

# Faculty Senate

February 12, 2020

Blue Sign-In Sheets for Senators Circulating—Will Be Collected Around 4:00pm

To promote the communication of opposing views and to serve as a free-speech-with-respect model for the rest of the campus, all discussion in the Faculty Senate must be conducted in a civil fashion that is free of any intimidation or personal attacks.

- *the University Faculty Committee*

# Elections in a Month or So

Dean of Faculty (UF)

University Faculty Committee ( 5 UF seats)

Nominations and Elections Committee ( 3 UF Seats )

Senator-at-Large ( 5 UF seats, 1 RTE seat)

UF = University Faculty = tenured + tenure track + emeritus/a

Suggestions to [deanoffaculty@cornell.edu](mailto:deanoffaculty@cornell.edu). Self-Nominations are fine.

# Resolution on When a Student Enrolls in a Course Taught by a Family Member

Sponsored by UFC.

No crisis, just want to **avoid** conflict of interest situations as we do in Policy 6.3 (Consensual Relationships)

Does this really come up?

Yes, occasionally. There are about 265 ugrads who receive a Cornell Children's Tuition Scholarship = #students with a Cornell Parent

# Add This Text to Policy 4.14 (Conflict of Interest)

If a student enrolls in a course that is taught (or co-taught) by a family member, then a recusal plan is required that ensures the integrity of the grading process.

The plan must be co-signed by the student, the instructor, and the chair of the instructor's department (or equivalent).

It is highly recommended, however, that these situations be avoided altogether by coordinating the instructor's teaching schedule with the student's course-taking plans.

**Planned Vote: March Senate**

# The Fossil Fuel Divestment Resolution\*

## *Presentation*

Professor Bob Howarth  
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

\*Sponsored by Senators Nick Admussen, Buz Barstow, Bob Howarth, Andre Kessler, Risa L. Lieberwitz, Joanie Mackowski, Judith Peraino,, Courtney Roby, Chris B. Schaffer, Suman Seth, Michael Tomlan, Robert Travers

# The Resolution “Whereas’s”

- W1 Acceleration of warming trends since the 2015 Paris Accord
- W2 Unlike other divestment causes, this one is concerns the survival of the planet.
- W3 Cornell is a leader in sustainability
- W4 In 2015 the Trustees specified 3 criteria, which if satisfied, would justify divestment.**
- W5 These criteria are satisfied when applied to fossil fuel companies.

# The Three Criteria for Divesting of a Company

The company's actions or inactions must be morally reprehensible.

The divestment will have meaningful impact in correcting the harm.

The harm in question must be so grave as to be inconsistent with the University's mission

# Considering Divestment in a Moment of Climate Emergency

Climate and Environment

## More than 11,000 scientists from around the world declare a 'climate emergency'

Study outlines six major steps that 'must' be taken to address the situation.



A climate change protester holds a banner during a town hall event with former vice president Joe Biden in Manchester, N.H., on Oct. 9, 2019. (Kate Flock/Bloomberg News)

