

MEETING SUMMARIES | WORKING GROUP C

November 23, 2020

WG C, Sub-committee 2, Activism and Advocacy, A Space for Students

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 to the life of BIPOC students, particularly our Black and Indigenous students, 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)

We define *advocacy as a representational act*, where we speak in favor of BIPOC communities
This could include

- advocating for BIPOC student/faculty/staff representation in all committees and decision-making bodies at Cornell
- overseeing the required educational requirement

We define *activism as action-oriented*, where action includes personal positioning, self-knowledge, and a transgressive politics that aim to make our institution and the communities where we live anti-racist, just and equitable. This could include

- creating a counterspace/space of gathering for BIPOC communities
- educating Cornell researchers (faculty and students) on how to conduct ethical community-based activist research, particularly with BIPOC and other marginalized communities,
- supporting evidence-based research that will transform policy making

Programming for the center space will include activities aimed at

- 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

It has also been suggested that we consider some of these programmatic activities in the context of **a structure of an annual theme**, which could include grantmaking to support some of the activism and advocacy functions.

November 24, 2020

WG C, Sub-committee 3, Governance

Agreement A: the center will contain a “cultural space” that is a space for gathering that provides reprieve and support for the BIPOC community, with a black focus, working at the interface of anti-black racism and other forms of oppression.

Agreement B: the center will ensure student presence by

- Ensuring BIPOC student presence in governance
- Providing space for BIPOC student groups

We continue to debate the exact governing structure of the center.

Currently, we agree that the center will have a governing council and an executive leadership team.

We continue to debate the exact structure of the council with a preference for a body that will be inclusive and include representatives from all units and centers whose academic and work-life focus overlaps with the center. This includes

faculty and staff representatives (20)

Academic Units¹

Africana, CA&S

AIISP, CA&S

LSP, CA&S

AASP, CA&S

American Studies, CA&S

Associate Deans for Diversity/Inclusion from AAP, Business, CHE, CALS, Eng., ILR, Vet, Grad School, Dean of Faculty

University-wide Centers

Engaged/Vice-Provost for Engagement

IDP/Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education

PSC/Student Campus Life

Cornell Tradition and Undergraduate Research / ?

CTI/Vice Provost for Academic Initiatives and Technologies

OFDD/Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Diversity

student representatives (20)

either (a) elected or (b) one undergraduate and one graduate student from each college representing the college’s BIPOC community – AAP, Business, CA&S, CALS, CHE, Eng, ILR, Vet + 2 grad students from the Grad School

one representative each from the SA and the GPSA

The executive leadership of the center will include a tenured faculty member appointed as a Faculty Director, with a full-time Assistant Director and appropriate levels of staffing to undertake the work.

¹ From MEP’s list: Jewish Studies, Atkinson, Einaudi Center, Health Equity, PEP, Farmworkers Program {nk to check this list for completeness}