

Center for Racial Justice and Equitable Futures A Proposal Endorsed by the Faculty Senate*

Charles Van Loan, Dean of Faculty

Neema Kudva, Associate Dean of Faculty

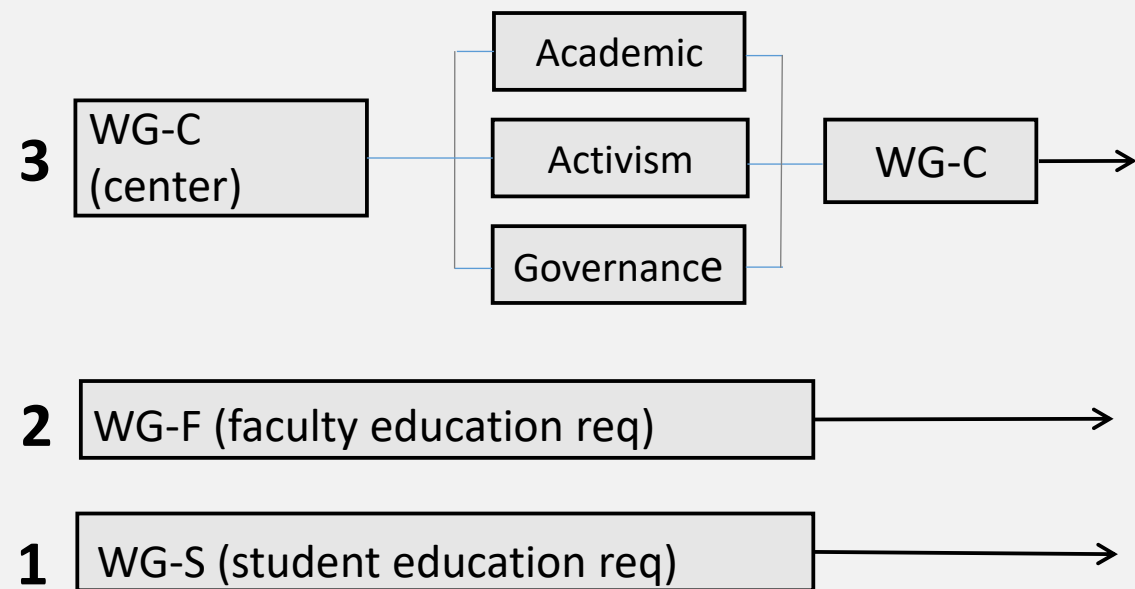
*The Vote: Yes = 101, No = 12, Abstain = 5, DNV = 9

The Process

☐ Survey of earlier efforts

☐ Meetings with

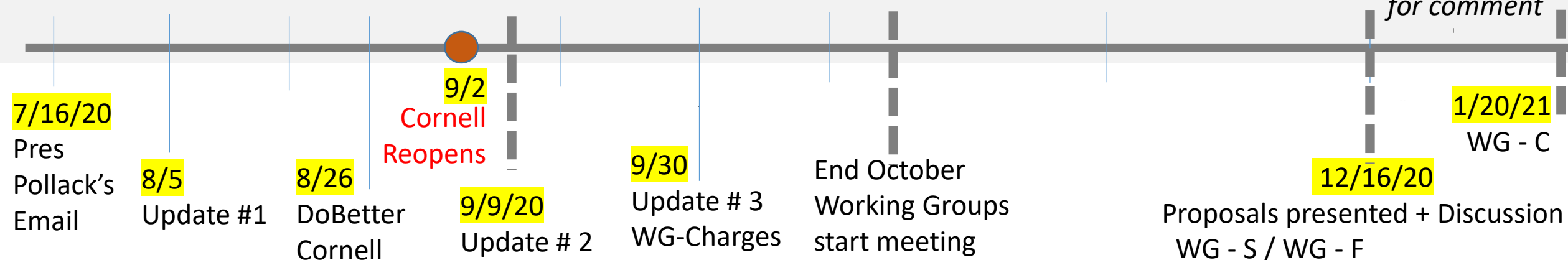
- Heads and/or faculty of 'impacted' or named units
- Student Leadership
- Heads of Centers
- Vice-Provosts + unit heads
- Faculty and others involved in earlier efforts



6/17

Senate Res

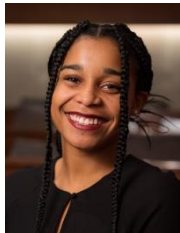
☐ DoF website resources meeting agendas / summaries draft proposals for comment