By **Andrew Freedman**

November 5, 2019 at 10:18 a.m. EST

European Union

## 'Our house is on fire': EU parliament declares climate emergency

Bloc warned against making symbolic gestures not backed up by concrete action

Jennifer Rankin in Brussels

Thu 28 Nov 2019 09:38 EST



4,081



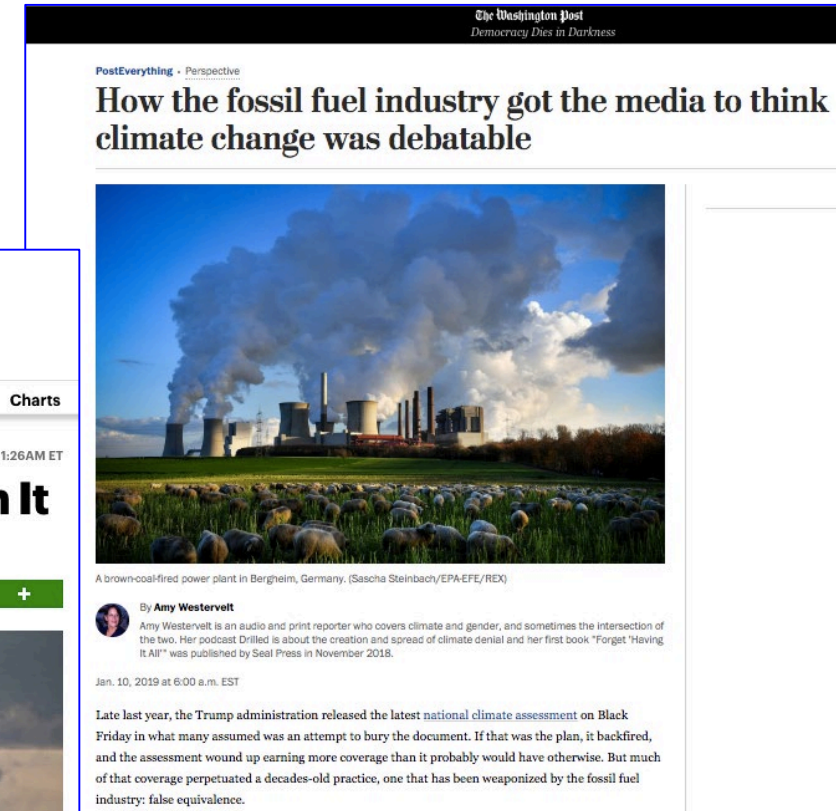
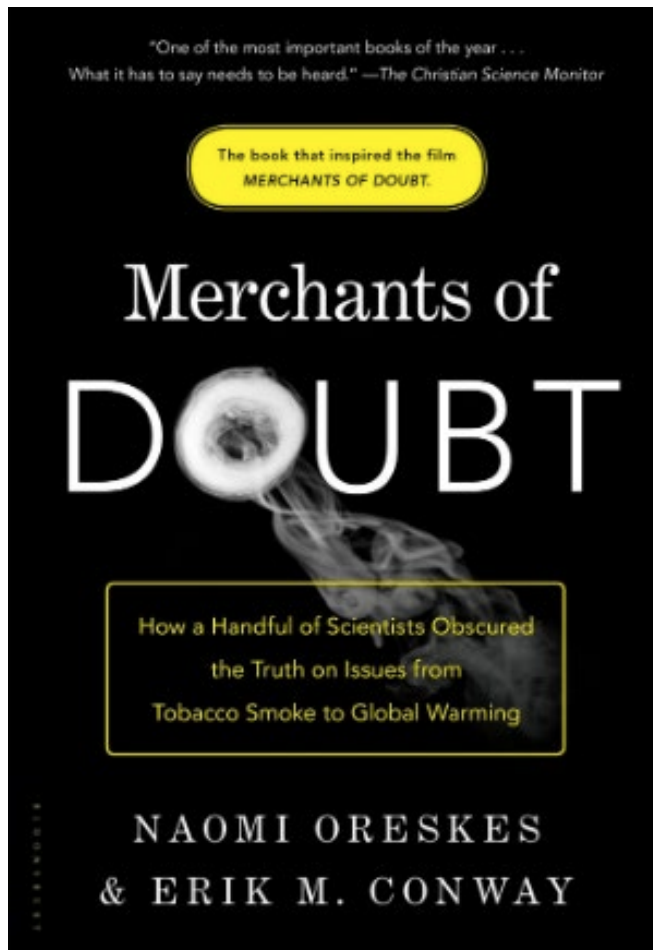
▲ European parliament declares climate emergency: 'do we want to leave our children a world?' - video

The European parliament has declared a global "climate and environmental emergency" as it urged all EU countries to commit to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.



# The case for moral reprehensibility:

Fossil fuel companies have long known that carbon emissions from their products can lead to massive climate disruption, and they have long engaged and continue to engage in a deliberate campaign of doubt and misinformation.



