

**Cornell University**  
**Graduate and Professional**  
**Student Assembly**

**Cornell Graduate and Professional Student Assembly**

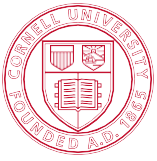
Agenda for 26 September 2016

McGraw Hall, Room 165

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call: 5 Minutes
- III. Approval of the Minutes: 1 minute
  - a. Minutes for September 12, 2016
- IV. Discussion with Hunter H. Rawlings, Interim President: 30 Minutes
- V. Breakout Session by Division: 10 minutes
  - a. Tobacco-Free Campus initiative
  - b. UA Representative recall process
- VI. New Business: 30 minutes
  - a. Resolutions: 30 minutes
    - i. Resolution 1: Approving the GPSA Bylaws for the 2016-2017 Term
    - ii. Resolution 3: Revising the GPSAFC Funding Guidelines
    - iii. Resolution 4: In Support of Maplewood Redevelopment Project
    - iv. Resolution 5: In Support of the Proposed Renaming of Cornell Plantations
- VII. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates: 10 minutes
  - a. Executive Committee
  - b. Operations
  - c. Appropriations
  - d. Communications
  - e. Finance
  - f. Student Advocacy
  - g. Diversity and International Students
  - h. Programming
  - i. Graduate School
- VIII. Open Forum: 4 minutes
- IX. Adjournment





1 **Bylaws**  
2 **Cornell University**  
3 **Graduate and Professional Student Assembly**  
4 *As amended on September 26, 2016*

5 **ARTICLE I: ESTABLISHMENT AND AUTHORITY**

6 **Section 1.01: Establishment**

- 7 A. The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Bylaws are established in accordance with the Graduate and  
8 Professional Student Assembly Charter Article VII.

9 **Section 1.02: Authority**

- 10 A. The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Bylaws are granted authority in accordance with the Graduate  
11 and Professional Student Assembly Charter Article VII.

12  
13 **ARTICLE II: DEFINITIONS**

14 **Section 2.01: GPSA Bylaws Document Definitions**

- 15 A. The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly is hereafter referred to as the GPSA.  
16 B. The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Charter hereafter is referred to as the GPSA Charter.  
17 i. The GPSA Charter may also be referenced by citing the appropriate article, section, and subsection  
18 number.  
19 C. The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Bylaws hereafter are referred to as the GPSA Bylaws.  
20 i. The GPSA Bylaws may be referenced by citing the appropriate item, section, and subsection number.

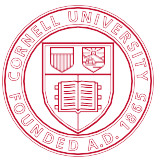
21  
22 **ARTICLE III: GPSA STANDING COMMITTEES**

23 **Section 3.01: Responsibilities for All Committees**

- 24 A. Submit a budget request outlining and justifying all planned expenditures to the Appropriations Committee  
25 Chair two weeks prior to the second GPSA meeting, and shall submit an update on the status of their budget  
26 by the end of February.

27 **Section 3.02: Executive Committee**

- 28 A. Purpose  
29 i. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the GPSA.  
30 ii. The Executive Committee shall ensure the smooth operation of the GPSA in coordination with the  
31 standing committee chairs.  
32 B. Chairperson  
33 i. The Executive Vice-President of the GPSA is the chairperson of the Executive Committee.  
34 C. Membership



# Cornell University

## Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

35 i. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the officers of the GPSA, of which there shall be at  
36 least four.

