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Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

1 S.A. Resolution #25
2 Expanding Ideological Diversity among Faculty Members

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4 ABSTRACT: The Student Assembly requests the Faculty Senate create an ad-hoc committee to
5 investigate ways to increase and improve faculty ideological diversity.

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8 **Sponsored by: Mitch McBride '17**

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10 **Whereas**, diversity, especially that of diversity of thought, is fundamental for an active learning environment
11 to prosper whereby information and ideas can be discussed and debated by people with different
12 perspectives and philosophies, especially conservative perspectives and philosophies,

13
14 **Whereas**, the Cornell Daily Sun reported that “of the nearly \$600,000 Cornell’s faculty that donated to
15 political candidates or parties in the past four years, over 96% has gone to fund Democratic
16 campaigns, while only 15 of the 323 donors have given to conservative causes,” thus showing, to at
17 least some substantial degree, that Cornell’s faculty are not politically diverse,

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19 **Whereas**, universities ought to maintain an environment where all feel welcomed and encouraged to present
20 their viewpoints in a community of tolerance (diverse faculty can also support diverse students),

21
22 **Whereas**, universities ought to be places where debate and dissent exists in order to ensure knowledge is
23 expanded,

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25 **Whereas**, students can create better arguments and challenge subtle assumptions when dealing with differing
26 viewpoints,

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28 **Whereas**, regardless of how one feels about the extent of the problem of faculty ideological diversity, there
29 should at least be a committee that actively looks into its extent and implications and ways to resolve
30 any negative effects that the lack of faculty diversity, especially that of philosophical diversity, may
31 create,

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33 **Be it therefore resolved**, the Student Assembly formally requests the Faculty Senate to take up the issue of
34 faculty ideological diversity as a critical step to long-term maintenance of high-quality education

35
36 **Be it further resolved**, the SA requests the Faculty Senate, in concert with the University’s Counsel Office,
37 create a task force to take up this issue and to accumulate data on ideological diversity to potentially identify key
areas where faculty diversity may be needed to improve academic pursuits of students and the university as a
whole, to later be used in a more extensive and comprehensive task force if deemed necessary to improve
academic discourse,

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40 **Be it finally resolved**, the SA requests that students have the opportunity to voice their input and
41 suggestions via positions on the task force,

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43 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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45 **Mitchell McBride '17**
46 *Vice President of Internal Operations, Student Assembly*

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48 *(Reviewed by: Academic Policy, (8-0-1), 2/5/2017)*

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