FINANCIAL TIMES

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Latest on Climate change

The threats to energy security have changed

Sound of cracking ice greets Antarctic heatwave

EU's top diplomat draws fire over 'Greta syndrome' remarks


Climate and energy

Opinion **Climate change**

## Climate change is the apartheid of our times

Boycotts, sanctions and divestment proved effective in South Africa, but that required a mindset shift

DESMOND TUTU [+ Add to myFT](#)



Desmond Tutu in Cape Town in April. The archbishop emeritus says the financial sector must reinvent itself by moving towards sustainable investments © AFP

Desmond Tutu OCTOBER 3 2019

Corporations, financial institutions and socially conscious citizens must pull us back from the climate change abyss. They have the muscle to make renewables mainstream and reposition fossil fuels as the tobacco of the energy industry.

# Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu: (October 3, 2019)

“Back in the 1970s and 1980s, one of our most important levers in overcoming apartheid was the support of global corporations that heeded the call to divest. Apartheid became a global enemy; now it is climate change’s turn.”

“Yet energy companies are continuing to explore for new fossil fuel reserves that environmental scientists say we will never be able to use. By the time those reserves are tapped, global temperatures will have risen so high that the world as we know it will have ceased to exist.”

## The case for injurious impact:

In order to keep the planet from warming to uninhabitable levels, we need to reduce carbon emissions quickly worldwide. Using up *current* fossil fuel reserves will exceed our carbon budget. But fossil fuel companies, even now, are insisting on expanding exploration and production of oil and gas.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



All major fossil fuel-producing nations—including the United States and China—planned to greatly increase production of oil, gas, and coal in the next decade, all but guaranteeing they will miss their climate goals set under the Paris Climate Agreement. An oil field in China is pictured here.

PHOTOGRAPH BY GEORGE STEINMETZ, NAT GEO IMAGE COLLECTION

SCIENCE

### Dangerous levels of warming locked in by planned jump in fossil fuels output

Plans by the world's biggest oil, gas, and coal producers to vastly increase their output guarantees those countries will miss their stated Paris climate goals.

The Economist Topics Current edition More

Bigger oil  
**ExxonMobil gambles on growth**  
*A fossil-fuel titan's strategy is at odds with efforts to hold back climate change*

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**Shell Plans to Drill 10 UK Wells a Year in Expansion Drive**

Published in *Oil Industry News* on Monday, 10 June 2019

# The case for the meaningful impact of divestment:

1. Returns on investments in fossil fuels have been poor for a decade, with fossil free portfolios outperforming them every year.

2. Businesses work to build and maintain strong reputations, and when a great university like Cornell sends the message that fossil fuel companies are disreputable actors, this message can have a meaningful impact on the public view of these companies.


Los Angeles Times

OPINION

Opinion: UC investments are going fossil free. But not exactly for the reasons you may think



ADVERTISEMENT



The University of California's investment strategy takes stakeholder views into account -- such as student protesters at Berkeley, above, in 2014 -- but its divestment program is primarily based on the belief that fossil fuel investments present a financial risk. (Alex Milan Tracy / Sipa USA)

