

Sense-of-the-Senate

On Transparency

Professor David Lee (Dyson)

On Transparency

Be it resolved that the administration makes available the unredacted final reports of the Reopening Committees as soon as they are communicated to the President to ensure that faculty, whose futures are critically affected by the reports' recommendations, are adequately informed of the deliberations that inform the administration's decision-making process.

Be it further resolved that the administration work more closely with the Financial Policies Committee of the Faculty Senate during the pandemic and its aftermath to ensure that the faculty is adequately informed, prior to decisions being made, about the economic realities facing the university and about the tradeoffs associated with forthcoming decisions.

Motivation

Basic principles:

- Shared governance requires participation, and *informed* participation requires transparency and maximum information.
- Both transparency and availability of ample information are key to establishing a sense of common purpose and trust among participants in shared governance.

Motivation

Moreover:

- The university is asking the faculty to continue its unprecedented effort to reallocate time, revise instructional modes, and intensify our teaching efforts in AY2020-21 in the face of the coronavirus pandemic, and
- The university is asking the faculty to make considerable personal financial sacrifices to address expected budgetary deficits
- Quality and adequacy of information from the administration have profound effects on faculty morale

On Transparency: Discussion

Be it resolved that the administration makes available the unredacted final reports of the Reopening Committees as soon as they are communicated to the President to ensure that faculty, whose futures are critically affected by the reports' recommendations, are adequately informed of the deliberations that inform the administration's decision-making process.

Be it further resolved that the administration work more closely with the Financial Policies Committee of the Faculty Senate during the pandemic and its aftermath to ensure that the faculty is adequately informed, prior to decisions being made, about the economic realities facing the university and about the tradeoffs associated with forthcoming decisions.

Vote Via Chat

I support this [Sense-of-the-Senate Resolution](#) that is concerned with maintaining high levels of transparency in all matters that relate to the pandemic emergency

___ Yes

___ No

___ Abstain

Sense-of-the-Senate

On Using the Endowment

Professor Cynthia Bowman (Law)

On Using the Endowment

Be it resolved that the University should draw upon its endowment **(or borrow against the endowment)*** in all variants of its plan to address the projected deficit, in order to better equalize the economic burden on all parties, past, present, and future.

*Added in from posted version

Motivation

- Faculty feel they are being asked to make extraordinary contributions (e.g., to work unpaid over the summer preparing to teach online in the fall) and at the same time to shoulder a major burden of the measures proposed to address projected deficits.
- They are required to give up either a portion of their salary in the state-supported colleges or a year of contributions to their retirement accounts in the endowed colleges under all versions of the plan to meet the projected deficits for the next academic year.
 - It is unclear how the equities of these two approaches are being calculated.

Motivation

- Faculty support a progressive approach to allocating the deficits.
- But there is a negative impact on both faculty morale and the public perception of Cornell from the fact that the university plans to reserve any draw upon its endowment until and unless the worst case scenario occurs.
- A plan to meet the deficit by drawing upon all possible sources, including from the endowment under all scenarios (or, alternatively, borrowing against the endowment), appears to many to be a more equitable approach.

On Using the Endowment: Discussion

Be it resolved that the University should draw upon its endowment (or borrow against the endowment) in all variants of its plan to address the projected deficit, in order to better equalize the economic burden on all parties, past, present, and future.

*Added in from posted version

Vote Via Chat

I support this [Sense-of-the-Senate Resolution](#) that is concerned with increased payout from the endowment to address the pandemic-related budget shortfalls

___ Yes

___ No

___ Abstain

Sense-of-the-Senate

On Combatting Racism

Professor Durba Ghosh (History)

On Combatting Racism

Be it Resolved, that the Faculty Senate endorses President Pollack's statements on May 29, June 3, 2020, and

Be it Further Resolved that the Faculty Senate stands in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement, our Black community members, and those who are protesting racist injustice.

Be it Further Resolved that the Faculty Senate charges all members of the Cornell community to consider how best to heal the harms committed by racial injustice and accord all members of our community equal dignity and respect.

Motivation

The resolution reaffirms the faculty's commitment to Cornell's core values of being a “welcoming, caring and equitable community” built on mutual respect and empowerment;

Given recent statements from the president, the provost, several vice presidents, and deans, it is important that the faculty express our commitments to racial justice.

Given recent events, it's important that the faculty senate issue a collective statement that reaffirms our belief in the freedom to assemble and peacefully protest

On Combatting Racism: Discussion

Be it Resolved, that the Faculty Senate endorses President Pollack's statements on May 29, June 3, 2020, and

Be it Further Resolved that the Faculty Senate stands in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement, our Black community members, and those who are protesting racist injustice.

Be it Further Resolved that the Faculty Senate charges all members of the Cornell community to consider how best to heal the harms committed by racial injustice and accord all members of our community equal dignity and respect.

Vote Via Chat

I support this [Sense of the Senate Resolution](#) that is concerned with Combatting Racism

___ Yes

___ No

___ Abstain