

CHARTER OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY

AS AMENDED THROUGH MARCH 30, 2012

The original Charter of Cornell University was granted by action of the New York State Legislature, being Chapter 585 of the Laws of 1865. It became effective April 27, 1865. As amended by further legislative enactment over the years, the University's Charter now appears in the Consolidated New York Education Law as Article 115 thereof (sections 5701 through 5716).

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§5701. CORNELL UNIVERSITY CONTINUED

The corporation known as Cornell university, located at Ithaca, is continued with all the rights, and subject to all the liabilities contained in the act of incorporation, being chapter five hundred eighty-five of the laws of eighteen hundred sixty-five, as amended.

§5702. OBJECTS AND POWERS OF THE CORPORATION

The leading object of said corporation shall be to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, including military tactics, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life. But such other branches of science and knowledge may be embraced in the plan of instruction and investigation pertaining to the university as the trustees may deem useful and proper. Said university is authorized to establish faculties, departments and branches and carry on its work at any places in this state and to confer any and all literary, scientific, technical and professional degrees, and in testimony thereof award certificates and diplomas. Persons of every religious denomination, or of no religious denomination, shall be equally eligible to all offices and appointments.

§5703. TRUSTEES

1. Appointment and election. The board of trustees of Cornell university shall be constituted as follows:

a. Ex officio trustees. The governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly and the president of the university shall be ex officio trustees during their respective terms of office.

b. One life trustee. The eldest lineal descendant of Ezra Cornell shall be a trustee for his or her life.

c. Appointed trustees. The governor shall appoint, subject to confirmation by the senate, three trustees, one each year for a term of three years, commencing on the first day of July.

d. Board trustees. Fifty-six trustees shall be selected in such manner and for such terms as the board of trustees may determine. At all times, such board trustees shall include at least: two members from each of the fields of agriculture, business and labor in New York state; eight trustees to be elected from among and by the alumni of the university; two trustees to be elected from among and by the faculty of the university at Ithaca and Geneva; two trustees to be elected from among and by the membership of the

university's student body at Ithaca; and one trustee to be elected from among and by the nonacademic staff and employees of the university at Ithaca and Geneva.

2. General provisions.

a. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other general or specific statute the minimum age for membership on the board of trustees shall be eighteen years.

b. The presence of thirty trustees at a meeting duly called in accordance with said university's bylaws shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

§5704. TRUSTEES SHALL MAKE REPORTS; UNIVERSITY SUBJECT TO VISITATION OF REGENTS

1. The trustees of said university shall make all the reports and perform such other acts as may be necessary to conform to the act of congress, entitled "An act donating public lands to the several states and territories which may provide colleges for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts," approved July second, eighteen hundred sixty-two. The said university shall be subject to visitation of the regents of the university.

2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, and subject to the review and approval of the state comptroller, the state may enter into an agreement with the university prescribing the general terms and conditions for providing services or technical assistance pursuant to article eleven of the state finance law or program activities pursuant to article eleven-B of the state finance law. Subject to such terms and conditions, state agencies may enter into agreements with said university for the provision of such services, assistance or activities related to the university's land grant mission, which agreements shall not be subject to the requirements of the state finance law.

§5705. EXTENT TO WHICH PROPERTY MAY BE HELD

The said corporation may take and hold real and personal property to such an amount as may be or become necessary for the proper conduct and support of the several departments of education heretofore established or hereafter to be established by its board of trustees, and such real and personal property as has been, or may hereafter be given to said corporation by gift, grant, devise or bequest in trust or otherwise, for the use and purposes permitted by its charter, and in cases of trusts so created, the several trust estates shall be kept distinct, and the interest or income shall be faithfully applied to the purposes of such respective trusts, in accordance with the provisions of the acts or instruments by which the respective trusts were created.

