

RESOLUTION ON INVESTIGATION CONCERNING FREE EXPRESSION

WHEREAS, members of the Cornell community have the right to free expression, academic freedom, and freedom of peaceable assembly, as recognized by the Cornell Campus Code of Conduct; and

WHEREAS, the Campus Code of Conduct, Article III.B.1, states: “All protection and regulation of expressive conduct should be content-neutral. A group’s persuasion or point of view should have no bearing on the grant of permission or the conditions regulating that group’s expressive conduct”; and

WHEREAS, the Campus Code of Conduct, Article III.B.3, states: “Because outdoor picketing, marches, rallies, and other demonstrations generally pose no threat of long-lasting exclusive use of University grounds or property, there appears to be no need for a mandatory permit procedure for such outdoor activities”; and

WHEREAS, any administratively imposed requirements of a mandatory permit procedure (such as a Use of University Property Form/UUP) for outdoor picketing, marches, rallies, and other demonstrations, including rallies in Ho Plaza, are in conflict with the Campus Code of Conduct, Article III.B.3; and

WHEREAS, on November 19, 2012, conflict reportedly occurred on Ho Plaza between members of the Cornell police department, observers, and participants in rallies by the Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and the Cornell Israel Public Affairs Committee (CIPAC); and

WHEREAS, University President David Skorton is already investigating the events of November 19, 2012;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate requests the President to issue (by February 1) a public written report of his findings concerning whether the rights of free expression, academic freedom or freedom of assembly were violated.