

Resolution to extend the postdoctoral term limit to 5 years on the Cornell-Ithaca campus

Submitted by: Andrew H. Bass, Professor of Neurobiology and Behavior and Associate Vice Provost for Research

Whereas the postdoctoral term limit at Cornell-Ithaca is 3 years

Whereas, in the spirit of “one Cornell”, the postdoctoral term limit at Weill-Cornell Medical College is 5 years

Whereas the term limit of a postdoctoral associate is at least 5 years at several other institutions including Brown, Columbia, Dartmouth, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Memorial Sloan Kettering, Michigan State, MIT, NYU, Rockefeller, University of Illinois, University of Pennsylvania, Washington University, and Yale

Whereas the Life Science Advisory Council (LSAC) that represents a diverse group of faculty from the life sciences, physical sciences and engineering , “unanimously supports an increase in the postdoctoral term limit to a minimum of 5 years” (from LSAC letter of June 9, 2010 sent to Robert Buhrman, Senior Vice Provost for Research and Andrew Bass, Associate Vice Provost for Research)

Whereas Christina Holmes, Director of the Office of Postdoctoral Studies at Cornell-Ithaca, and the postdoctoral associates that she meets with monthly, support an increase in the postdoctoral term limit to 5 years

Whereas, as confirmed by Mary Opperman, Vice President for Human Resources, the benefits that postdoctoral associates currently receive are the same as all staff and faculty at Cornell, it would not be a detriment for them to stay under the postdoctoral title for a total of 5 years

Whereas all of the Academic Deans unanimously support an increase in the postdoctoral term limit to 5 years

Therefore be it resolved that the senate recommends that the postdoctoral term limit at Cornell-Ithaca be extended from 3 to 5 years.