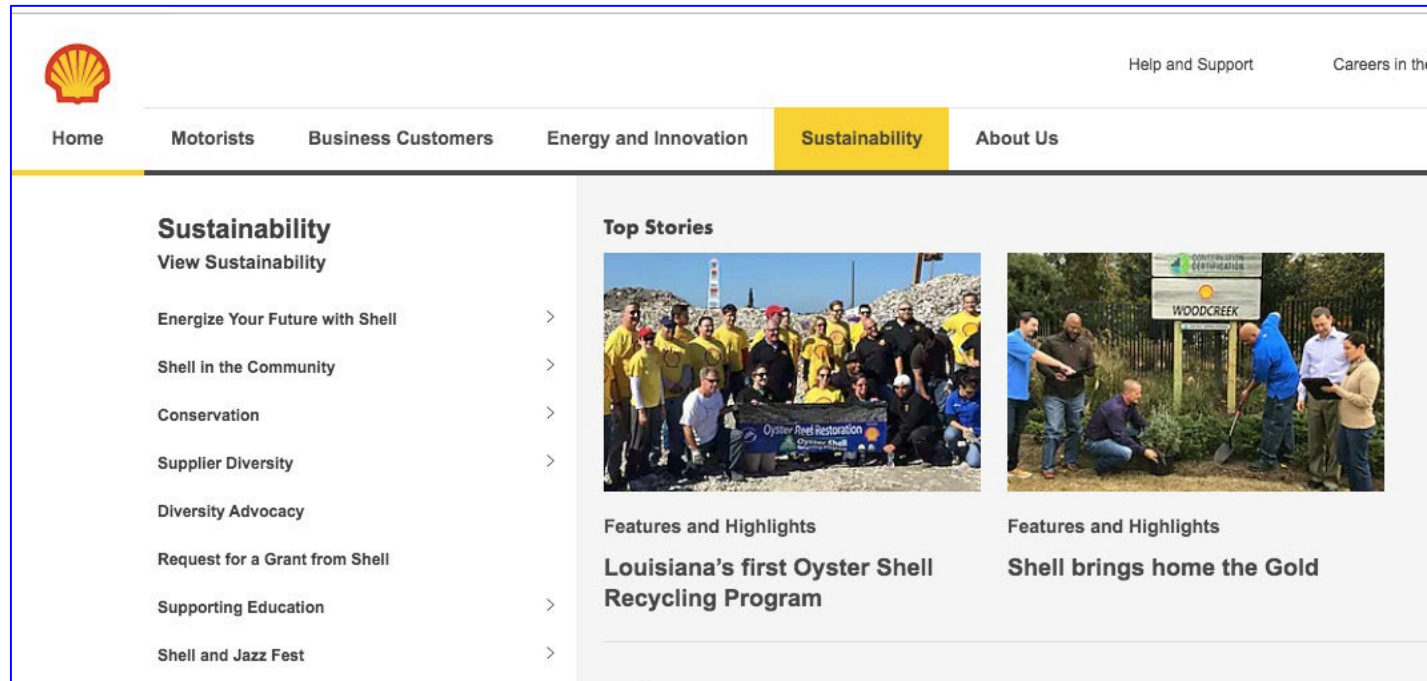
By JAGDEEP SINGH BACHHER AND RICHARD SHERMAN SEP. 17, 2019 | 3 AM

Our job is to make money for the University of California, and we're betting we can do that without fossil fuels investments.

We are investors and fiduciaries for what is widely considered the best public research university in the world. That makes us fiscally conservative by nature and by policy -- "Risk rules" is one of the 10 pillars of what we call the UC Investments Way.

LATEST OPINION >

OPINION  
Editorial: Don't drive child-porn viewers away from therapy  
Dec. 10, 2019



