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**CBAA**  
CORNELL BLACK ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

July 16, 2012

Kent Fuchs  
Provost  
Office of the Provost  
Day Hall, Room 300  
Ithaca, NY 14853-2801

Dear Provost Fuchs,

It has come to our attention that the university will be modifying its financial aid initiative regarding low and moderate income families. We appreciate that Cornell has reaffirmed its commitment to need-blind admissions and need-based aid, however we are concerned with how this change will affect future Cornell students. Tuition charges will continue to rise. Our concern is that qualified students of color, as well as many others who fall into these economic categories will be negatively impacted.

The revised policy expects students in the lower income bracket to take more of the burden than those in the higher bracket. Those families earning between \$60,000 and \$75,000 annually will now have to borrow up to \$2,500 per year instead of being loan-free, but those families making more than \$120,000 annually will stay at the current max of \$7,500 per year. It would seem that spreading the burden across the different income brackets including those who fall into higher brackets would be more equitable. Students are also expected to work more as their workstudy amount will increase from \$2,000 to \$2,500. This detracts from our students' time to focus of their studies.

These new financial aid policies are also disconcerting as they will make Cornell less attractive to lower and middle income applicants who are also considering other highly competitive institutions. Harvard University is enhancing its Financial Aid Initiative beginning Fall of 2012; making its college cost-free for

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families earning \$65,000 or less (currently it is cost-free for families earning \$60,000 or less). Yale and Princeton also cover the full cost of expenses for families earning \$65,000 or less and have a “no loan” policy.

CBAA will continue its commitment to raising funds for scholarships to assist with this matter. We are hoping that the University will continue to make increasing sources of financial aid a priority. Although the university is attempting to maintain “long-term sustainability” of need-based aid, the policy has only been in effect for 5 years and is already undergoing significant changes. We would like to know what other measures the university will take in order to continue its commitment of an affordable and attainable Cornell education and what alumni can do to assist in this matter. We appreciate your time in responding to this inquiry. I can be reached at [president@cbaa1976.com](mailto:president@cbaa1976.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anika Daniels - Osaze". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anika Daniels-Osaze '96  
President  
Cornell Black Alumni Association

cc: CBAA membership