

WG-C-SG1 Meeting 2  
Talking Points  
Nov 30

# Some Agreements

**Agreement A:** The center will meet the immediate expressed needs of BIPOC students, particularly our Black students, and be flexible enough in its scaffolding to meet the changing needs of students and faculty who will be part of the Cornell community into the future.

**Agreement B:** The center will be a space that is visible and easily accessible. It will be a space that is central both in terms of its location and the programming and support it offers.

**Agreement C:** The center will be a space for both advocacy and activism, with an internal (Cornell focused) and an external focus (Ithaca-specific but also beyond)

## Two Emerging Features of the Center

1. It would have a Cultural Center Component
2. It would be Outward-Facing

# The Cultural Center Aspect

- Retaining BIPOC students at Cornell
- Providing space for BIPOC students organizations to meet
- Providing services for BIPOC students to excel at Cornell
- Connecting BIPOC students to prospective employers by hosting career fairs and other events
- Recruiting BIPOC students for admission to Cornell
- Engaging local BIPOC communities in the center's activities
- *Making appropriate externships/internships available to BIPOC students*
- *Building leadership skills*
- *Advocating for inclusion in campus governance and opportunities*

# Cornell's current cultural centers/gathering spaces

Currently at Cornell, some of our cultural/meeting centers are **residential**, some are **programmatically**, and some are both.

## **Programmatic Centers at 626 Thurston Avenue** (overseen by Dean of Students, SCL)

- Asian & Asian American Center (A3C)
- LGBTQ Resource Center
- Multicultural Student Leadership & Empowerment
- First-Generation and Low-Income student support
- Undocumented and DACA

## **Programmatic Centers at Willard Straight** (overseen by Dean of Students, SCL)

- The Women's Resource Center
- Office of Spirituality and Meaning Making, inclusive of CURW and chaplaincies

## **Culturally based residential living environments**

- *In their own buildings:* Akwe:kon, Latino Living Center (LLC), Ujamaa
- *Embedded in larger dorms:* Holland International Living Center, Loving House, Multicultural Living Learning Unit (overseen by Housing and Residential Life, SCL)

# The “Outward Facing” Aspect

What does this mean and how might it have an academic component?

# An Analog of Recent Entrepreneurship Activity

Just as entrepreneurship@cornell prepares students for careers in the private sector, so to might the Center prepare students for “social justice” careers in the public sector (= nonprofits + government).

Cornell Tech has a message about how to integrate external engagement with academics.

# Professors-of-the-Practice

This title was established in 2014 and enables departments/colleges to hire into the faculty ranks individuals who have accomplished nonacademic careers with experience on the outside.

PoPs contribute to our educational offerings by teaching courses that are laced with insights derived from their prior experiences. Common in Engineering, but the idea has spread to other colleges.

Why not use this title to populate the center with faculty who have experience working on social justice issues in the public (or for that matter private) sector?

They might help deliver the educational requirement. Huge potential for advising.



# Institutionalization

We are looking to make antiracism a permanent feature of academic life. Towards that end we need convincing arguments that relate to the out-facing component:

Stress that outward facing is the ‘Cornell Way’. Many examples from the STEM areas and the Social Sciences.

More recent examples from the humanities, e.g., the [Rural Humanities](#) project and [Dark Laboratory](#) both of which are outward facing and both of which have antiracist connections. Is this a research trend within the humanities that the Center can promote?

Overall, might the proposed center bring these outward-facing trends within all disciplines and fields around issues of anti-racism, injustice and inequality?