hiring leadership, staff, training, etc.

Recommendation 3:

Design and Implementation of Educational Campaign for Public Safety Calls

People understand that they can call 911 in an emergency; however few people know when not to call 911. There is a growing need for targeted and well-coordinated public education efforts about how to use 911 appropriately.

Recommendation:

- Build and launch a public health and safety education campaign regarding what resources are available to community members and under what circumstances they should — and should not — be requested.
 - “The design of this campaign will likely require the focus and expertise of an outside vendor and should include the perspectives of members of the PSAC, the WG-APSM, telecommunications officers (dispatchers), campus public health and safety institutions (CUPD, Community Response Teams, Cornell Health), students, faculty, staff, and other stakeholders as needed.”

Recommendation 4:

Diversification of the Public Safety Workforce throughout an Inclusive Process

RECRUITMENT

Recommendations:

- Dedicate substantial resources to a national recruitment campaign to hire officers, responders, and dispatchers from diverse backgrounds.
- PSAC endorses the current preferences:
 - For applicants with no prior law enforcement experience.
 - For all applicants to have a college degree or equivalent experience, so long as this preference does not become a barrier to increasing diversity.
- Public safety worker pay and benefits be reevaluated and, if necessary, enhanced.

Recommendation 4 (Cont'd):

Diversification of the Public Safety Workforce throughout an Inclusive Process

TRAINING

Recommendations:

- Redouble efforts to encourage an understanding and empathetic mindset among all public safety staff, including CUPD, emphasizing that it is responders' responsibility to reach the students as and who they are.
- Create a continuing education curriculum for all public safety staff, including CUPD, selected from existing Cornell classes.
 - Curriculum should be designed by faculty and/or a group designated by the university's Center for Antiracist, Just, and Equitable Futures, which will determine prerequisites, duration, and modes of evaluation. This is not intended to become an undue burden of work.

Recommendation 4 (Cont'd):

Diversification of the Public Safety Workforce throughout an Inclusive Process

DEPLOYMENT

Recommendations:

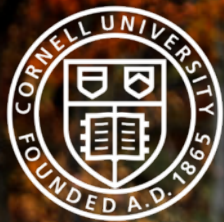
- Limit the visibility and deployment of weapons, body armor, and tactical equipment, where practical.
- Replace vehicle patrols with foot and/or bike patrols, where practical.
- Future PSAC committee should evaluate and recommend improvements to Cornell's public safety oversight, complaint review, and internal investigation policies and structure.

Update

- On August 10, 2021, President Pollack issued a response in general support of the PSAC report.
- Ryan Lombardi will join as co-chair of PSAC due to overlap of some public safety responsibilities within SCL organization
- Current planning of AY22 meetings are under way
- Conduct report feedback sessions September 28/29
- Hire consultant to assist workgroups to refine the thematic recommendations.
 - RFP's have gone out to three firms

Additional CUPD efforts

- Recently completed reassessment and were reaccredited by IACLEA.
- Review and rewrite of policies and procedures to contemporary standards.
- Continued training and commitment to a guardian mindset, de-escalation skills, community engagement, and principled policing/procedural justice.
- Support and collaboration with the new Community Response Team (CRT).



Feedback Welcome!