37 D. Duties

- 38 i. Represent the GPSA in University matters.
- 39 ii. Speak for the GPSA on issues that must be addressed before the next regularly scheduled meeting.
- 40 a. All decisions of the Executive Committee shall be subject to the approval of a majority vote of the  
41 seated Voting members.
- 42 iii. Establish agendas for the meetings of the GPSA.
- 43 iv. Make appointments to University committees, liaison positions, and all other external committees  
44 that become vacant prematurely.
- 45 v. Conduct an orientation meeting with all the chairs of the GPSA's standing committees at the  
46 beginning of the current GPSA term.
- 47 vi. Work closely with the Office of Assemblies to book rooms, contract equipment, follow through with  
48 other issues related to meeting logistics, and any other relevant tasks.
- 49 vii. Provide executive updates at GPSA meetings.
- 50 viii. Maintain open communication with GPSA members and the Office of Assemblies staff regarding  
51 meetings and other information relevant to the GPSA.
- 52 ix. Receive and review documents to be sent to GPSA members or other members of the Cornell  
53 University community.
- 54 x. Function as the Elections Committee during the current GPSA term.
- 55 xi. Respond to e-mails addressed to GPSA email addresses.
- 56 xii. Assist the Office of Assemblies staff in maintaining a functional and up-to-date website and listservs.
- 57 xiii. Take on any additional responsibilities for the proper functioning of the GPSA.
- 58 xiv. Present an update from the GPSA at the March Board of Trustees Meeting.
- 59 xv. Select and coordinate representatives to attend the Ivy Summit.
- 60 xvi. Complete the required registration process to ensure the GPSA is recognized as a student organization  
61 with the Student Activities Office (SAO).
- 62 xvii. Distribute the semi-annual report of the GPSA to the members.

63 E. Meetings

- 64 i. The Executive Committee shall meet prior to GPSA meetings.
- 65 ii. When consensus cannot be reached, simple majority votes shall be exercised.
- 66 iii. The members may call additional meetings as deemed necessary for the proper functioning of the  
67 GPSA.
- 68 iv. The Executive Committee meets regularly with deans of the Graduate School, deans of the  
69 Professional schools, University administrators, and executives of other assemblies.
- 70

71 **Section 3.03: Operations and Staffing Committee**

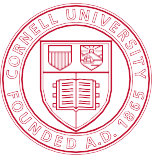
72 A. Purpose

- 73 i. The Operations and Staffing Committee is charged with appointing graduate and professional  
74 students to committees staffed by the GPSA, and with maintaining and updating the GPSA Charter,  
75 GPSA Bylaws, and relevant documents.

76 B. Chairperson

- 77 i. The chairperson for the Operations and Staffing Committee is the Vice President for Operations.

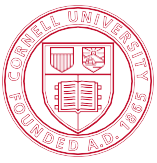
78 C. Membership



# Cornell University

## Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

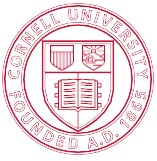
- 79 v. All standing committee chairs and GPSA delegates to the University Assembly are required to serve on  
80 the Operations and Staffing Committee.
- 81 vi. The Executive Vice-President and Counsel to the GPSA shall serve as ex-officio members.
- 82 vii. The graduate and professional student University Assembly representatives shall be considered Voting  
83 members for all appointments to University Assembly committees, **but shall not be considered Voting**  
84 **members for other appointments.**
- 85 D. Duties
- 86 i. Work closely with the Office of Assemblies to communicate the appointment process to graduate  
87 and professional students, make committee appointments, update appointment lists, communicate  
88 appointments to relevant chairs and representatives, and any other relevant tasks.
- 89 ii. In coordination with the entire body of the GPSA and interested individuals, ensure that the  
90 practices of the GPSA at its meetings and campus activities are environmentally sustainable.
- 91 iii. In addition to advertising committee vacancies, reviewing applications, and acting as a liaison between  
92 committee representatives and the GPSA, the Committee also determines committee size and  
93 prepares relevant documents and application materials for the appointment process.
- 94 iv. The Vice President for Operations shall present the process for committee appointments at the first  
95 meeting in the fall semester.
- 96 a. External committee appointments shall be completed by the following meeting and presented to  
97 the GPSA at that meeting. Any remaining vacancies will be staffed on a rolling basis by the  
98 Executive Committee
- 99 b. The appointments shall be subject to the review of the Executive Committee. In the case of  
100 premature vacancy, the Executive Committee may staff these external appointments by majority  
101 vote.
- 102 v. The Chairperson is charged with requesting revisions to the GPSA Bylaws from standing committee  
103 chairs.
- 104 vi. The revisions are to be incorporated into the GPSA Bylaws.
- 105 vii. The revised GPSA Bylaws are to be presented as a resolution at the second meeting of the current  
106 GPSA term for approval.
- 107 viii. The Chairperson shall serve as an administrator of the appropriate governing documents and Robert's  
108 Rules of Parliamentary Procedure during meetings.
- 109 E. Meetings
- 110 i. All Committee meetings shall be open to the graduate and professional student community.
- 111 ii. When a consensus cannot be reached, actions shall be determined by a majority vote of all Committee  
112 members present.
- 113 iii. Minutes shall be taken at meetings, and upon review by the Committee Chair, shall be submitted to  
114 the Office of Assemblies for posting.
- 115 F. GPSA Standing Committee Appointments
- 116 i. By the end of September, the Committee shall set the size of and appoint members to the  
117 Appropriations Committee, Communications Committee, Graduate and Professional Student  
118 Assembly Finance Commission, Graduate and Professional Student Programming Board, Faculty  
119 Awards Committee, Diversity and International Students Committee, and Student Advocacy  
120 Committee. These appointments shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.
- 121 ii. After initial committee appointments are made, vacancies may be filled by members appointed by the  
122 Executive Committee or appointed by committee chairs to their own committee.
- 123 a. Any members appointed by committee chairs are non-voting members until the appointments are  
124 approved by the Executive Committee.
- 125 G. GPSA External Committee Appointments



