

Background for New Senators on Global Hubs

- 2012 - President Skorton Position Paper *“Bringing Cornell to the World and the World to Cornell”*
 - Convened **Task Force on Internationalization** in response to President Skorton’s call “for Cornell to reassert global leadership in academics, research, and engagement.”
 - Internationalization defined as “a commitment confirmed through actions, to infuse international and comparative perspectives into teaching, research, and engagement.”
- 2013 – Vice Provost of International Affairs, Fredrik Logevall, call to action for “**Global Cornell**”
 - 2015 – convened **Cornell Global Presence and Partnership Task Force**
 - Foster student engagement, Einaudi Center, international partnerships, grants, and establish Internationalization Council (IC)

Background for New Senators on Global Hubs

- [Global Hubs](#) established based on faculty partnerships to increase opportunities for Cornell undergraduates to directly engage with student peers at Global Hub partner institutions
 - Reciprocal relationship - students from Hubs partners can study on exchange for a semester or year at one of Cornell's 15 colleges and schools.
- Faculty Senate Resolutions 2020-2022:
 - [Resolution 161](#): Resolution regarding joint or dual degree programs involving other academic institutions
 - [Resolution 174](#): Resolution on Specifying the Rights and Responsibilities of the Faculty Senate with Respect to Collaborative Agreements with Other Academic Institutions and Corporations
 - [Resolution 179](#): Consultation with the Faculty Senate with respect to Global Hubs

Resolution on Academic Freedom in Cornell Programs in China and Other Parts of the Global Hubs System.

Whereas, Cornell University has been rapidly expanding academic programs in China and other nations with authoritarian regimes;

Whereas, China has strongly suppressed and punished political dissent among its citizens, both at home and abroad;

Resolved, the Faculty Senate of Cornell University strongly condemns political, social, and cultural repression in the People's Republic of China;

Resolved, the Faculty Senate of Cornell University affirms that the rights guaranteed to all members of the Cornell community under the Cornell Policy Statement on Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech and Expression ([Cornell Policy Statement on Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech and Expression | Dean of Faculty](#)) apply to all who study and teach in classes and programs sponsored by Cornell University;

Resolved, that the central administration of Cornell University should take all necessary steps to ensure that academic freedom and freedom of speech is protected throughout the Global Hubs system.

Senators:

**Richard Bense
Risa Lieberwitz
Michael Nussbaum
Vilma Santiago-Irizarry
William Miller
Courtney Roby
Buz Barstow
Harold Hodes
Courtney Roby**

- **Background for the Resolution on Academic Freedom in Cornell Programs in China and Other Parts of the Global Hubs System**

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- Cornell's involvement in China is extensive. According to Wendy Wolford, Cornell's Vice Provost for International Affairs, this includes "25 active agreements with Chinese institutions" involving Cornell University in research and teaching. Under the Cornell Global Hubs system such agreements are likely to increase. Given the repressive actions by the People's Republic of China (PRC) and other authoritarian governments, Cornell's expanding international institutional agreements raise concerns about how to protect academic freedom in all Cornell programs.
- On Cornell's Ithaca campus, more than 2,200 students are from the PRC. These constitute about 9 percent of all students at Cornell and many of them, particularly in the professional graduate programs, pay full tuition. Given the PRC's suppression and punishment of political dissent at home and abroad, concerns about academic freedom apply to students or other individuals who are studying in the U.S. and in China.
- It is incumbent on Cornell, therefore, to take actions to protect academic freedom in its relations with institutions in the PRC. This includes avoiding or suspending agreements with institutions that do not respect academic freedom. Cornell faculty governance has an essential role in protecting academic freedom. Yet, only one of the 25 agreements with institutions in the PRC has ever come before the Faculty Senate for a vote and, after the Senate rejected it, was nonetheless implemented by the central administration. The other 24 agreements have never come before the Faculty Senate for discussion and a vote. Moreover, the Global Hubs system has never come before the Faculty Senate for a vote.

- This call for faculty governance is far more than symbolic. In October 2018, Cornell faculty were central to Cornell's decision to suspend the Cornell ILR/Renmin University research and exchange program due to violations of students' academic freedom, which included Renmin University's punishment of student activists calling for labor rights and Renmin's complicity in detaining students against their will.
- Financial considerations are not a valid justification for engaging in relationships with an institutional partner that is directly responsible for or complicit in academic freedom or human rights violations. Unfortunately, however, as noted by the New York Times (Oct. 28, 2018), "The decision [to suspend the Cornell ILR/Renmin program] was a rare rebuke of China's increasingly strict limits on human rights. Many American universities, seeking money and a global presence, have compromised on free speech values in forging partnerships with Chinese schools."
- It is also appropriate for Cornell to stand for human rights by condemning political, social, and cultural repression in the PRC. The Cornell administration recently issued a condemnation of Russia's actions in Ukraine, with President Pollack's statement, on March 2, 2022, condemning "Russia's deplorable and unprovoked invasion of the sovereign nation of Ukraine..." [Statement of President Martha E. Pollack on War in Ukraine | Cornell Chronicle](#). However, President Pollack has yet to issue such a statement concerning the PRC's human rights violations, including those against the Uyghurs in Xinjiang, which the U.S. has described as genocide.
- As Cornell expands its international programs, faculty governance remains essential to protecting academic freedom. The proposed Faculty Senate resolution calls on the Cornell central administration to make every effort to ensure that academic freedom and freedom of speech are protected throughout the Global Hubs system. In addition, even if the central administration believes that it cannot publicly criticize political and civil repression and human rights violations in the PRC, through this proposed resolution, we in the Faculty Senate can and should take a stand.