§5706. RESTRICTIONS ON ALIENATION OF PROPERTY

That portion of said university grounds, which was the original gift of about two hundred acres of land made by Ezra Cornell and at that time located in the town of Ithaca in the county of Tompkins, shall not be encumbered, aliened or otherwise disposed of by the said trustees, or by any other person, except on terms such as the legislature of the state of New York shall have approved, and any act of the said trustees, or that of any other person which shall have that effect, shall be void; except, that Cornell university is hereby authorized to mortgage, or convey such part of the aforesaid lands of said university as it may deem necessary to enable it to obtain needed loans, advances, or financing for the construction of a housing unit including all necessary and usual attendant and related facilities and equipment erected for the use of students, an academic building, library, laboratory, classroom or other building or structure essential, necessary or useful, for instruction in the academic program upon the following terms:

(1) Such loans, advances or financing shall be obtained from or through the dormitory authority of the state of New York, or from or through the housing and home finance agency or from such other New York state or federal agency or agencies as are now, or as may be, engaged in constructing or financing the construction, acquisition, alteration, or improvement of such educational or attendant facilities above described. Such construction may be conducted by the said university or by the governmental agency involved in such financing as may be agreed upon.

(2) Any conveyance of the title of any part of the aforesaid lands shall provide that the title to said lands shall revert to Cornell university upon payment of the principal and interest of such loan, advance, or financing secured by said conveyance and the satisfaction of all its obligations thereunder, and upon such payment and satisfaction the said lands, so conveyed shall revert to and again become the property of the university with such title as it had before such conveyance.

§5707. EXTENT OF FARM AND GROUNDS

The farm and grounds occupied by said corporation, whereupon its buildings are erected, or shall be erected in such manner and to such extent as the trustees may from time to time direct and provide for, shall consist of not less than two hundred acres.

§5708. POWERS TO POLICE GROUNDS AND REGULATE TRAFFIC THEREON

1. For the purpose of providing for the safety of its students, faculty, employees and visitors, Cornell university is hereby authorized and empowered through its board of trustees:

a. To adopt, make applicable and enforce, upon the streets, roads and highways owned, controlled or maintained by said university within the grounds of said university and constituting a part of the educational and research plant or plants owned or under the supervision, administration, and control of said university, such provisions of the vehicle and traffic law, and such rules of the state department of transportation as control or regulate vehicular or pedestrian traffic, and parking.

b. To adopt and enforce such additional rules and regulations for the control of the use of the streets and roads described in the foregoing subdivision as local authorities are empowered to adopt and enforce pursuant to said vehicle and traffic law.

c. To adopt and enforce rules and regulations not inconsistent with law, controlling parking of vehicles and pedestrian traffic over, along and upon the lands and premises of said university or the streets and highways therein, and to control or prohibit thereon or therein vending, hawking, loitering and trespassing.

d. To erect, operate and maintain at the entrance or entrances to any such grounds and at other appropriate points thereon or therein control lights, signs and signals.

2. A violation of any section of the vehicle and traffic law or of any rule of the state department of transportation made applicable as provided in paragraph a of subdivision one hereof, shall be a misdemeanor or traffic infraction as designated in such law or rules as the case may be, and punishable as therein provided, and any violation of a rule or regulation adopted under paragraph b of subdivision one hereof shall be a traffic infraction and punishable as provided in the state vehicle and traffic law.

3. A violation of any rules or regulations of the university adopted pursuant to paragraph c of subdivision one of this section, shall constitute a misdemeanor punishable by fine not exceeding fifty dollars or by imprisonment not exceeding six months, or both.

4. Notice of any such laws or rules and regulations made applicable or adopted as hereinbefore provided shall be given either personally or by reasonable notice conspicuously posted on the said lands and premises, or by traffic sign, signal or device, and by filing a copy of all such laws, rules and regulations, and amendments thereof from time to time, in the office of the clerk of the city, town, or village where they are to be enforced. Such laws, rules and regulations shall be enforced, and violations thereof shall be punishable in any court having jurisdiction in the territory in which such violations shall occur.