# Cornell University

## Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

- 126 i. The Operations and Staffing Committee shall appoint the following:
- 127 a. Eight graduate or professional students (two from Biological Sciences, Social Sciences, Humanities
- 128 and Physical Sciences of which one from each division will be appointed annually for a two-year
- 129 term) to the Academic Integrity Hearing Board,
- 130 b. One graduate or professional student to the Trustee Nominating Committee,
- 131 c. One liaison officer (a current member of the GPSA) each to the Faculty Senate, the Employee
- 132 Assembly and the Student Assembly as ex-officio, non-voting members,
- 133 d. One graduate or professional student to each of the following Faculty Senate committees,
- 134 1. Academic Freedom and Professional Status of the Faculty,
- 135 2. Advisory Committee on Athletics and Physical Education,
- 136 3. Educational Policy Committee,
- 137 4. ROTC-University Relations Committee,
- 138 5. University Faculty Library Board,
- 139 6. University Lectures Committee,
- 140 e. One graduate or professional student to each of the following Student Assembly committees,
- 141 1. Dining Services,
- 142 2. Inclusion and Diversity Initiatives Committee,
- 143 f. One graduate or professional student to the Cornell Cinema Student Advisory Board,
- 144 g. Two graduate or professional students to the Gorge Safety Committee,
- 145 h. One graduate or professional student to the Learning Technologies Governance Committee,
- 146 i. One graduate or professional student to the President's Sustainable Campus Advisory Committee,
- 147 j. One graduate or professional student to the Public Safety Advisory Committee,
- 148 k. Two graduate or professional students to the Student Insurance Health Plan Advisory Committee,
- 149 l. One graduate or professional student to the Student Library Advisory Council,
- 150 m. Three graduate or professional students to the University Council on Mental Health and Welfare,
- 151 n. One graduate or professional student to the University Diversity Council,
- 152 o. One graduate or professional student to the University Neighborhood Council,
- 153 p. Two representatives to the Family Life Advisory with one position reserved for a graduate or
- 154 professional student with a child or children and the other reserved for the partner of a graduate
- 155 student,
- 156 q. Three graduate or professional students to the Big Red Barn Advisory Board,
- 157 r. Two graduate or professional students to the Campus Planning Committee,
- 158 s. Two graduate or professional students to the Transportation Hearing and Appeals Board,
- 159 t. One graduate or professional student to the Council on Hazing Prevention,
- 160 u. Two graduate or professional students to the President's Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs,
- 161 v. One current GPSA member to each of the following University Assembly committees,
- 162 1. Campus Infrastructure Committee,
- 163 2. Campus Welfare Committee,
- 164 3. Codes and Judicial Committee.
- 165 ii. As requests for representatives come from other external committees, these positions will be staffed as
- 166 necessary.
- 167 a. Additional or temporary committees will be kept in the records of the Vice-President of Operations,
- 168 to be added to the Bylaws as necessary



