

Working Group C

Meeting 3 Talking Points
November 16

Where we are after meetings 1, 2

- A discussion on focus building on President Pollack's description, "Amplification of Cornell's existing scholarship on anti-racism, through the creation of an Anti-Racism Center that further strengthens our research and education on systems and structures that perpetuate racism and inequality, and on policies and interventions that break that cycle."
- An agreement that the Center should have an activist component and be student facing

Center Ideas: Fac+Grad+Staff Petition

Agenda	Activities
Racial abolition, decolonizing, transnational, intersectional, Indigenous, and Third World perspectives	Annual faculty and student fellowships for anti-racism research and curricular innovation should be established. Funding should be created for guest speakers, workshops, conferences, and community outreach.

Center Ideas: DBJ Petition to President

“A centralized department or program that has the explicit purpose of fighting racism.”

Some suggested attributes of the center:

1. An Institute could create a University-wide streamlined approach to confronting racism and discrimination through the creation of a diversity coursework requirement.
2. Ongoing trainings for staff, faculty, and student leaders.
3. Share their work in a centralized manner, while maintaining their department and research's own individualistic integrity.

Center Ideas: DBJ Petition to President

4. While reducing racism and discrimination amongst all members of the Cornell community is necessary, it is especially important for those who serve as gatekeepers to clubs, courses, and academic opportunities.

5. Should be home to a standing Presidential Task Force, helping preserve institutional knowledge amongst student groups and long-term campaigns that outlast the typical four-year student cycle.

6. Would help the University build a more direct approach to recognizing and amplifying Black voices and Black stories of the past to better help inform the student body and greater community about how we reached our present situation

What Would a Center Directly Mean for Students?

If the Center had a **physical location with “shareable space”**, then how might it affect student life? What would be its “environmental impact” on other academic units and programs?

If the Center housed the “**educational requirement for all Cornell students**” how will it impact other academic units and programs?

How might the Center **increase opportunities for student research and external engagement** beyond what is currently available?

Background docs from DoBetterCornell:

[Petition to President Pollack](#)
[Notes from 2020 Summer](#)

Existing “Outward Facing” Venues for Students

Public Service Center

Engaged Cornell

Institute for Policy and Global Affairs

Career Services at each College

Undergraduate Research (+RPRS, Meinig Scholars, Cornell Tradition, College Scholars Programs)

What are the synergistic possibilities with the Center?

A version of the “environmental impact” discussion.

What a ‘Student-less’ Mission Statement Might Look Like

The Center fosters intellectual synergy among both Cornell faculty and invited scholars whose research interests focus on race and colonization as they are understood both in the United States and in other parts of the world. In the conduct of this research, the Institute stresses the importance of comparative methodologies, active collaboration and interdisciplinarity.

All scholars will teach an upper level undergraduate seminar on a related topic during their residency.

The Institute brings together scholars from the social sciences, the sciences and the humanities all of whom are engaged in the common project of generating and disseminating new knowledge about race, ethnicity and indigeneity.

Complements and strengthens existing academic units that take race, ethnicity and indigeneity as either integral or central to their intellectual projects.