Mission & Vision

Workplace Culture

All members of the Cornell community are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the history, values, and vision of the university, which shapes our workplace culture.

Cornell University

Cornell is a private, Ivy League university and the land-grant university for New York State. Cornell's mission is to discover, preserve, and disseminate knowledge; produce creative work; and promote a culture of broad inquiry throughout and beyond the Cornell community. Cornell also aims, through public service, to enhance the lives and livelihoods of our students, the people of New York, and others around the world.

Cornell's vision is to be widely recognized as a top-ten research university in the world, and a model university for the interweaving of liberal education and fundamental knowledge with practical education and impact on societal and world problems.

Related:

- Cornell University’s Strategic Plan
- Cornell’s history as a land grant university

Governance

Cornell offers community members the opportunity to contribute to improving the university by actively participating in campus assemblies. The campus assemblies are university organizations chartered by the President of the university. They are established to serve as vehicles of communication between the administration of the university and the broader campus community affected by the institution’s practices and policies.

There are five assemblies, that represent the four major campus constituencies — undergraduate students, graduate & professional students, faculty, and staff — and an umbrella University Assembly in which all constituencies are represented.

The University Assembly deals with issues of common interest to all members of the Cornell community. It has specific responsibility over the Campus Code of Conduct and the Rules and Regulations for the Control of Traffic and Parking on the Grounds of Cornell University. The assembly is also a presumptive stakeholder in major university policy initiatives, including those governed by the university’s policy on formulation of policies.

The Student Assembly deals with quality of life issues for undergraduate students. The assembly has legislative authority over the policies of the Office of the Dean of Students and the Department of Campus Life, and establishes the undergraduate Student Activity Fee and guidelines for its distribution.
The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly represents the interest and concerns of this constituency, and establishes the graduate Student Activity Fee and guidelines for its distribution.

The Employee Assembly. Since 1980, the Employee Assembly has deliberated on issues of concern to all staff and has made recommendations to the administration on ways to improve the work environment at Cornell. The assembly makes recommendations to the appropriate university administrators concerning the university’s personnel policies and other university policies affecting the employment environment at Cornell.

The Faculty Senate is the governing body of the University Faculty. Constituency members are elected by the various schools of Hotel Administration, Industrial and Labor Relations, Management, and Law, and the academic departments within the other colleges in Ithaca and Geneva, and nine members are elected at-large by the University Faculty.

Related:
- Cornell Assemblies Website

Division of Human Resources

The Division of Human Resources fosters a safe, secure environment where the students, staff, and faculty of Cornell can learn, work and live as a community to advance the university's mission and purpose. Learn more about the Division of Human Resources.

Diversity

Cornell is committed to extending its legacy of recruiting a heterogeneous faculty, student body and staff; fostering a climate that doesn't just accommodate differences, but engages with them; and providing rich opportunities for learning from those differences. Toward New Destinations provides a broad institutional framework for diversity, asserting the centrality of diversity and inclusion to the university’s values and excellence. Learn more about diversity at Cornell.

Sustainability

Cornell University is a committed steward of the Earth and its people. From innovation to public engagement, Cornellians are balancing today’s economic, environmental, and social issues with related needs of the future. Learn how Cornell’s students, staff and faculty are cultivating collaboration, and acting as a premier hub for sustainability in operations, research, education, and engagement. Learn more about sustainability at Cornell.

Related:
- Guide to conserving energy in your office
- Guide to waste management in your office
- Guide to recycling in your office