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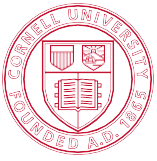
## Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

- 169           iii. General Committee of the Graduate School
- 170           a. Following the election of the GPSA officers each year, but proceeding the election of the standing
- 171           committee chairs, a representative for the General Committee of the Graduate School shall be elected.
- 172           b. The elected representative shall serve a two-year term so that there are at any time no more than two
- 173           elected representatives from the GPSA.
- 174           c. Should either of these seats become vacant before the end of their term, the Vice President for
- 175           Operations may appoint an interim representative until an election can be held for a new representative
- 176           to complete the term.
- 177           d. An interim representative to the General Committee, appointed by the Vice President for Operations
- 178           is subject the approval of the Executive Committee.
- 179           e. These seats are not transferable.
- 180           H. University Assembly Committee appointments
- 181           i. The Operations and Staffing Committee, in cooperation with the graduate and professional student
- 182           representatives of the University Assembly, shall appoint graduate and professional student representatives
- 183           and liaisons to all committees under the jurisdiction of the University Assembly.
- 184           I. Faculty Senate Committee Appointments
- 185           i. The Operations and Staffing Committee shall appoint graduate and professional student representatives to
- 186           the relevant committees under the jurisdiction of the Faculty Senate.
- 187

### 188 **Section 3.04: GPSA Elections Committee**

- 189           A. Purpose
- 190           i. The Elections Committee shall be responsible for overseeing the election of the GPSA Voting members,
- 191           officers, and committee chairs.
- 192           B. ~~Chairperson Constitution~~
- 193           i. ~~The chairperson of the Elections Committee shall be a retiring member of the GPSA, appointed by the~~
- 194           ~~GPSA Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall serve as the Elections Committee unless the~~
- 195           ~~ability of the Executive Committee to impartially conduct the elections is called into question by a one~~
- 196           ~~third vote of the voting members. Immediately following such a vote, the voting members and field~~
- 197           ~~representatives shall elect a Chairperson for the Elections Committee.~~
- 198           C. Membership
- 199           i. ~~During the current GPSA term, the Elections Committee shall be the GPSA Executive Committee.~~ The
- 200           Chairperson may recruit other ~~retiring~~ voting members of the GPSA as members of the Elections
- 201           Committee.
- 202           D. Duties
- 203           i. Decide on the procedural rules for elections.
- 204           ii. Be responsible for gathering and leading the caucuses for the Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences,
- 205           Social Sciences and Humanities.
- 206           iii. Be responsible for running the caucuses by asking for nominations, soliciting statements from nominees,
- 207           moderating question and answer sessions, and counting ballots.
- 208           iv. Announce the newly elected persons to the GPSA.
- 209           E. Meetings
- 210           i. The Elections Committee shall meet prior to the second to last regularly scheduled GPSA meeting of the
- 211           current GPSA term.
- 212           ii. All meetings of the Elections Committee shall be open to the graduate and professional student community.
- 213           F. Election of the Officers





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- 214 i. The sitting President of the GPSA shall temporarily act as the Chairperson during the elections of  
215 the officers of the GPSA until a new President is elected, after which the new President shall  
216 preside over the election of officers and community chairs.

217

218 **Section 3.05: Appropriations Committee**

219 A. Purpose

- 220 i. The Appropriations Committee shall concern itself with all aspects of the Graduate and Professional  
221 Student (GPS) Activity Fee, including review of the GPSA Byline Allocation Procedures, the GPSA  
222 Eligibility Criteria and Obligations for Byline Funded Organizations, the GPSAFC Funding Guidelines,  
223 and the GPSA Internal Budget.

224 B. Chairperson

- 225 i. The Committee shall have a chairperson elected by the GPSA.

226 C. Membership

- 227 i. The Committee shall consist of members appointed by the GPSA Operations and Staffing Committee.  
228 ii. Members shall attend the meetings of the Committee.  
229 iii. Members shall serve until the end of the current GPSA term in which they are appointed, unless they are  
230 subject to removal.  
231 iv. Termination of a committee member is at the discretion of the Chair when a committee member is absent  
232 for more than two scheduled committee meetings. A replacement may be sought after consultation with  
233 the Operations and Staffing Committee.