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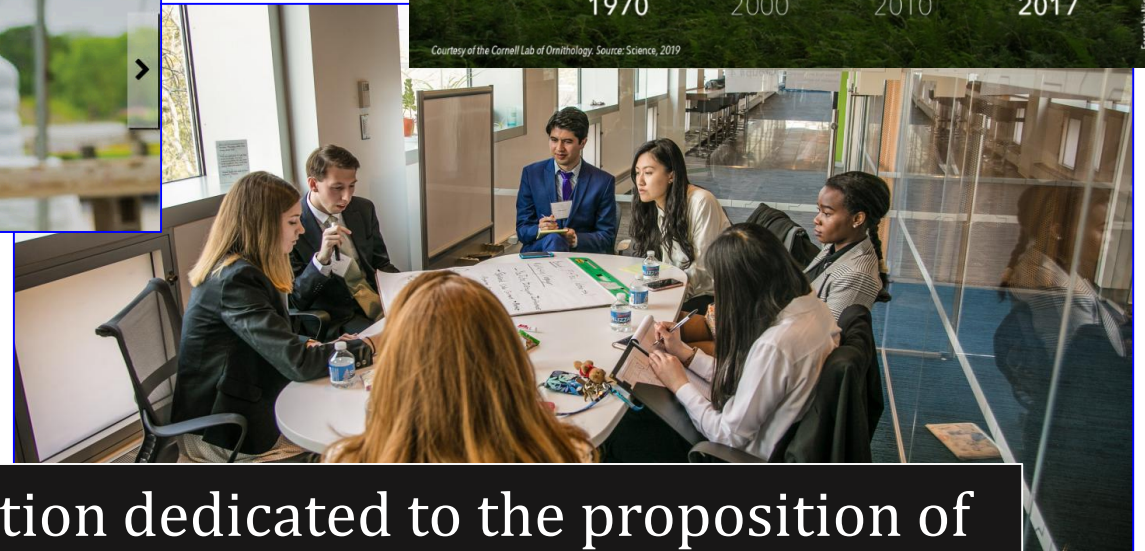
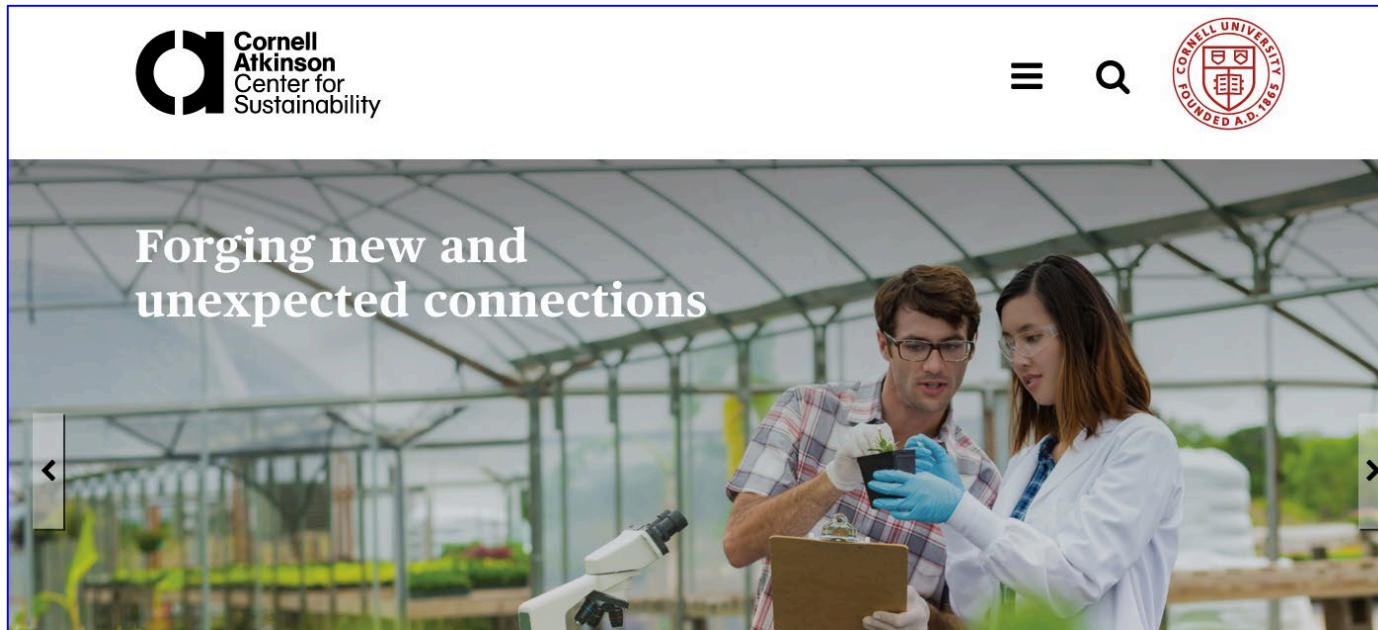


Features and Highlights  
**Louisiana's first Oyster Shell Recycling Program**



Features and Highlights  
**Shell brings home the Gold**

# The case for harm so grave that it is inconsistent with the goals and principles of the University.



“It is ethically indefensible that an institution dedicated to the proposition of the renewal of civilization would simultaneously invest in its destruction.”

