

Faculty Senate

October 28, 2026

ALL IN-PERSON ATTENDEES PLEASE SIGN-IN ON ONE OF THE SHEETS

ALL ZOOM ATTENDEES PLEASE SIGN-IN VIA THE CHAT

SENATORS: Name and Department

FACULTY GUESTS: Name and Department

NON-FACULTY GUESTS: Name and Affiliation

PRESS: Name and Affiliation

Gayogóhó:nq' Land Acknowledgement

Cornell University is located on the traditional homelands of the Gayogóhó:nq' (the Cayuga Nation). The Gayogóhó:nq' are members of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, an alliance of six sovereign Nations with a historic and contemporary presence on this land. The Confederacy precedes the establishment of Cornell University, New York state, and the United States of America. We acknowledge the painful history of Gayogóhó:nq' dispossession and honor the ongoing connection of Gayogóhó:nq' people, past and present, to these lands and waters.

This land acknowledgment has been reviewed and approved by the traditional Gayogóhó:nq' leadership.

Approval of Zoom Transcription Minutes

October 14, 2026

Unanimous consent requested

Raise hand (in-person or remote) for corrections only

Review of debate ground rules and procedures

Chris B. Schaffer, Dean of Faculty, Chair of the University Faculty Committee

Rules of Engagement

HYBRID FORMAT

In-person and remote attendance

ZOOM CAPTIONING

Choose “Live Transcription” in the Zoom menu

TO SPEAK

2 minutes to pose a question or make a statement

Identify yourself: First name, Last name and Department

Order: Zoom first, Floor next, Back to Zoom, Back to Floor, etc.

CHAT

Want to attend to statements on the floor; set to everyone

Do not want to disadvantage in-person attendees

Limit chat to sharing resources with each other, published ‘as is’ publicly on DoF website

RECORDING

Started at 3:30PM, Video, audio, and chat posted publicly after the meeting

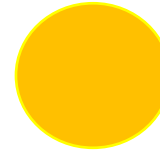
THREE MICROPHONES

And for in-person voting

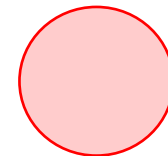
To ensure all perspectives are fairly represented and discussed (when needed)



in favor



Abstain/Neither in
favor or in opposition



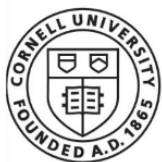
in opposition

Some (Simplified) Robert's Rules reminders

- Floor motion can be made by a Senator. If seconded, we begin debate of the motion.
- Motions we have received advance notice of:
 - Motion to commit – if successful, this sends a resolution back to a committee with instructions
 - Motion to amend in the nature of a substitute – if successful, this replaces the full text of the resolution
- Floor motions will be debated until debate comes to a natural end or motion to call the question succeeds.
 - A motion to call the question is not debatable, requires a 2/3 majority to pass, and would end debate.
- Once debate on a floor motion has ended, a simple majority vote will decide if the motion passes.
- Voting:
 - In person: Senators should have colored cards. Hold these up for Yes, No, and Abstain voting rounds.
 - Zoom: Senators should raise their hands for voting rounds. We will cross-check names against Senate rolls.
 - Be patient. Counting and tallying floor votes carefully will take us a few minutes.