“Working Group C” Wrote the Proposal



Amina Kilpatrick
Govn & Econ. '21



Anuli Ononye
FGSS, Govt. '22
Student Advocate
College Scholar



Carol Boyce Davies
English, Africana



Conor Hodges
History, Govt., '21
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Charlie Van Loan
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Deborah Starr
Near East. Studies
Jewish Am.Studies



Ed Baptist
History



Jamila Michener
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Jolene Rickard
Art, History of Art
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Jessica Diaz Rodriguez
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Hotel Admin. '23

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Sociology, Psych '22



Karim Aly Kassam
Nat.Resources
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Public Admin.
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Asian Am. Studies



Sherrell Farmer
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Uchenna Chukwukere
Mol. Biology and
Chemistry '21



Vilma Santiago-Irizarry
Anthropology
Latino/a Studies

The High-Level Ambitions

1. We want to **amplify research and scholarship** being carried out at Cornell on questions of race, indigeneity and bias
2. We want all Cornellians to be
 - **critical thinkers and lifelong learners** in all matters that concern race, indigeneity and bias
 - **thrive and lead across diverse groups** and communities in a multiracial democracy like America's, where out of many we become one

Three Questions About Research Centers

Why do we have centers?

A center focuses scholarly and public attention on issues and research topics in ways that a department, school, or college cannot.

How do they elevate the quality of scholarship?

They facilitate collaboration by providing infrastructure, programs, and space.

How do they change outside perceptions?

They become go-to authorities offering tangible proof that the University knows what is important and is doing something about it.

Our Peers Understand This

Berkeley	Center for Race and Gender
Boston U	Center for Antiracist Research
Brown	Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America
Chicago	Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture
Columbia	Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race
Dartmouth	Consortium in the Studies of Race, Migration, and Sexuality
Duke	Center for Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation
Harvard	Initiative for Institutional Anti-Racism and Accountability
Johns Hopkins	Center for Health Disparities Solutions
Johns Hopkins	Hard Histories at Hopkins
Princeton	Ida B. Wells Just Data Lab
Rutgers	Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice
Stanford	Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity
U Penn	Center for the Study of Ethnicity, Race, and Immigration
USC	Race and Equity Center
Yale	Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration

Collaboration is in Our DNA

A locally hosted international conference on climate change and indigenous knowledge brought together

1. the American Indian and Indigenous Studies Program
2. the South Asia Program
3. the Department of Natural Resources
4. the Botanical Gardens
5. the University Library
6. the Atkinson Center for Sustainability
7. the Global Development Program
8. the Department of Performing and Media Arts
9. the Judith Reppy Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies
10. the Johnson Museum

Some Attributes of the Center

Theme Years

Environmental Justice, Public Health and Race, Internet Disparities, etc.

A Pipeline-to-the-Academy Program

UGrads, Grads, Post-Docs.

