

## U.A. Resolution # 5 Support for the Office of the University Ombudsman

March 24, 2015

1 **Sponsored by:** Matthew Battaglia, Undergraduate; Vice Chair, University Assembly

2  
3 **On behalf of:**

4 **The Entire University Assembly:** R. Adessa, S. Balik, J. Barnett, J. Batista, M. Battaglia,  
5 **J. Bergfalk, C. Best, J. Blair, R. Booker, J. Burns, M. Hatch, E. Johnston, N. La Celle,**  
6 **E. Loew, C. McGrath, G. Mezey, R. Walroth, R. Wayne.**

7  
8 **Whereas,** the Office of the University Ombudsman offers a unique setting where Cornell  
9 community members may talk about issues in an open and candid manner without fear of  
10 reprisal; a safe place where students, faculty and staff may speak confidentially about a conflict  
11 and obtain guidance; and a place where efforts are geared toward managing conflict, thereby  
12 improving student, faculty and staff life experience and the overall work environment, and

13  
14 **Whereas,** the Office of the University Ombudsman has been accomplishing that mission  
15 successfully since its founding in 1969, and

16  
17 **Whereas,** the Ombudsman's most recent annual report confirms the year-to-year trend that the  
18 number of visitors, that is the number of people helped, continues to increase, and

19  
20 **Whereas,** the Ombudsman's most recent annual report also confirms the average complexity and  
21 amount of time needed to support each case is constant or growing, and

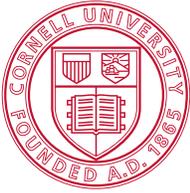
22  
23 **Whereas,** the Ombudsman's Office recently lost the services of the Assistant Ombudsman  
24 because the position could not be fully funded, and

25  
26 **Whereas,** the Ombudsman's Office recently gained a much-needed office manager, but that  
27 manager is not able to handle case loads, and

28  
29 **Whereas,** the Ombudsman's Office is funded directly by the Office of the President, and

30  
31 **Whereas,** because of confidentiality, no available statistics can adequately represent the  
32 tremendous financial value gained by the conflict resolution services and other guidance  
33 provided to the Cornell community by the Ombudsman's Office, therefore be it

34  
35 **Resolved,** that the University Assembly supports the creation, funding, and hiring of a new, full-  
36 time Assistant Ombudsman position, and



## Cornell University University Assembly

37

38 **Be it Further Resolved**, the University Assembly calls on President-elect Garrett to meet with  
39 the Ombudsman within her first six months in office with the express goal of understanding the  
40 vital role the University Ombudsman's Office performs at Cornell, and formally reviewing and  
41 considering the request to hiring a new, full-time Assistant Ombudsman, and

42

43 **Be it Finally Resolved**, that if a decision not to support and fund a new, full-time Assistant  
44 Ombudsman position is made, that the rationale be provided to the University Assembly so that  
45 the Assembly may, at its discretion, review the matter with the University President at an  
46 appropriate future date and time.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**James N. Blair**

Chair, University Assembly