Proposed resolution – Cornell Faculty Vote of No Confidence

Paul Ortiz, Senator and Professor of Labor History, ILR



Cornell University

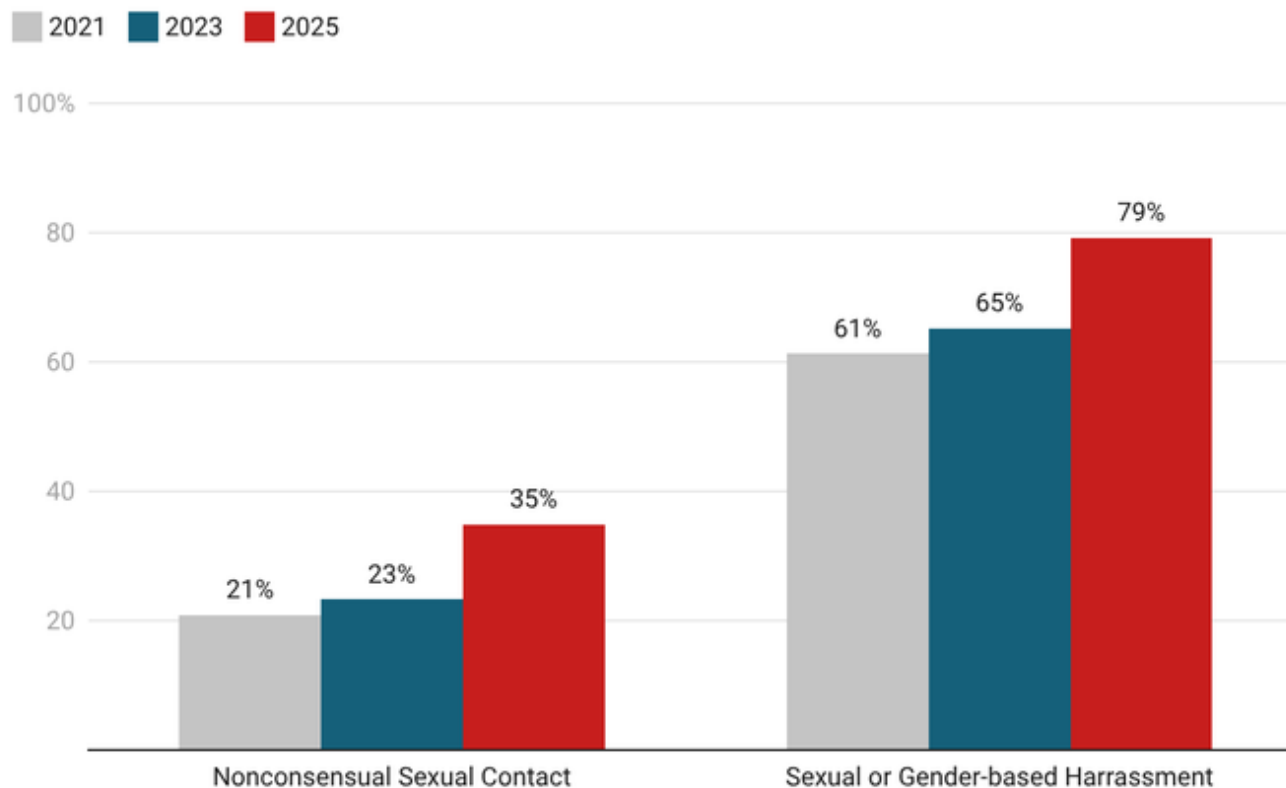
**Presidential Task Force on
Campus Sexual Assault**

**Final Report
March 10, 2026**

**Table 1: % Non-consensual sexual contact by survey year
(Cornell SARM Survey)**

	Undergraduate women	Undergraduate men
2015	23%	6%
2017	23%	7%
2019	27%	9%
2021	20%	6%
2023	23%	9%
2025	35%	8%
Mean	25%	8%

Percent of Undergraduate Women Who Have Experienced Nonconsensual Sexual Contact and Percent Who Have Experienced Any Sexual or Gender-based Harassment Since Starting at Cornell



Nonconsensual Sexual Contact Data from Survey Table F1. Any Sexual or Gender-based Harassment Data from Survey Table C1.

Source: Cornell University • Created with Datawrapper



PRESS RELEASE

Weill Cornell Medicine Resolves Criminal Investigation With Agreement To Maintain And Enhance Remedial Measures And Procedures To Prevent Sexual Abuse Of Patients

Monday, July 27, 2026

Share



For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of New York

Agreement Addresses Serious Control Failures That Enabled Patient Abuse. Weill Cornell Commits to Substantial Financial Investment, Continuous Monitoring, Establishment of Patient Empowerment Institute, and Self-Disclosure of Criminal Violations.

