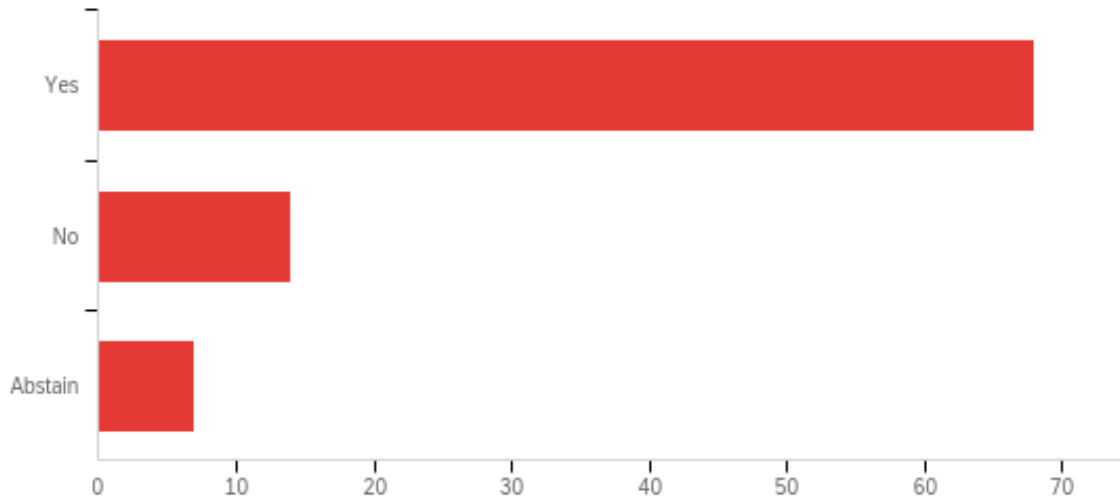


Faculty Senate May 5 voting

Do you support the Part-time bachelor's degree for non-traditional students resolution?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	76.40%	68
2	No	15.73%	14
3	Abstain	7.87%	7
	Total	100%	89

Comments

I do support, but I also think it needs to be a rigorous program. Something like our part-time MBA. Also not all majors should be doing this for many years, as I think there are too many things to work out yet.

Our responses were divided on whether to support this resolution. It is important to note that we still know next to nothing about the prospective degree program in spite of multiple faculty requests for basic information about its implementation: Who is this program for? What courses will it offer? Who will teach them? How will the economics work? How will everything relate to our current degree programs? Many valid concerns have also been raised about the administration's motivations for creating this kind of program at this particular point in time. If the program is actually intended to serve non-traditional students, then it is unclear why the relevant stakeholders were never consulted in the process (see <https://theuniversityfaculty.cornell.edu/faculty-forum/>). The admonition that faculty be involved or consulted at every stage in the future sounds hollow in light of the massive disregard for shared governance that has been shown at all levels of administration in the recent past. That said, we are still voting in support of the revised resolution, which provides multiple caveats and strikes an appropriate balance between expressing in-principle support for equitable access to higher education and raising implementation concerns that should be resolved before any such program goes into effect. Ultimately, this prospective program is in dire need of further discussion and faculty involvement, especially from the Humanities and other relevant stakeholder groups.

I voted for this resolution based on the "resolved" clause requiring the Administration to "satisfy[] a number of as yet unresolved implementation issues" listed in that clause, and based on the emphasis on the need for faculty governance at all stages of discussions and consideration of a proposed part-time degree program. I do not support the Senate approving, in principle or otherwise, a proposed part-time degree program until such issues are adequately resolved. As three Faculty Senate committees and others have noted, the problems are so serious that it is unlikely that they can be adequately resolved.

Given the administration's record in recent years of riding roughshod over faculty governance, I don't believe the current guardrails built into this resolution are anywhere near sufficient. A part-time online BA degree for non-traditional students could be a great idea, if carefully thought through and judiciously implemented, but the current administration have not earned the trust needed to give them the credit to actually carry it out.

While the idea of a part-time bachelor's degree seems aligned in theory with Cornell's mission, I believe there are too many significant issues that remain entirely unaddressed to support this resolution at this stage--not least who would teach for the program, what modalities would be used, and how it would serve the underresourced communities it aims to target.

With limited structural systems in place and the need to create an entirely new administrative unit to facilitate this proposal, it is my vote to abstain.

We need to make sure this comes back to the Senate once the implementation issues are resolved

My "yes" vote here is cautious - it's hard to vote in good conscience for a program that is yet so nebulous, as I fear the need to balance the finances of the program will lead to its being staffed by underpaid and overworked adjunct faculty, which I could not support. I very much hope that the administration will genuinely listen to faculty concerns and advice as they (inevitably) move forward with the plan, to make sure Cornell does not put its name to exploitative faculty labor practices even as it aims to meet the needs of a broader constituency of students.

The proposal does not seem to

This is a no-brainer as the idea is inline with the mission of Cornell University. I have been frustrated by the small minority of senators who seem more interested in thwarting university administration and the provost more than working together to move the university forward. I am tired of this old guard taking up so much space in the room. Thank you to Dean De Rosa and everyone involved in developing the different versions of the resolution. It is a cumbersome process, but it's worth it.

The vision is great. Implementation details however still need to be carefully examined to ensure quality.

I fully support this important initiative.

The plan still sounds very superficial, and the administration is not providing evidence of deeper thought about difficult issues when pressed. I remain very skeptical.

I'm convinced by the University argument that we can and should engage with this large and underserved community, where Cornell genuinely can help. It feels right, and aligns with our land grant mission. While the sympathize with faculty who feel that their own salaries should be a higher priority, they failed to make a case that this is an either/or choice. We can address both needs.

The financial plan is critical. I feel that there is an increasing sense of alienation arising from a failure to meet the financial needs of current programs.