## Partial list of colleges and universities committed to divestment

|                                 |                                |                            |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| University of California System | Trinity College, Dublin        | Loughborough University    |
| Georgetown University           | University of Copenhagen       | Manchester Metropolitan    |
| University of Massachusetts     | University of Edinburgh        | Queensland University      |
| Middlebury College              | University of Gottingen        | Clare Hall, Cambridge      |
| Smith College                   | University of Essex            | Nottingham Trent           |
| Chico State University          | University of Winchester       | KU Leuven                  |
| Rhode Island School of Design   | University of York             | Queen's University Belfast |
| University of Hawaii            | Cardiff University             | Queen Mary University      |
| Syracuse University             | National University of Ireland | Stockholm University       |
| Seattle University              | Emmanuel College, Cambridge    | University of Sussex       |
| University of Maryland          | Concordia University           | University of Bedfordshire |
| Hampshire College               | La Trobe University            | University of Ghent        |
| Lewis and Clark College         | Leeds Trinity University       | University of Glasgow      |
| Salem State University          | London Metropolitan            | University of Gottingen    |
| Oregon State University         | The New School                 | University of Liverpool    |

## Harvard Faculty Vote in Favor of Divestment 179-20



Members of Harvard's faculty walk into University Hall for their monthly meeting Tuesday afternoon.  
By Jonathan G. Yuan

By [James S. Bikales](#) and [Kevin R. Chen](#), Crimson Staff Writers  
February 5, 2020

In a dramatic rebuke of administrators' longstanding position on whether Harvard should invest in fossil fuels, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences voted overwhelmingly at its monthly meeting Tuesday to demand the Harvard Corporation divest the University's endowment.

Sustainability is a critical part of the identity of Cornell, the “Greenest” of the Ivies.

We still have an opportunity for what economists call “the first mover advantage,” becoming the first of the Ivies to divest from fossil fuels.

The time window for this advantage may be closing, as Harvard, Columbia, and others are reconsidering divestment.

Let's be first, and build on our reputation.

Therefore resolved,

*Be it resolved,* that Cornell divest from all investments in coal, oil, and natural gas in an orderly manner and as rapidly as possible.



The resolution is purposefully short, and to the point.

Goal is to have all 5 campus governance bodies past the same resolution.

Supported by a “white paper” (thanks Prof. Caroline Levine) available at <http://theuniversityfaculty.cornell.edu/faculty-senate/archives-and-actions/ongoing-senate-business/resolution-on-fossil-fuel-divestment/>

# Timeline

The goal is for each assembly to pass this resolution before the March 19-20 Trustee meeting:

The Faculty Senate (vote on March 11)

The University Assembly (vote on Feb 18)

The Employee Assembly (vote on Feb 17)

The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly  
(passed unanimously, Feb 10)

The Student Assembly (vote on March 12)

# Questions

What needs to be done between now and the March 11 meeting so that we have a productive, fully informed discussion at that time, prior to a vote?

There is list of FAQs in the “white paper,” and another list in the works from the UA special committee on finances and endowment.

Are there other issues for us to debate?

# Georgetown U announces plan to divest from fossil fuels



Credit: Gtownsfs [CC BY-SA 3.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)], from Wikimedia Commons

**AUTHOR**

Jeremy Bauer-  
Wolf  
@jbeowulf

**Dive Brief:**

- Georgetown University, in Washington D.C., will divest from fossil fuel companies within a decade, it announced Thursday.
- Its board of directors adopted a policy directing the private institution to continue to back areas related to renewable energy and energy efficiency while freezing new endowment investments in companies and funds that focus on the exploration or extraction of fossil fuels.

**PUBLISHED**

Feb. 7, 2020

**SHARE IT**

Details of Georgetown University approach:

- Immediate freeze on companies & funds that focus on fossil fuel exploration or extraction.
- Divest from the public securities of fossil fuel companies by 2025.
- Divest from private investments by 2030.

“The transition from fossil fuels will help the university prevent ‘the most dangerous effects of climate change,’ Michael Barry, the university’s chief investment officer, said in a statement.”

Fossil fuel use generates 70% of worldwide carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions.

