U.A. Resolution #2

Condemning Hate Crimes

September 19, 2017

Sponsored by: Anna Waymack, Graduate and Professional; Executive Vice Chair of the University Assembly


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

Whereas, on September 6, 2017 one or more students from Zeta Psi, a Cornell University fraternity, shouted “build a wall” and “let’s build a wall around the LLC” at the Latino Living Center; and

Whereas, on September 15, 2017 one or more students from the Chi Chapter of Psi Upsilon, a fraternity no longer affiliated with Cornell University, allegedly used racial slurs against a Black Cornell student and violently assaulted him; and

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

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;” and

Whereas, the Ithaca Police have arrested one student allegedly involved on September 15 and charged said student with one count of assault in the third degree; and

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

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;” and

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

Whereas, we, the University Assembly, are appalled by these recent attacks and incidents;
therefore

Be it Resolved, that the University Assembly unequivocally condemns these violent, racist
actions; and

Resolved, that the University Assembly calls on all members of the Cornell community to join
us in this condemnation; and

Resolved, that the University 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.

No signature block is present until the resolution has been disposed of by the Assembly
(Passed, Failed, Withdrawn, etc.) Then a block with the certifying member (customarily
Chair/Vice-Chair) verifying the authenticity and vote tally of the resolution.