§5709. SPECIAL DEPUTY SHERIFFS; POWERS AND DUTIES

1. For the protection of the grounds, buildings and property of Cornell university and of the state institutions and property, or other lands and property under the supervision, administration and control of said university, and for the prevention of crime and the enforcement of law and order, and for the enforcement of such rules and regulations as the board of trustees of Cornell university shall from time to time make, as authorized in section fifty seven hundred eight of this chapter or otherwise, the sheriff of a county within which any part of the grounds of Cornell university or the grounds of any state institution constituting a part of the educational and research plants, owned or under the supervision, administration or control of said university, are located, shall appoint and remove at the request of Cornell university such number of special deputy sheriffs as shall be recommended by the president of Cornell university, such appointments to be made from persons nominated by the president of Cornell university, and such special deputy sheriffs shall act only within the county of the sheriff making the appointment. Such special deputy sheriffs so appointed shall be employees of the university and subject to its supervision and control and shall have the powers of peace officers as set forth in section 2.20 of the criminal procedure law within the said grounds or premises owned or administered by Cornell university including any public highway which crosses or adjoins such property. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to prohibit any special deputy sheriff appointed as herein provided from holding an appointment in more than one county at one and the same time.

2. Every special deputy sheriff so appointed shall, before entering upon the duties of his office, take and subscribe the oath of office prescribed by article thirteen of the constitution of the state of New York, which oath shall be filed in the office of the county clerk of the county in which the grounds, lands and premises in which he is to be employed is situate. Every special deputy sheriff appointed under this section when on regular duty shall wear conspicuously a metallic shield with a designating number and the words "Special Deputy Sheriff Cornell University" thereon. The compensation, if any, of such special deputy sheriff shall be paid by Cornell university or by the state of New York if so provided by law.

§5711. NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

1. The state veterinary college, established by chapter one hundred fifty-three of the laws of eighteen hundred ninety-four, shall hereafter be known as the New York state college of veterinary medicine at Cornell university, and shall continue to be under the supervision of the state university trustees. The object of said college of veterinary medicine shall be: To give instruction in the normal structure and function of the animal body, in the pathology, prevention and treatment of animal diseases, and in all matters pertaining to biomedical science as applied to animals and correlatively to the human family; and to conduct investigations as to the nature, prevention and cure of all diseases of animals, including such as are communicable to man and such as cause epizootics among animals; and to investigate the economic questions which will contribute to the more profitable breeding, rearing and utilization of animals.

2. All buildings, furniture, apparatus and other property heretofore or hereafter erected or furnished by the state for such college of veterinary medicine shall be and remain the property of the state. The Cornell university shall have the custody and control of said property, and, as the representative of the state university trustees, shall, with whatever state moneys may be received for the purpose, administer the said college of veterinary medicine as to the establishment of courses of study, the creation of department and positions, the determination of the number and salaries of members of the faculty and other employees thereof, the appointment and employment thereof, the maintenance of discipline and as to all matters, pertaining to its educational policies, activities and operations, including research work.

3. The state university trustees shall maintain general supervision over the requests for appropriations, budgets, estimates and expenditures of such college. Cornell university shall receive no income, profit or compensation for the exercise and performance of the powers and duties conferred and imposed by this section, but all moneys received from state appropriations for the said college of veterinary medicine or derived from other sources in the course of the administration thereof, shall be kept by said university in a separate fund from the moneys of the university, and shall be used exclusively for said New York state college of veterinary medicine. Such moneys as may be appropriated to be paid to the Cornell university by the state in any year, to be expended by said university in the administration of said college of veterinary medicine, shall be payable to the treasurer of Cornell university in three equal payments to be made on the first day of October, the first day of January, and the first day of April in such year, and shall be expended upon vouchers approved by the chancellor of the state university, as the chief administrative officer of the state university, or by such authority or authorities in the state university as shall be designated by the chancellor by a rule or written direction filed with the comptroller, when and in the manner authorized by the state university trustees.

4. The said university shall expend such moneys and use such property of the state in administering said college of veterinary medicine, and shall submit to the state university trustees during the month of September in each year, a detailed statement of such expenditures and of the general operations of the said college of veterinary medicine.

5. The tuition fees charged to students shall be regulated by Cornell university after consultation with the state university trustees and all other fees and charges in said college of veterinary medicine shall be fixed by Cornell university, and the moneys so received shall be expended for the current expenses of the said college of veterinary medicine.