90 corporations are responsible for 66% of all greenhouse gas emissions.

8 energy companies account for 20 percent of world carbon emissions. These include British Petroleum, Exxon Mobil, Royal Dutch Shell, and Chevron.

President Martha Pollack

# Resolution to Clarify Grade-Change Protocols

Revised UFC Proposal

Professor David Delchamps  
Chair  
Educational Policy Committee

# What the Senate Established in May to Deal With Retro-W's and Expunges

The instructor of record **must be informed** of a grade change (letter, S/U, Inc, W) before it is made and **must be afforded the opportunity by the relevant college authorities to discuss the protocols that were followed if the change leads to a retroactive W or an expunging of the record.** These protocols require that the college authority's actions resulted from appropriate engagement with Cornell Health, the Title IX Office, or the Office of University Counsel should the grade change be necessitated by extenuating circumstances.

Feedback from several quarters prompted the development of a more detailed protocol.



## Extenuating Circumstances: Instructor Informed and Assured that the Proper Protocols Followed

When such a transcript change is necessitated by circumstances involving **Cornell Health**, the Office of Institutional Equity and **Title IX**, or the Office of **University Counsel**, the student's privacy interest limits the information that college officials may share with the instructor. In such cases, the **college associate dean** for academic affairs (or equivalent position) will inform the instructor of the impending transcript change before it is made and explain to the instructor that the action was warranted due to a matter involving one of the three offices named above, and that university protocols, including appropriate consultation, were followed.

## Lesser Circumstances: Instructor Informed and Is the Final Authority

In cases not involving these three offices, where a retroactive transcript change is under consideration, the college **associate dean** for academic affairs (or equivalent) **must inform the instructor of the reasons for making the change and obtain the instructor's approval before making it.**

# Developed in Consultation With This VPUE Working Group

[Rachel Bean](#), Senior Associate Dean for Ugrad Education and Professor, CAS (Chair)

[Gena Boling](#), Director of Compliance for Student Aid Programs

[George Boyer](#), Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor, ILR School

[Jon Burdick](#), Vice Provost for Enrollment

[Diane Corbett](#), Director, Financial Aid

[Margaret Frey](#), Senior Associate Dean for Ugrad Affairs and Professor, CHE

[Carol Grumbach](#), **Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education**

[Melanie Holland Bell](#), Assistant Dean for Education, AAP

[Lisa Nishii](#), **Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education (ex officio)**

[Mike Thompson](#), **Associate Dean for Ugrad Studies and Associate Professor, COE**

[Donald Viands](#), Associate Dean and Director of Academic Programs and Professor, CALS

[Casey Washburn](#), Associate University Registrar, Academic Services

# Call For a Vote

I support the modification to the Grade Change Policy that is articulated in this [resolution](#).

Yes

\_\_\_\_\_

No

\_\_\_\_\_

Abstain

\_\_\_\_\_

# **Resolutions Related to the Final Report of the Social Science Implementation Committee**

**Professor David Lee**

At-Large member, UFC

Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, JCB

Dept. of Global Development, CALS

# Resolution 1

## 1. ***On “Super-departments”***

*Be it resolved* that the Faculty Senate endorses the Committee recommendation to pursue the creation of “super-departments” in Economics, Psychology, and Sociology;

*Be it further resolved* that there is strong agreement with the Committee’s wish, as noted in the Final Report, that there be “additional conversations among the respective units in the Spring 2020 semester, a commitment of resources to facilitate the re-organization, and continued attention to the issue of co-location.”

# Resolution on “Super-departments”

## ***Arguments in favor:***

1. Improve disciplinary interaction, collaboration, diversity of scholarship, and synergies
2. Improve recruitment
3. Increase national disciplinary profiles
4. Benefits to teaching, graduate training, service responsibilities, etc.