October 14, 2026

Samuel Mayer Nelson
Speaker of the Faculty Senate
Cornell University
snn33@cornell.edu

Chris B. Schaffer
Dean of Faculty
Cornell University
deanoffaculty@cornell.edu

Re: Information Relevant to the Faculty Senate's Deliberations

Dear Speaker Nelson and Dean Schaffer,

I am writing to share information that I believe may be relevant to the Faculty Senate as it deliberates a vote of no confidence in the University's administration.

I'm sharing a second-hand account with you. The then-President of the Cornell chapter of Tri Delta sorority had a conversation with President Kotlikoff shortly after my report of sexual assault to the University in November 2024. After the conversation she shared with me, with concern, that President Kotlikoff's initial response was along the lines of, "Why did she wait so long to report it?" She interpreted his question as an expression of doubt in the veracity of my story.

She said that other faculty or staff members were present during the conversation, although I do not know who they were. She indicated to me that at least one of them appeared distressed upon hearing the President's question, as if she (the faculty or staff member) thought the President's response was inappropriate.

When the then-Tri Delta President relayed this conversation to me, I felt unsupported and disbelieved by President Kotlikoff. It diminished my confidence in the administration's ability to approach my experience with the understanding, sensitivity, and fairness I had hoped for and expected from what had been my dream school.

I am sharing this account now because, to my knowledge, only a few individuals are aware of the conversation; I do not know if you or other members of the Faculty Senate are among them.

My intention is not to prescribe how the Senate should interpret this account, but rather to provide information that its members may wish to consider or investigate further. I would not want to withhold something potentially pertinent, only for Senate members to later discover that information relevant to their deliberations had not been made available to them.

It is important to me that the Faculty Senate be made aware of this letter so that its members can make an informed choice about how they wish to consider or act upon the information it contains.

I respectfully request that you confirm receipt of this letter with my attorney, Mr. Tom Guiffra.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jane Doe

Transmitted on my behalf by:
Thomas P. Giuffra (tgiuffra@Rheingoldlaw.com)
Rheingold, Giuffra, Ruffo, Plotkin & Hellman LLP

cc: Whitney Seals, Esq. (whitney@cochruseals.com)
Cochrun & Seals, LLC

Proposed Resolution: Cornell Faculty Vote of No Confidence

- **Resolved**: That the Faculty Senate has no confidence in the ability of the central administration to effectively address the ongoing crisis of sexual assault at Cornell University.
- **Statement Sent to the University Faculty Committee Explaining the Rationale for the Resolution of No Confidence:**
- The faculty co-sponsors of this resolution deliberated at great length on this resolution. As you may suspect, we were approached in our capacity as faculty senators by numerous Cornell colleagues demanding action. Many of these faculty—including myself—were approached by students at Cornell who are upset, fearful for their personal safety, and wanting our university to address the perennial problem of sexual assault on the campus. Cornell alumni, some of whom have shared their own traumatic stories as students, have also contacted faculty to share their frustrations about this matter. This is certainly a consequential moment in time for our campus!

Senate Q&A

Motion on the floor

Whereas: The rate of sexual assault on Cornell campuses is unacceptably high, and shows no sign of falling; and
Whereas: The faculty senate has identified key failings in Cornell's handling of sexual assaults on its campuses; and
Whereas: The faculty senate has the power to review and revise Cornell policy; and
Whereas: Numerous faculty senators have identified their inability to make meaningful changes to Cornell policy pertaining to sexual assault; and
Whereas: New voices are widely acknowledged as being able to bring fresh ideas and overcome roadblocks that have become ingrained into governing bodies; and
Whereas: Many among the faculty and student populations have said that it is imperative to hold those responsible for these failures to task via a vote of no confidence;
Be it resolved: The Cornell Faculty Senate declares no confidence in Faculty Senators who were seated prior to the 2026-2027 academic year; and
Be it further resolved that: The Cornell Faculty Senate will thus impose term limits upon all members; and
Be it further resolved that no senator who has served for six or more years (ie: two terms) shall be eligible to run for election to another term; and
Be it further resolved that in the case that all faculty members of a unit have served their maximum term in the Faculty Senate, each member shall be allowed to serve up to six years more than any other member of the unit.