§5712. NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES

1. The state college of agriculture, established by chapter six hundred fifty-five of the laws of nineteen hundred four, shall hereafter be known as the New York state college of agriculture and life sciences at Cornell university and shall continue to be under the supervision of the state university trustees. The object of said college of agriculture and life sciences shall be to improve the agricultural methods of the state, to develop the agricultural resources of the state in the production of crops of all kinds, in the rearing and breeding of livestock, in the manufacture of dairy and other products in determining better methods of handling and marketing such products, and in other ways; and to increase intelligence and elevate the standards of living in the rural districts. For the attainment of these objects the college is authorized to give instruction in the sciences, arts and practices relating thereto, in such courses and in such manner as shall best serve the interests of the state; to conduct extension work in disseminating agricultural knowledge throughout the state by means of experiments and demonstrations on farms and gardens, investigations of the economic and social status of agriculture, lectures, publication of bulletins and reports, and in such other ways as may be deemed advisable in the furtherance of the aforesaid objects; to make researches in the physical, chemical, biological and other problems of agriculture, the application of such investigations to the agriculture of New York, and the publication of the results thereof.

2. All building, furniture, apparatus and other property heretofore or hereafter erected or furnished by the state for such college of agriculture and life sciences shall be and remain the property of the state. The Cornell university shall have the custody and control of said property, and, as the representative of the state university trustees, shall, with whatever state moneys may be received for the purpose, administer the said college of agriculture and life sciences as to the establishment of courses of study, the creation of departments and positions, the determination of the number and salaries of members of the faculty and other employees thereof, the appointment and employment thereof, the maintenance of discipline and as to all other matters pertaining to its educational policies, activities and operations, including research work.

3. The state university trustees shall maintain general supervision over the requests for appropriations, budgets, estimates and expenditures of such college. Cornell university shall receive no income, profit or compensation for the exercise and performance of the powers and duties conferred and imposed by this section, but all moneys received from state appropriations for the said college of agriculture and life sciences or derived from other sources in the course of the administration thereof, shall be credited by said university to a separate fund, and shall be used exclusively for said New York state college of agriculture and life sciences. Such moneys as may be appropriated to be paid to the Cornell university by the state in any year, to be expended by said university in the administration of said college of agriculture and life sciences, shall be payable to the treasurer of Cornell university in three equal payments to be made on the first day of October, the first day of January, and the first day of April in such year, and shall be expended upon vouchers approved by the chancellor of the state university, as the chief administrative officer of the state university, or by such authority

or authorities in the state university as shall be designated by the chancellor by a rule or written direction filed with the comptroller, when and in the manner authorized by the state university trustees.

4. The said university shall expend such moneys and use such property of the state in administering said college of agriculture and life sciences as above provided, and shall submit to the state university trustees during the month of September in each year, a detailed statement of such expenditures and of the general operations of the said college of agriculture and life sciences.

5. The tuition fees charged to students shall be regulated by Cornell university after prior consultation with the state university trustees and all other fees and charges in said college of agriculture and life sciences shall be fixed by Cornell university, and the moneys received from these sources and from the sales of products shall be credited to a separate fund and shall be used for the current expenses of the said college of agriculture and life sciences.

6. There shall be established in said college of agriculture and life sciences courses of instruction in the fundamentals, theory and practice of nursery work, including the propagation and growth of nursery stock, and in gardening and planting.

§5713. NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

1. The institution known as the New York agricultural experiment station, located in the city of Geneva, for the purposes of promoting agriculture in its various branches by scientific investigation and experiment, established by chapter five hundred ninety-two of the laws of eighteen hundred eighty, shall continue to be controlled and managed by Cornell university under the supervision of the state university trustees. Said station shall be managed, controlled and administered by Cornell university, as the representative of the state university trustees, in the manner and with the powers provided by section fifty-seven hundred twelve of this chapter. Cornell university shall have the power to appoint a director and such other scientific and expert workers and employees deemed necessary to accomplish the objects of such experiment station. In such station, said university shall, besides conducting experiments for the promotion of agricultural science, perform and report to the commissioner of agriculture and markets such analyses and other scientific work as such commissioner may request and consider to be necessary for the administration of the provisions of the agriculture and markets law. The salaries and other expenses incurred by reason of such analyses and other scientific service shall be paid from funds appropriated for such purposes.