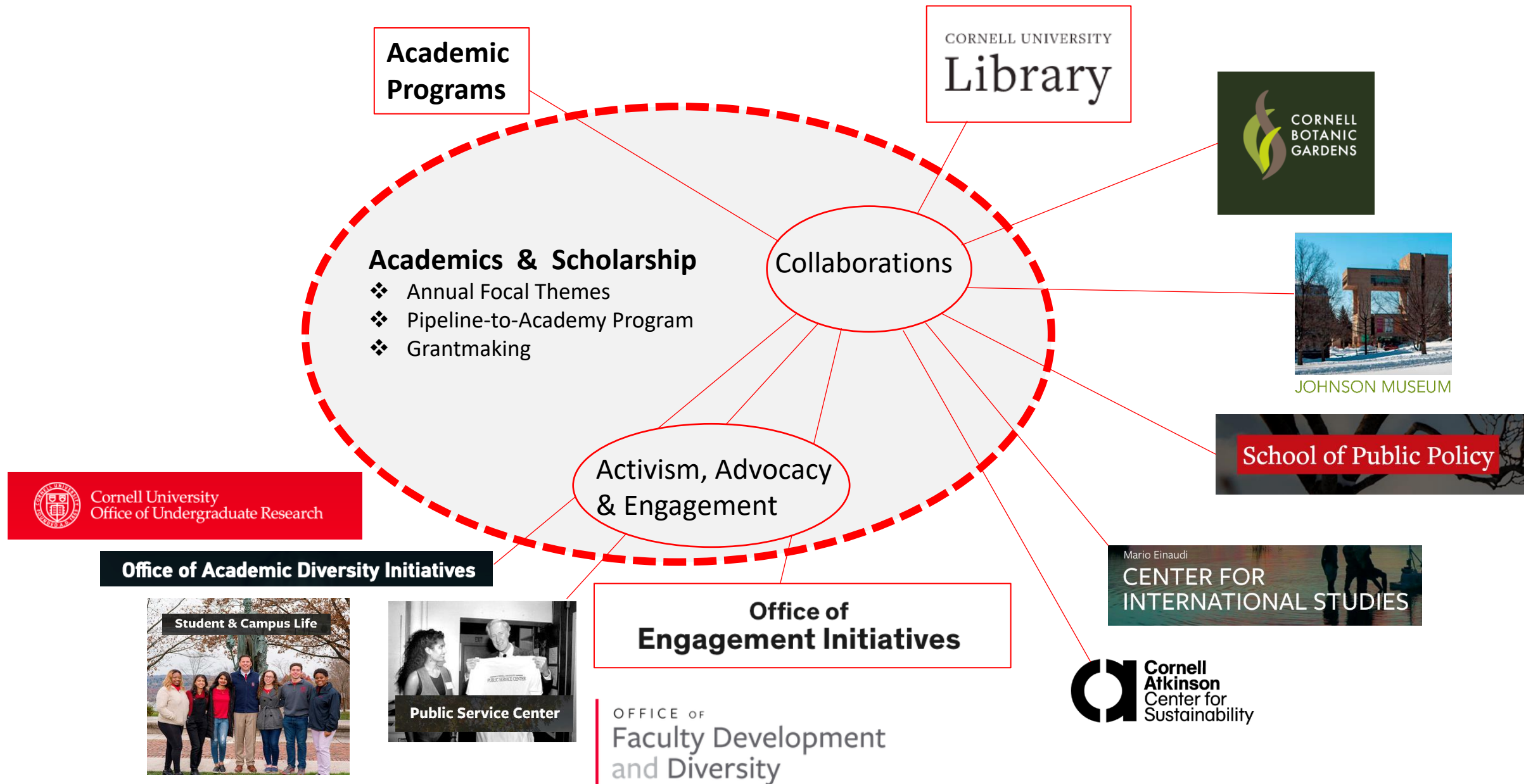
An “A.D. White Style” Professors-of-the-Practice Program

Bringing to campus recognized leaders from the public and civic sectors.

A Deep Collaboration with the Library and other units across campus

Digital Humanities, Engaged Cornell, etc.

Center for Racial Justice and Equitable Futures



Some Voiced Concerns

The Name – Why It Evolved

September 30 Senate:

“Center for Antiracism”

December 15 Senate:

“The Center for Antiracist, Just, and Equitable Futures”

April 14 Senate:

“The Center for Racial Justice and Equitable Futures”

The name evolved as we learned more about the anticipated scope of the Center’s work and the importance of sending a clear signal to both the academy and the public about that scope. A successful center becomes a go-to authority and at key moments, the face of the university.

The Center Shouldn't Just Be a “Current Events” Center

Concern over this phrase in the Report:

“... we envision a permanent, institutionally supported unit that responds to in Center must focus instantiations of racism that are brought to the fore by **current events** while at the same time being a constant, unrelenting advocate for racial equality and healing.”

Response:

This phrase does not imply that the Center's research directions change from day to day based on the news. Think more along the lines about CAS 2020-21 Lecture Series “Racism in America” that was prompted by protests around the Floyd killing. Also important to note that the the text emphasizes the “support [for] long term work.”

The Center Should Not Intensify Competition for \$\$\$

A website critic says

It is reasonable to ask whether cobbling together another center would not be another familiar instance of bolstering the existing system with educational and research activities that fit readily into the established structure.

Another broad concern, evoked by a cursory reference to “competition for a fixed pool of resources,” is the absence from the report of any attention to budgetary adjustments the university, already battered by the pandemic,

Response:

Resource-related questions belong in the “implementation phase.”

Cultural Center vs Research Center

The students on the Working Group are extremely interested in the establishment of a cultural center for the BIPOC community modeled after what you see at peer institutions.

This is a worthy goal but somewhat distinct from the idea of a research center.

‘Somewhat distinct’ because a vibrant research center that has faculty and students inclusively working side-by-side together has a “cultural center” aspect.

Learn More

For more information on the overall Antiracism Initiative including the education recommendations for faculty and students, go [here](#).

Examples of [cultural centers](#) and [research centers](#) at peer schools.

For a summary of the Senate vote on the Center Proposal including comments from the voters, go [here](#).

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Learn More About What the Senate Is Doing Now

An Educational Requirement for Students, for more information go [here](#).

The Goal: Alumni who are critical thinkers and lifelong learners in all matters that concern race, indigeneity and bias, and who will thrive and lead across diverse groups and communities in a multiracial democracy

An Educational Requirement for Faculty, for more information go [here](#).