

**RESOLUTION ON PAUSING
MILSTEIN HALL**

February 11, 2009

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS Milstein Hall was originally designed as “LEED Compliant”,

WHEREAS Cornell’s recently established sustainability guidelines state that all future buildings should meet at least the “LEED Silver” standards,

WHEREAS we believe that AAP should set the highest possible standards in this regard (“LEED Gold” or higher),

WHEREAS Milstein is projected to be unusually expensive and the cost will impinge on the overall financial situation of the University,

WHEREAS the estimated \$54M cost of Milstein is far from fully funded and will require debt financing of an estimated \$25M or more putting additional pressure on the general university operating budget,

[NB: Evidently the debt financing will be split between the general university operating budget and AAP, funded by the Thomas bequest, a \$20M endowment intended to support the programmatic needs of the architecture program.]

WHEREAS we believe that the financing of Milstein relying in significant part on debt financing should place it under the pause,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

WE call upon President Skorton to include Milstein Hall in the construction pause and,

WE call upon President Skorton, the Capital Funding and Priorities Committee, and the University Trustees to use the time thus made available to reevaluate the current plans to ensure that this building addresses the current and future programmatic needs of AAP, while balancing the financial constraints and sustainability objectives of the university as a whole.

In order to implement a genuine culture of sustainability at Cornell, we call upon President Skorton to support and act on the recent resolution by the UA (passed unanimously January 28, 2009) to establish a university-wide sustainability committee.

**NEW RESOLUTION FOR
CONSIDERATION BY FACULTY
SENATE**

February 11, 2009

NEW MOTION

WHEREAS Cornell is facing serious financial challenges that have resulted in a 5% cut in the base operating budgets across campus and a freeze on filling all but a handful of new faculty positions, dramatically affecting the core operations of the university,

WHEREAS Cornell's financial problems have been exacerbated by the practice adopted by past administrations of initiating the construction of new buildings before full funding has been secured,

WHEREAS completing construction projects without full funding has required Cornell to undertake a substantial amount of debt financing at a time when the yield from Cornell's endowment and new gifts from alumni are much lower than in recent years,

WHEREAS Cornell has made important commitments to other worthy objectives such as increasing financial aid for students and making Cornell a carbon-neutral campus.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

WE call upon President Skorton and the University Trustees to adopt a new policy for governing the construction and renovation of all buildings that requires a plan for securing the full funding of the construction and operation of each building before the construction begins, and that the plan for financing each building should be made available in advance to the campus community,

In addition, consistent with the announced construction pause, we call upon President Skorton and the University Trustees to evaluate the financial status of ongoing construction projects, and if a plan for the full funding of a project has not yet been established, to delay the construction timetable until an acceptable plan for full financing is in place,

WE also call upon President Skorton and the University Trustees to enforce strict standards for energy efficiency in the design of new buildings and renovations of existing buildings to reflect the increased public concern about energy security and climate change and to facilitate the transition to a carbon-neutral campus.

Valerie Bunce, Government, senator-at-large

Abby Cohn, Linguistics, senator-at-large

Risa Lieberwitz, ILR, senator-at-large

Satya Mohanty, English, senator

Timothy Mount, AEM, senator

Carol Rosen, Linguistics, senator