2. Cornell university is hereby authorized and empowered to publish from time to time bulletins giving information of the results of analyses made at such station of any commodity or substance analyzed thereat and may in like manner publish bulletins containing the results of such analyses heretofore made and unpublished.

3. In addition to the number of copies otherwise required by law, the commissioner of agriculture and markets may, with the approval of the governor, cause to be printed by the state printer such number of copies of any report of such station heretofore or hereafter made as he deems sufficient to meet the public demand therefor. The expense of printing such copies shall be paid out of the appropriation for legislative printing, as provided by law. Such copies shall be delivered to such commissioner and sold by him to the public at the actual cost thereof as determined by the comptroller.

4. The Cornell university is hereby designated as the institution within this state entitled to receive the benefits of the act of congress of the United States, approved March second, eighteen hundred eighty-seven, entitled "An act to establish agricultural experiment stations in connection with colleges established in the several states, under the provision of an act approved July second eighteen hundred and sixty-two, and of the acts supplementary thereto." Such benefits of such act which this state is authorized thereby to apply to any college, institution or agricultural experiment station within this state are applied to Cornell university and this state consents that such appropriation, money, or benefits to or for the use of this state, or of any institution within this state, payable under or in pursuance of such act of congress, shall be paid to the treasurer of Cornell university who is the officer designated to receive the same, to be used by Cornell university in such proportion that nine-tenths thereof shall be applied to the use of the New York state college of agricultural and life sciences and one-tenth thereof to the New York state agricultural experiment station at Geneva. Such moneys shall be expended as provided in such act of congress. The department of taxation and finance shall keep an account of all moneys received by it in pursuance of such act of congress in a separate fund to the credit of the Cornell university and shall pay all moneys immediately upon receipt thereof by it to the treasurer of such university, upon the warrant of the comptroller issued upon the order of the said university.

§5714 NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF HUMAN ECOLOGY

1. The school of home economics heretofore administered and maintained in the New York state college of agriculture at Cornell university shall hereafter be known as the New York state college of human ecology at Cornell university and shall continue to be under the management and control of said university, subject to the supervision of the state university trustees.

2. The object of said college of human ecology shall be the improvement of family well-being and human welfare by means of education, research, extension teaching, and related public service in the fields of human development and the use of human and environmental resources, including consumer economics, family relationships, human nutrition, household design, and allied subjects.

3. All buildings, furniture, apparatus, and other property heretofore erected or furnished by the state for the said college of human ecology, and all buildings, furniture, apparatus, and other property hereafter erected or furnished by the state for said college of human ecology shall be and remain the property of the state. The Cornell university shall have the custody and control of said property, and shall, as the representative of the state university trustees, with whatever state moneys may be received for the purpose, administer the said college of human ecology as to the establishment of courses of study, the creation of departments and positions, the determination of the number and salaries of members of the faculty and other employees thereof, the employment and appointment thereof, the maintenance of discipline and as to all matters pertaining to its educational policies, activities and operations, including research work.

4. The state university trustees shall maintain general supervision over the requests for appropriations, budgets, estimates, and expenditures of such college. Cornell university shall receive no income, profit, or compensation for the exercise and performance of the powers and duties conferred and imposed by this section, but all moneys received from state appropriations for said college of human ecology or derived from other sources in the course of the administration thereof shall be credited by said university to a separate fund and shall be used exclusively for said New York state college of human ecology. Such moneys as may be appropriated to be paid to the Cornell university by the state in any year to be expended by said university in the administration of said college of human ecology shall be payable to the comptroller of Cornell university in three equal payments to be made on the first day of July, the first day of November, and the first day of March, and shall be expended upon vouchers approved by the chancellor of the state university, as the chief administrative officer of the state university, or by such authority or authorities in the state university as shall be designated by the chancellor by a rule or written direction filed with the comptroller, when and in the manner authorized by the state university trustees.

5. The said university shall expend such moneys and use such property of the state in administering said college of human ecology as above provided, and shall report to the state university trustees during the month of September in each year.

