U.A. Resolution #5

Creating an Ad Hoc Budget Planning Advisory Committee

April 23, 2019

Sponsored by: Linda Copman, Staff; Ranking Member, University Assembly

Whereas, the University Assembly (the “Assembly”) has the authority to examine matters which concern the welfare of a substantial segment of the campus community and may make recommendations thereon to the President or other appropriate officers of the university; and

Whereas, budgetary planning, decisions, and the allocation of financial resources are critical to the functioning of the University and have far reaching affects upon all constituencies; and

Whereas, during the 2017 – 2018 Academic Year, the Assembly passed Resolution #9 “Reinstating the Budget Planning Committee” to revive the Assembly’s former Budget Planning Committee; and

Whereas, President Pollack returned AY 17 – 18 Resolution #9 to the Assembly for further consideration but expressed support for increasing community input on budget planning; and

Whereas, the during the 2018 – 2019 Academic Year, the Assembly’s Executive Committee met with senior members of the University Administration to discuss AY 17 – 18 Resolution #9; and

Whereas, in those discussions the Administration affirmed their support for increased community input, while expressing a desire to prevent duplication of the work done by the Financial Policies Committee of the Faculty Senate; and

Whereas, after discussions with the Dean of the University Faculty and his consultation with the Faculty Senate’s Financial Policies Committee (the “FPC”) and its chair, the FPC agreed to coordinate with an Ad Hoc Committee so as to broaden the engagement with the Administration on budgetary matters; and

Whereas, the complexities of the budget and its impact on teaching and research are such that a major educational outreach effort is required; therefore

Be it Resolved, the Assembly creates an Ad Hoc Budget Planning Advisory Committee to operate during AY2019-20; and
Be it Resolved, the Committee shall be chaired by the Dean of the University Faculty, and consist of one additional member from the University Assembly, two selected by the Student Assembly, two selected by the Graduate & Professional Student Assembly, and two selected by the Employee Assembly; and

Be it Resolved, the Ad Hoc Committee will meet throughout the year, and co-meet with the FPC at least two times during the year with agendas that are worked out in advance by the two Committees and which do not involve confidential data; and

Be it Resolved, that the Committee in consultation with the University Budget Office and with full transparency will draft a layperson document entitled “The Cornell Budget-A Users Guide” to be completed by March 1, 2020; and

Be it Resolved, that the Ad Hoc Committee will report to the UA what it has learned after each joint meeting that it holds with the FPC; and

Be it Finally Resolved, that the Committee will recommend to the UA by April 15, 2020 a structure for interacting with the FPC and the University Budget Office in the future.

Adopted by Vote of the Assembly (16-0-1), May 7, 2019,

Matthew Battaglia
Chair, University Assembly