

U.A. Resolution #2

Condemning Hate Crimes

September 19, 2017

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

3
4 **On Behalf Of:** The 2016 – 2017 UA Executive Committee (G. Kaufman, A. Waymack, J.
5 **Kruser, R. Howarth)**

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

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

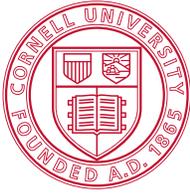
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14 **Whereas,** on September 15, 2017 one or more students from the Chi Chapter of Psi Upsilon, a
15 fraternity no longer affiliated with Cornell University, allegedly used racial slurs against a Black
16 Cornell student and violently assaulted him;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

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

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21 **Whereas,** all of these incidents appear to be clear violations of the Campus Code of Conduct,
22 should the allegations prove true, as it is a violation of the Campus Code of Conduct to:
23 • “harass another person...by acting toward that person in a manner that is by objective
24 measure threatening, abusive, or severely annoying and that is beyond the scope of free
25 speech,” or
26 • “assault or cause any physical injury to another person on the basis of disability,
27 ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, religion, or sexual orientation or affectional
28 preference;” and

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

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



Cornell University University Assembly

36 **Whereas**, pursuant to New York State Penal Law Article 485, hate crimes “do more than
37 threaten the safety and welfare of all citizens” because they “inflict on victims incalculable
38 physical and emotional damage and tear at the very fabric of free society,” “send a powerful
39 message of intolerance and discrimination” and “disrupt entire communities and vitiate the
40 civility that is essential to healthy democratic processes;” and

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42 **Whereas**, bias, discrimination, and hate crimes, by their nature, affect the fabric of the Cornell
43 community, prevent the fulfillment of and are deeply antithetical to Cornell’s motto “I would
44 found an institution where any person can find instruction in any study;” and

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

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

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

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

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58 **Resolved**, that the University Assembly charges all members of the Cornell community to
59 consider how best to heal these harms, and how best to accord all members of our community the
60 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.