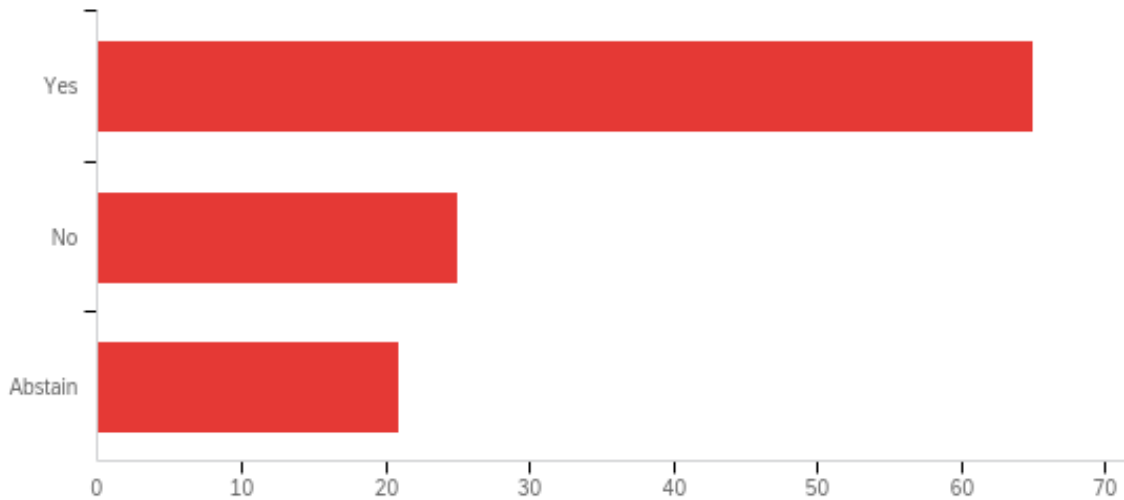


# Results

Senate Vote February 2023

**Q1 - Are you in favor of proposed resolution regarding Academic Freedom in Cornell Programs in China and other parts of the Global Hubs System?**



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Are you in favor of proposed resolution regarding Academic Freedom in Cornell Programs in China and other parts of the Global Hubs System?	1.00	3.00	1.60	0.79	0.62	111

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	58.56%	65
2	No	22.52%	25
3	Abstain	18.92%	21
	Total	100%	111

## Q12 - Comments

### Comments

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This is a really tough decision to vote no on this, especially given that I was a co-sponsor on this resolution. In principle, I fully support this resolution. When dealing with universities in countries with authoritarian regimes, Cornell should only do with eyes wide open. However, in speaking with my Chinese colleagues, I've come to realize that there is a potential for insult and creating a feeling of non-belonging at Cornell. Furthermore, it's important to realize that academics in China are not representatives Chinese government. As a result of this, I, and my department, can't support the resolution in its current form. However, I would be very happy to support a revised version of this resolution that does not call out any single nation.

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racist anti-china

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Global Hubs deserve more trust regarding how much they value freedom of speech in their work. Plus, singling out one country is exclusive, not inclusive. Unknown whether other countries will be targetted next if this resolution passes.

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The discussion at the Senate meeting on this resolution, regarding calling out China specifically and then being more broad in its scope to all of the Global Hubs system should continue.

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I like the sentiment of the resolution, which is about protecting academic freedom. But I disagree with some of the language, especially singling out China and making a political statement that may become more problematic than useful for the Global Hubs system. Therefore I vote "no", but I also encourage a re-write of the resolution that contains more useful language (i.e., language that's less political, doesn't single out China, and enables meaningful actions).

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I would be in favor of a resolution condemning locating hubs in countries with authoritarian regimes, but not calling out the PRC on its own. I would also be in favor of the Faculty Senate reviewing the location of all Hubs with the administration before moving ahead. There are other hub countries that could have provided incredible opportunities to students and faculty, that were suggested to the administration, and not followed up on (e.g. Armenia).

