



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
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Dear Strategic Planning Committee,

We thank you for your work in publishing the first iteration of the Strategic Plan, and appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback. We laud the current strategic goals of maintaining educational excellence and diversity in its student body and faculty, enhancing excellence in research, scholarship and creativity, strengthening public engagement, and supporting and maintaining organizational structures and excellence in staff, all in support of academic excellence. However, we would like to voice our concern that you miss the opportunity to incorporate the importance of environmental sustainability in the draft outline of the Strategic Plan. In doing so, you fail to acknowledge how a commitment to environmental sustainability can enhance academic excellence at Cornell.

In 2004, President Lehman designated environmental sustainability as one of top three priorities emerging from a broad "call-to-engagement". The 2008 Strategic Plan mentioned environmental sustainability as an objective under Goal V, calling the university to "integrate values of sustainability into all aspects of campus operations". President Skorton has shown his commitment to leadership in environmental sustainability with the President's Climate Action Plan, and with the establishment of the Center for a Sustainable Future. Various colleges and departments have articulated environmental sustainability into their own plans. Cornell faculty, students and alumni are active in research and initiatives based upon efforts towards environmental sustainability.

The Strategic Plan provides an opportunity for Cornell to acknowledge and continue the progress made by Cornell leadership at all levels. We therefore urge that the strategic plan be amended to include "leadership and excellence in environmental sustainability" as an overarching goal for the university or that, in the same spirit, clearer environmental sustainability objectives be integrated into the strategic plan's existing overarching goals. Ultimately, this commitment to environmental sustainability will promote Cornell's commitment to academic excellence, as well as its core values, mission and vision for future.

Respectfully submitted,



The GPSA Ad-hoc Committee on Sustainability

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