## ***Concerns:***

- Who decides who’s in a super-department?
- “Cultural differences” across units, “department identity and focus”  
*“...differences could presumably be solved with time and continued interaction and governance”*
- Balance across sub-disciplinary areas
- Hiring and promotion practices, etc., will need to be “equalized” across colleges  
*“Presumably, super-departments... can consider relevant solutions and strategies used in successful existing super-departments on campus.”*

## Resolutions 2 & 3

### **2. *On the Cross-College School Model (the “School option”)***

*Be it resolved* that the Faculty Senate supports the development of a Cross-College School of Public Policy;

### **3. *On the College Model (the “College option”)***

*Be it resolved* that the Faculty Senate does not support the “re-envisioning” of the College of Human Ecology as a College of Public Policy.



# Limited Mandate of Implementation Committee

- “... our committee was asked to specifically focus on creating the strongest structure for policy ***but was not charged with deciding which of these paths would be better overall for the university to pursue.***”
- “... it was ***beyond the mandate of the committee to address the collateral impacts any such organizational changes might have on the non-policy units and functions within CHE,*** though considering these effects was an inescapable part of our deliberations and a key part of our listening sessions.”

*Final Report, p. 3 [emphasis added]*

# Resolution 2 Concerning a Cross-College School of Public Policy (the “School option”)

## ***Arguments in favor:***

1. Greater inclusivity of full range of policy-oriented faculty university-wide, who far exceed policy faculty in CHE
2. Unclear impact and potential disenfranchisement of non-policy faculty, students and programs comprising ~75% of Human Ecology
3. Explicit inclusion of international policy scholars from strong programs across campus; CHE focus primarily domestic
4. Long history of successful cross-college collaboration across academic units at Cornell; management challenges exist under *either* option
5. “Greater coherence and singularity of focus” of School option; potential that the hybrid nature and diffused mission of College option may create “significant tension and uncertainty” (pp. 5-6, *Final Report*)
6. What is “value-added” of 2 (of 4) academic concentrations which are *already* strong programs at Cornell

# Resolution 3 Concerning a College of Public Policy (the “College option”)

## ***Arguments in favor (Final Report, p. 5):***

1. Cleaner, more autonomous organizational structure
2. Ability to recruit highest caliber Dean candidates

## ***Response:***

- Benefits of cross-college structures are cited as key justifications ***in favor of*** “super-departments” ...but cited as problematic for policy school
- A “new venture unique to Cornell and also highly influential and impactful in public policy” (p. 4) should be very attractive in recruiting a new Dean.

## ***Final note:***

- Split (6 to 4) vote of Implementation Committee in favor of “College option”
- Of 22 Senators and faculty speaking at January 22 Special Meeting, not one voiced support for this option.

# Three Resolutions sponsored by UFC

## 1. ***On “Super-departments”***

*Be it resolved* that the Faculty Senate endorses the Committee recommendation to pursue the creation of “super-departments” in Economics, Psychology, and Sociology;

*Be it further resolved* that there is strong agreement with the Committee’s wish, as noted in the Final Report, that there be “additional conversations among the respective units in the Spring 2020 semester, a commitment of resources to facilitate the re-organization, and continued attention to the issue of co-location.”

## 2. ***On the Cross-College School Model (the “School option”)***

*Be it resolved* that the Faculty Senate supports the development of a Cross-College School of Public Policy.

## 3. ***On the College Model (the “College option”)***

*Be it resolved* that the Faculty Senate does not support the “re-envisioning” of the College of Human Ecology as a College of Public Policy.

# Resolution 1, Call For a Vote

I **support** the [resolution on super-departments](#) that recommends the development of such units for economics, psychology, and sociology.

Yes

\_\_\_\_\_

No

\_\_\_\_\_

Abstain

\_\_\_\_\_

# Resolution 2, Call For a Vote

I **support** the [resolution concerning a cross-college school of public policy](#) that recommends proceeding with the development of such a unit.

Yes

\_\_\_\_\_

No

\_\_\_\_\_

Abstain

\_\_\_\_\_

# Resolution 3, Call For a Vote

I **support** the [resolution concerning a college of public policy](#) which recommends **NOT** proceeding with the development of such a unit.

Yes

\_\_\_\_\_

No

\_\_\_\_\_

Abstain

\_\_\_\_\_