Motion on the floor

Motion

We move to refer the resolution back to the University Faculty Committee (UFC), with instructions that the UFC return it to the Senate floor for discussion at the first regular Senate meeting following the public release of the Yates Report.

Rationale

Many faculty members have contacted us to say that a vote now would be premature, and that they need more information before deciding on the proposed resolution. Many have also expressed a concern that voting against the proposed resolution, with an understanding that it could be reintroduced when more information is available, might be misinterpreted as affirming support for the administration. To avoid this, we believe the right course is to refer the resolution back to the UFC until the Yates Report is released and faculty have had time to consider its findings and recommendations. Referral does not prejudice the merits of the proposed resolution.

Proposed resolution: A Sustained Faculty Commitment to Preventing Sexual Violence

UFC sponsored, presented by Adam T. Smith, Suzanne Charles, and Dan Buckley

UNIVERSITY FACULTY COMMITTEE · RESOLUTION TO THE FACULTY SENATE

A Sustained Faculty Commitment to Preventing Sexual Violence

October 28, 2026

deanoffaculty@cornell.edu

Three pillars of faculty action



Deep research

to find approaches that work

A faculty-led research center



Community engagement

so initiatives are shaped and adopted

A Joint Commission of the assemblies



Independent judgment

to assess whether programs are working

A standing Senate committee

See a fourth pillar, or a better way to build these three? **We want to hear it.**

A faculty-led research center

Standing and faculty-led

Working by Fall 2027

Funded at least five years

Grounded locally

Studies and acts in at Cornell so findings reach our policies quickly.

National reach

A trusted clearinghouse for data and research.

Built to last

New faculty hires, dedicated staff, and real resources.

Independent

Free to publish; reports regularly to the Senate and the community.

A Joint Commission on Sexual Violence

CO-CONVENED WITH

Student Assembly

Graduate and Professional Student
Assembly

Employee Assembly

University Assembly

Members appointed by each body

Builds on the Task Force

Extends its work and widens its reach into the community.

Sustained engagement

Draws ideas in and carries them out: surveys, forums, trainings, the assemblies.

Evaluates and recommends

Assesses what has been tried and proposes improvements through shared governance.

Open question on structure: alongside, or within, a relaunched Task Force.

Faculty Committee on Institutional Administration

An after-action review in service of shared governance.

Focused

Works on defined topics, not open-ended inquiry.

Advisory

Findings come to the Senate; action follows through ordinary resolutions.

Constructive

Helps the University get this right, with a sustained faculty voice.

FOCUS 1: IMPLEMENTATION

October 13 measures

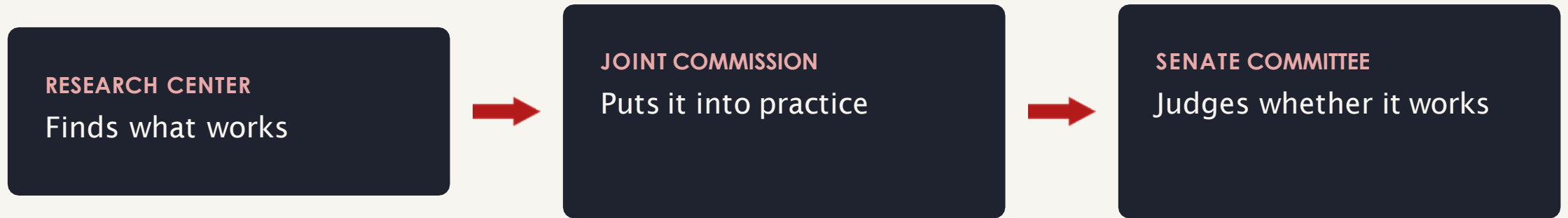
Task Force

Commission on Sexual Violence

Sally Yates investigation

Greek life review

Three structures, working together



RESOLUTION · A SUSTAINED FACULTY COMMITMENT TO PREVENTING SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Whereas sexual assault inflicts lasting harm on members of our community, and its persistence at Cornell constitutes a pressing crisis;

