Resolution 16 — GPSA Diversity & International Students Committee

WHEREAS, The GPSA represents all graduate and professional students, regardless of what they study, their race, color, national origin, gender, or sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, The GPSA has an obligation to represent students on everything non-academic, including issues specific to diversity and international students; and

WHEREAS, Diverse participation within the GPSA has been a long-standing challenge of the Assembly and issues pertinent to a diverse community are not consistently discussed by the GPSA; and

WHEREAS, The Graduate & Professional Community Initiative (GPCI), which was passed with Resolution 14 on March 25th, 2013, addressed the needs of Diversity & International Students; and

WHEREAS, The Diversity & International Students section of the GPCI is intended to serve as a guideline for advocacy efforts to create a more diverse and inclusive graduate and professional student community at Cornell and outlines areas that can be improved upon; and

WHEREAS, The GPCI calls for the creation of a standing committee of the GPSA which focuses on issues affecting Diversity & International Students; and

WHEREAS, The GPSA wishes to work towards a structure that adheres to the four principles of composition, engagement, inclusion and achievement of diverse and international students as outlined in the “Toward New Destinations” framework established by Cornell University within the GPSA membership; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the GPSA affirms its commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion within its membership and within the broader graduate and professional student community;

RESOLVED, That the Bylaws are amended to insert following language after Section 3.10 (and renumbering existing Sections 3.11 through 3.15, as necessary)—

Section 3.11 Diversity & International Students Committee

    a Purpose
        i The primary purpose of the Diversity & International Students Committee (“Diversity Committee”) is to promote diversity and inclusion in all its forms within the GPSA membership and within the broader graduate and professional student community at Cornell University.
Chairperson

The Diversity Committee shall have a chairperson, elected by the GPSA, as described in Article 6.02 of the GPSA Charter.

Membership

Any graduate or professional student is eligible to apply to become a member of the Committee. Applicants will be reviewed and staffed by the Operations and Staffing Committee as specified in Section 3.03(f).

Termination of a committee member is at the discretion of the Chairperson when a committee member is absent for more than half of the scheduled committee meetings.

Duties

Communicate with groups engaged with diversity and international student issues in order to involve and engage diverse students with the work of the GPSA.

Provide a forum to discuss diversity and inclusion within the graduate and professional student community.

Host an annual meeting for groups representing diversity and international students.

Engage Cornell administration in issues affecting diversity and international students.

Bring before the GPSA resolutions on issues related to diversity and international students.

Present to the GPSA annually during the second to last meeting of the GPSA term on its work supporting international students, Students of Color, gender equality, LGBTQI students, and related issues.

RESOLVED, That the charge of focusing on diversity and inclusion is transferred from the Communications Committee to the Diversity & International Students committee:

RESOLVED, That the Bylaws are amended to remove the following language from the Section 3.06 Communications Committee:

a. i. To ensure that the GPSA is representative of the diversity within the Cornell graduate and professional community, the committee is also charged with reaching out to student organizations that promote diversity in the Cornell community and encourage their participation in the GPSA.

d. 6. To promote diversity within the GPSA, the committee will form a diversity focus group. This focus group will communicate with student organizations that promote diversity on campus to encourage participation of their members in the GPSA as field representatives, Voting members and committee representatives. The focus group will report back to the entire Communications committee.
RESOLVED, That this resolution be sent to Peggy Beach, Director of the Office of Assemblies; David Skorton, President; Kent Hubbell, Dean of Students; Susan H. Murphy, Vice President for Student and Academic Services; Barbara Knuth, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School; Sheri R. Notaro, Associate Dean for Inclusion and Professional Development, Graduate School; Renee T. Alexander, Associate Dean of Students, Director of Intercultural Programs; A.T. Miller, Associate Vice Provost for Academic Diversity Initiatives; Lynette Chappell-Williams, Associate Vice President for Workforce Diversity and Inclusion; Yael Levitte; Associate Vice Provost for Faculty and Development; Jan Allen, Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs, Graduate School; Janna Lamey, Assistant Dean for Graduate Student Life; Brendan O’Brien, Director of ISSO; and the leadership of the Black Graduate & Professional Student Association (BGPSA), Society for Asian American Graduate Affairs (SAAGA), Latina/Latino Graduate Student Coalition (LGSC), Indigenous Graduate Student Association (IGSA), Haven: the LGBTQ Student Union, and the International Students Board (ISB).

Respectfully submitted,

Yevgeniy Izrayelit
GPSA Student Advocacy Committee Chair

Maximillian Chen
Member, GCI Ad Hoc Committee, President of the Society for Asian American Graduate Affairs (SAAGA)

Monet Dumas
GPSA Johnson School of Graduate Management Voting Member

Matt Holden
GPSA Physical Sciences Voting Member

Mitch Paine
GPSA President

Nicole M. Baran
GPSA Executive Vice President

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