

**Whereas** On October 13<sup>th</sup> the University Assembly held a meeting devoted to the consideration of the future of the University Child Care Center currently managed by Bright Horizons.

**Whereas** Presentations were made by the Assembly's Childcare Sub-committee, the Assembly's Family Services Committee, and members of the audience including the Co-chairs of the Senate's ad hoc committee on the child care center who advocated revoking the contract with Bright Horizons, and

**Whereas** Mary Opperman from Human Resources reported on the improvements in the conduct of the center as testified from polls of the parents and staff, and

**Whereas** a number of interested parents who had children at the center also expressed their satisfaction with the present operation of the center, and

**Whereas** the University Assembly has received a petition signed by 129 persons who are parents of children currently at the center opposing the motion of the Faculty Senate to terminate the contract with Bright Horizons, and

**Whereas** the University Assembly has received a petition signed by approximately 30 teachers and staff currently at the center opposing the motion of the Faculty Senate to terminate the contract with Bright Horizons, and

**Whereas** there appeared to be general agreement on the following points:

- 1.) The start-up phase of the Center was very problematic, the rapid-turnover of staff, the accumulation of a large number violations, and the disregard of parents' wishes by the several directors of the center being the major problems.
- 2.) Due to the intervention of Human Resources with financial and personnel support, the center has improved over the past year.
- 3.) There should be no lapse of services from the Child Care Center no matter what course of action is taken. And

**Whereas** The principal area of disagreement seem to be:

Is the acknowledged improvement of the Center sufficient to warrant the continued administration by Bright Horizons until the fulfillment of its five year contract with Cornell, or should their contract be terminated in the summer of 2011 and another provider be given the contract? And

**Recognizing** that there is serious disagreement between the course of action that should be taken with regard to the abridgement of the contract of Bright Horizons between the ad hoc Senate committee and the University Assembly's Family Services Committee and

their subcommittee on the one hand, and on the parents of children currently at Bright Horizons and the staff of Bright Horizons on the other hand. And,

**Recognizing** That all parties wish to have a premier child care center at Cornell University, and that such a center is desired by student, staff and faculty families and is a hallmark of our great university, and

**Recognizing and Appreciating** the work of the Senate and University Assembly committees have done in bringing this matter before the Assembly, and commending the actions taken by Human Resources in improving Bright Horizon's operation of the child care center, and

**In view of** the significant support of the positive changes in the conduct of the Bright Horizons Child Care Center by the parents of children currently at the center,

**Be it resolved that:**

I) The University Assembly recommends to the President that the contract with Bright Horizons be continued until the normal termination of its contract.

II) Any committee or board charged to work with Bright Horizons or childcare goals at the university includes representatives of each constituency of the University Assembly.

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