Whereas the scourge of sexual violence undermines our students' ability to learn and faculty members' ability to teach, striking at the heart of the University's educational mission; Whereas survivors, students, and members of the wider community have called on Cornell faculty to take sustained action to confront this crisis with the seriousness it demands;

Whereas Cornell educates leaders of the coming generation, and how the University meets this moment can demonstrate what a community owes to each of its members;

Whereas healing from sexual violence and rebuilding trust within the Cornell community will take time and require sustained opportunities for members to be heard, reflect together, and help shape the University's response;

Whereas the Faculty Senate's response to this crisis should draw on the faculty's capacity for rigorous inquiry, reasoned deliberation, and independent judgment to help all members of the Cornell community learn, teach, and work free from sexual violence;

RESOLUTION · A SUSTAINED FACULTY COMMITMENT TO PREVENTING SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Be it therefore resolved that the Senate recommends that the University establish a standing, faculty-led research center focused on sexual violence and its prevention, beginning work no later than the Fall 2027 semester with adequate funding for at least five years. It should be free to publish its findings and should report regularly to the Faculty Senate and the Cornell community.

Be it further resolved that the Faculty Senate shall invite the Student Assembly, Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, Employee Assembly, and University Assembly to co-convene a Joint Commission on Sexual Violence, composed of members appointed by each participating body. This Commission should build upon and extend the work of the Sexual Assault Task Force by engaging with the Cornell community in an ongoing dialogue aimed at identifying strategies for reducing rates of sexual misconduct on campus, evaluating the effectiveness of approaches that have been implemented, improving university systems to support survivors and respond to sexual assault, and fostering a vibrant social life free of sexual violence. The Commission shall make recommendations in support of shared governance for consideration by the various assemblies. The central administration shall provide adequate staffing and support for the Commission to conduct its work.

RESOLUTION · A SUSTAINED FACULTY COMMITMENT TO PREVENTING SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Be it further resolved that the Faculty Senate shall establish a standing Faculty Committee on Institutional Administration, composed of faculty appointed by the Nominations and Elections Committee with the concurrence of the Faculty Senate. The Committee shall review the effects of administrative policies and procedures, and provide the Senate with analysis, recommendations, and constructive criticism in support of shared governance. The committee will be empowered to evaluate, assess, and make proposals to enact positive change in our administrative policies and procedures for Senate consideration.

The Committee's initial focus shall be on the University's response to sexual violence, including:

- Implementation of the measures announced October 13, 2026;
- The University's response to the recommendations of the Sexual Assault Task Force and the Joint Commission, as well as to the findings and recommendations of the independent review led by Sally Yates;
- The review of Greek life, including criteria for whether, and under what conditions, suspended fraternity social activities may resume;
- Staffing and budgets for prevention and survivor support; and
- University investments in healthy spaces for student extracurricular activities, including ongoing planning for Collegetown's revitalization.

The Committee shall report regularly to the Faculty Senate.

Be it further resolved that the three entities established above, individually providing state of the art comparative national research, local engaged understanding, and considered judgement, shall work together to provide an integrated framework for addressing sexual assault on campus.