6. The tuition fees charged to students shall be regulated by Cornell university after prior consultation with the state university trustees and all other fees and charges in said college of human ecology shall be fixed by Cornell university, and the moneys received from these sources and from the sales of products shall be credited to a separate fund and shall be used for the expenses of said college of human ecology in such ways as the trustees of said university may determine.

§5715. NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL OF INDUSTRIAL AND LABOR RELATIONS

1. Findings. It is necessary that understanding of industrial and labor relations be advanced; that more effective cooperation among employers and employees and more general recognition of their mutual rights, obligations and duties under the laws pertaining to industrial and labor relations in New York state be achieved; that means for encouraging the growth of mutual respect and greater responsibility on the part of both employers and employees be developed; and that industrial efficiency through the analysis of problems relating to employment be improved.

2. Policy. In the interpretation and application of this section, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the state to provide facilities for instruction and research in the field of industrial and labor relations through the maintenance of a school of industrial and labor relations.

3. School continued. The New York state school of industrial and labor relations, heretofore established by chapter one hundred sixty-two of the laws of nineteen hundred forty-four, is hereby continued in the state university, at Cornell university in the city of Ithaca.

4. Object of school. The object of such school shall be to improve industrial and labor conditions in the state through the provision of instruction, the conduct of research, and the dissemination of information in all aspects of industrial, labor, and public relations, affecting employers and employees.

5. Property of school. All lands, buildings, furniture, apparatus, and other property heretofore or hereafter erected or furnished by the state for the said school of industrial and labor relations shall be and remain the property of the state, and shall be in the custody and under the control of Cornell university, as the representative of the state university trustees.

6. Control and operation.

a. Subject to appropriations by the state therefore, Cornell university, as the representative of the state university trustees, shall administer the New York state school of industrial and labor relations as to the establishment of courses of study, the creation of departments and positions, the determination of the number and salaries of members of the faculty and other employees thereof, the appointment and employment thereof, the maintenance of discipline and as to all other matters pertaining to its educational policies, activities and operations, including research work and the dissemination of information in all aspects of industrial, labor, and public relations, affecting employers and employees. The state university trustees shall maintain general supervision over such school.

b. The tuition fees charged to students shall be regulated by Cornell university after prior consultation with the state university trustees and all other fees and charges in such school shall be fixed by Cornell university.

c. Cornell university shall receive no income, profit or compensation for the exercise and performance of the powers and duties conferred and imposed by this section in connection with such school. All moneys received by such university in the course of the administration of such school from tuition, fees and other charges shall be used exclusively for such school. Money appropriated by the state for such school shall be payable from the state treasury upon the audit and warrant of the comptroller upon vouchers approved by the chancellor of the state university, as the chief administrative officer of the state university, or by such authority or authorities in the state university as shall be designated by the chancellor by a rule or written direction filed with the comptroller, when and in the manner authorized by the state university trustees.

§5716. ACQUISITION BY THE STATE OF LAND AND INTERESTS IN LAND OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY UPON WHICH BUILDINGS HAVE HERETOFORE OR MAY HEREAFTER BE ERECTED BY THE STATE

Notwithstanding the provisions of section fifty-seven hundred and six of this chapter, any lands owned by Cornell university upon which buildings have been heretofore or may hereafter be erected by the state for the purpose of any college, school or experiment station provided for in this article, together with such additional contiguous lands as may be deemed appropriate or needful to the purposes of any such college, school or experiment station, with such rights of way, for purposes of ingress and egress thereto and therefrom or for other purposes over other lands of Cornell university, as may be deemed necessary, may be conveyed by Cornell university to the people of the state, without consideration, pursuant to such agreement or agreements therefor as may be made between Cornell university and, with the approval of the director of the budget, the trustees of the state university of New York, acting for and on behalf of the people of the state. Any such conveyance may be made upon such terms and conditions, including conditions precedent or conditions subsequent with provision of reverter and right of re-entry upon breach thereof, as may be provided for by any such agreement. All such agreements shall be in writing and shall be approved as to form and manner of execution by the attorney-general before they shall become binding on the state. No conveyance authorized herein shall be accepted on behalf of the state unless the title to the property conveyed shall be approved by the attorney-general and the deed of conveyance approved as to form and manner of execution by him.