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While academic freedom and freedom of speech are cherished values -as they should be- it's also important to engage constructively with China on climate change -an existential threat that will cause great suffering- since the US and China are the biggest emitters. So while we denounce China's political, social, and cultural repression, we should also affirm we seek to engage with them on climate change at least at a university to university level.

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I am uncomfortable with the mix of language targeting China specifically with the broader language about academic freedom. I am also against the language that the university "should take all necessary steps to ensure that academic freedom...." because it's not at all clear to me what "all necessary steps" is supposed to entail.

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The first resolve clause singles out China rather than including other governments hostile to academic freedom. The last resolve clause endorses using "all necessary steps" without incorporating any sense of limitations on actions that might undermine the interests of the Faculty.

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I voted no because of the 5th clause. Cornell University central administration does not have the ability to regulate or govern nations.

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This resolution is poorly thought out, with consequences being not considered. Picking out a single country is hardly ever good idea. Resolution authors do not seem to understand purpose of Hubs.

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I am also in favor of continued engagement as a good approach for building strong relationships between nations and peoples.

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I think this resolution would have benefitted from a detailed background statement outlining the partnerships with China, when they began, as well as listing all of the countries with authoritarian regimes that the authors take issue with (facts to back up their claims, as well as not singling out one country). Are the authors opposed with any and all partnerships/collaborations with people in China and Chinese institutions? When I go to the Global Hubs website and click on China, I only see two partners listed, so I'm confused by the claim of "rapidly expanding" academic

programs in China. My vote of 'no,' is not because I support authoritarian regimes or am opposed to free speech or academic freedom, it is because I take issue with how the resolution is written (e.g., singling out China), and I don't think a clear, realistic proposed solution was presented. I felt Wendy Wolford's response was reasonable and reassuring.

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Sentiment on this resolution is split in my dept.

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Delete the gratuitous references to China, and I'd vote yes. I am appalled by many of China's actions, but calling them out specifically struck me as unnecessary and counterproductive. We are a university, not the spokesperson of a nation state.

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It is I think important to bear in mind that while we identify the PRC as an autocratic regime that is in flagrant violation of basic tenets of what we consider human rights as well as international law, there are other governments and countries that are also. And it is difficult to make judgements on the ethics of participation in programs from those countries. For example, I work with a Hong Kong Cornell program for graduate studies in biomedical science, and Hong Kong - despite its protestations - is part of PRC. I also work with the US-Israel Binational Science Foundation, and that country is also in violation of human rights and international law regarding seizure of land by war. But the people/scientists per se are not necessarily in support of their government's actions. If we wish to sustain credibility, then we should avoid being selective about just arbitrarily singling out only specific nations.

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I am abstaining even though I am fairly passionate on free speech, and view China, among several nations, as one of the worst in terms of human rights. We, as academicians, do a great job of finger pointing; we are experts. No one ever changes because someone pointed a finger at them. Change can occur from within, and I would hope that our representatives in China and other countries by their very nature exemplify aspects of a free society that cannot help but noticed by our hosts. For example, we do this very successfully here, where we manage to attract substantial "brainpower" from China in the form of students who ultimately decide to stay and become citizens. If we abrogated every joint program where our partners were not exemplary in behavior, our ability to nudge the world forward would suffer.

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I don't think we should single out China for criticism given that human rights violations occur in many countries. Also I think the resolution would not in fact encourage better behavior in China but rather lead to a harmful backlash.

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As the discussion noted, there is much more work to be done!

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Not useful to single out China. I'm worried our Chinese colleagues wouldn't support this, even in private.

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We have legislation on the books with regard to academic freedom, and I strongly support that. I also think that we can and should condemn China's actions in this area: harassment of scholars (worldwide), suppression of research results, dissemination of misinformation, and politization of academic discourse. Beyond that we have all the concerns around human rights, free speech by Chinese citizens, and so forth. But the resolution as written is inconsistent: is it intended as a statement about Cornell policy with regard to Cornell's global hubs, or is it a condemnation of China, or if both, in what specific sense can one resolution have these two distinct agendas? I cannot vote for a resolution that has such a confused purpose, even if I do support the underlying sentiment.

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I agree that 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 but not single out PRC.