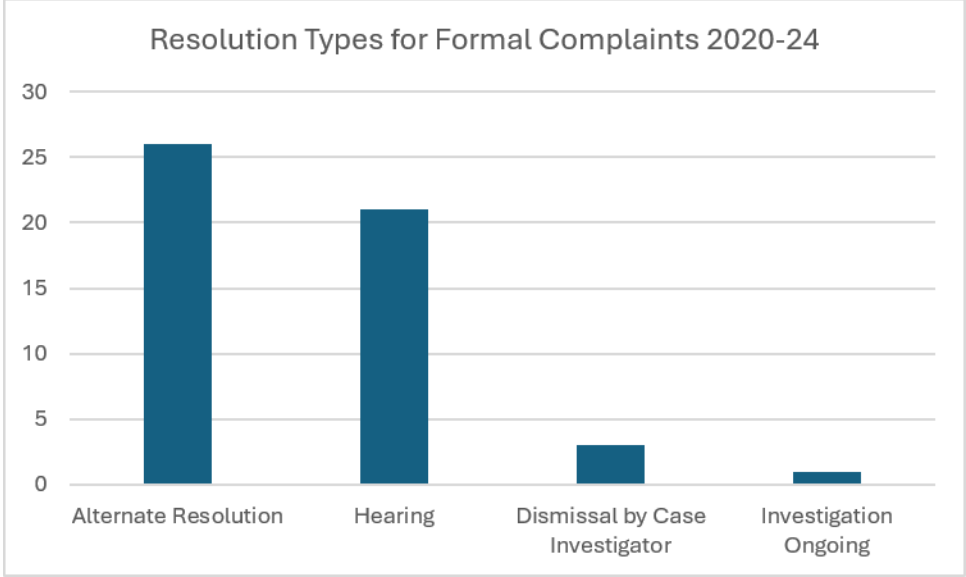
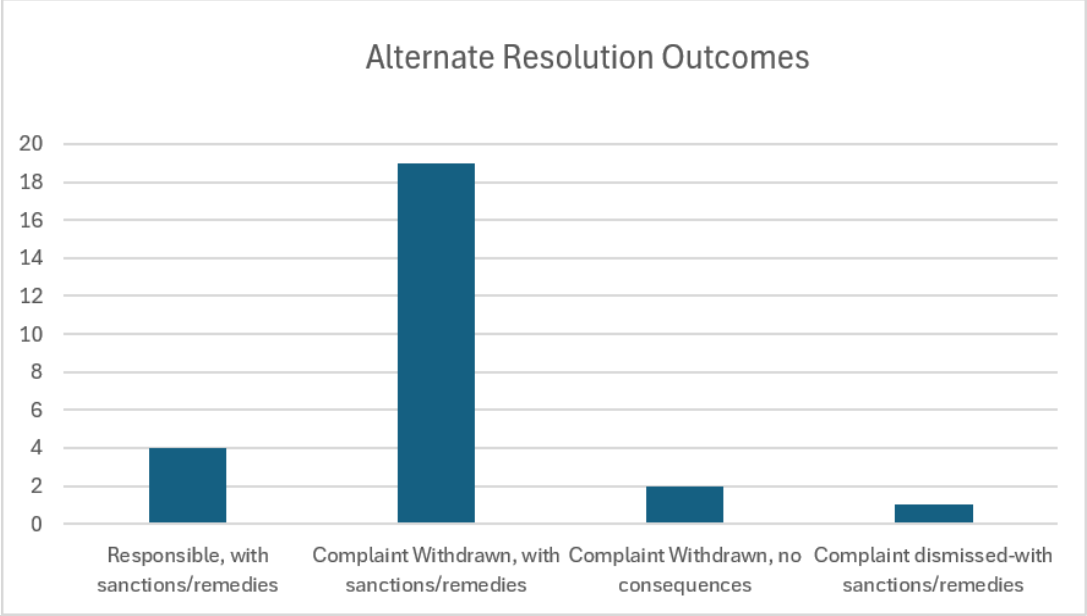
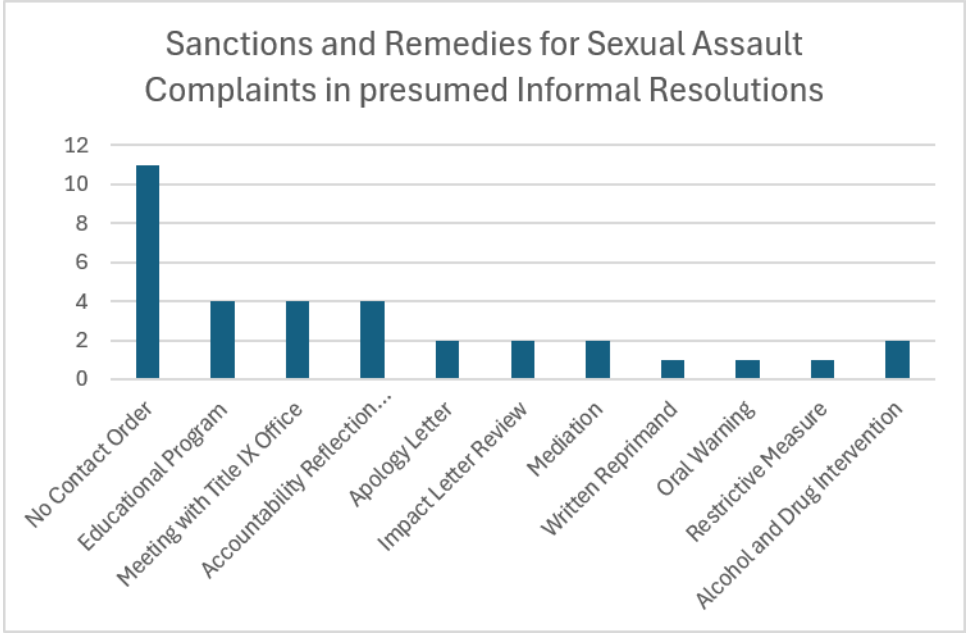
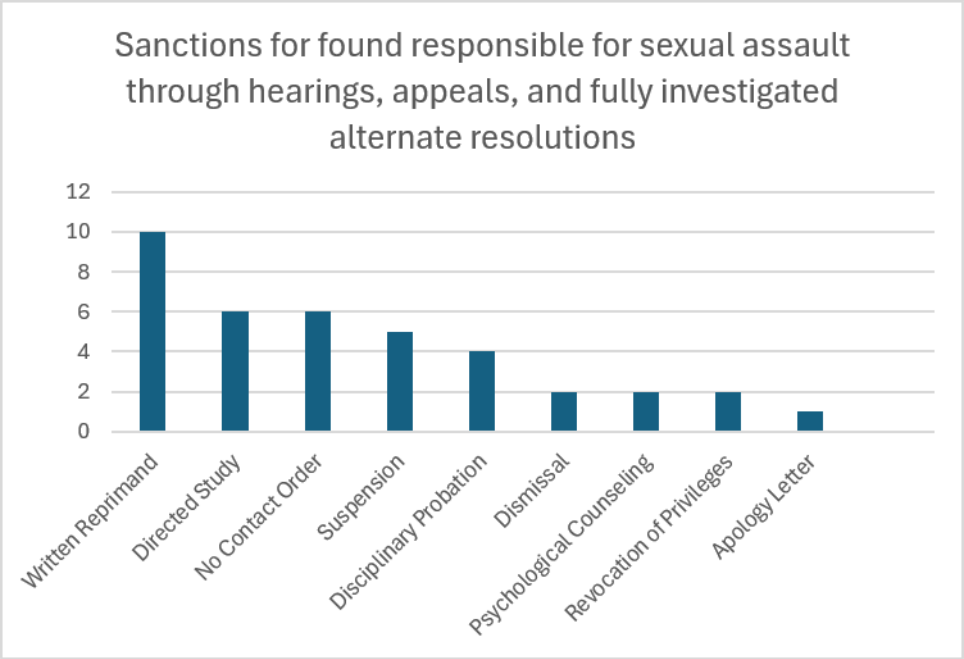
DISCUSSION

Questions & Amendments

Comment on the Senate's pending matters page, or write to: deanoffaculty@cornell.edu

Sponsored by the University Faculty Committee

Senate Q&A





Cornell University

FACULTY SENATE



Senators: Remember to grab a Senator poster or leave your campus address on the sign in sheet to have it sent campus mail.

#IAMYOURSENATOR