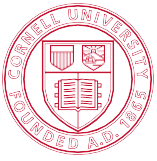
234 D. Duties

- 235 i. The Chairperson shall be responsible for the operations of the Committee: The Chairperson shall  
236 oversee the Committee's actions and operating budget, as well as schedule and run the meetings of  
237 the Committee.  
238 ii. The Chair of the Appropriations Committee will serve on the GPSA Finance Commission.  
239 iii. The Committee shall review, maintain and adhere to the GPSA Byline Allocation Procedures and  
240 GPSA Eligibility Criteria and Obligations for Byline Funded Organizations.  
241 iv. The Committee shall review the policies and procedures for setting the GPS Activity Fee. In fee-  
242 setting years, the Committee shall make a recommendation to the GPSA regarding the amount and  
243 distribution of the GPS Activity Fee. In non-fee-setting years, the Committee shall coordinate with  
244 the Student Assembly to determine a deadline for byline applications, to be at the end of February.  
245 v. The Committee shall maintain the GPSAFC Funding Guidelines. If deemed necessary, it shall make  
246 suggestions for changes to the GPSA.  
247 vi. The Committee shall oversee the internal funds of the GPSA and work with the Office of  
248 Assemblies to ensure adherence to the budget. The Committee shall provide budget updates to the  
249 Executive Committee, as requested.  
250 vii. The Chairperson shall collect budget proposals from all standing committee chairs two weeks prior  
251 to the second regularly scheduled GPSA meeting. The Chairperson shall then propose the GPSA  
252 Internal Budget based on the collected budget proposals, which shall be presented as a resolution at  
253 the second regularly scheduled meeting in the Fall semester.

254 E. Meetings

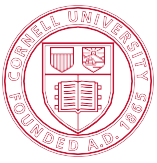
- 255 i. The Committee shall hold meetings, as necessary, subject to the minimum requirements of Item  
256 3.05.e.v.  
257 ii. Meetings of the Committee shall generally be open to the graduate and professional student  
258 community. However, the Chairperson, in consultation with the Committee, may decide to close  
259 parts of the meetings in order protect sensitive information from being made public.





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- iii. Minutes shall be taken, and upon review by the Chairperson, shall be submitted to the Office of Assemblies for posting on the Committee’s website, along with meeting agendas.
  - iv. The minimum number of meetings to fulfill the Committee’s mission is:
    - a. In non-GPSA Activity Fee setting years:
      - 1. One meeting before winter break to explain the application process for byline funded groups to the members of the Committee,
      - 2. One meeting in the spring semester with the GPSAFC to discuss the GPSAFC Funding Guidelines.
    - b. In GPSA Activity Fee setting years:
      - 1. One meeting as soon as the Committee is staffed to review the GPSA Activity Fee process, as described in the GPSA Byline Allocation Procedures and GPSA Eligibility Criteria and Obligations for Byline Funded Organizations, and Article IX of the GPSA Charter,
      - 2. One meeting, as stipulated in the GPSA Byline Allocation Procedures, to discuss the byline applications and the amounts of funding to be recommended,
      - 3. One meeting to which applying byline organizations are invited and may state their cause if the Committee recommends an allocation lower than the requested amount,
      - 4. One meeting to reconsider the recommended funding amount if such reconsideration is requested by the GPSA after a meeting.
      - 5. The Committee is encouraged to consider town hall style meetings early in the Fall Semester to provide information about the GPS Activity Fee and gather relevant input from the graduate and professional student body, in particular, with regard to the appeal of applying byline funded organizations.
- F. Coordination with the Office of Assemblies
- i. The Committee shall rely on the Office of the Assemblies to:
    - a. Help with the administrative aspects of coordinating with byline funded organizations,
    - b. Provide organizations applying for byline funding with information,
    - c. Provide institutional memory,
    - d. Provide the Appropriations Committee Chairperson at least read-only access to the financial system that tracks the GPSA Internal Budget.
- G. GPSA Internal Budget
- i. The GPSA Internal Budget will be based upon budget proposals submitted by the standing committee chairs.
  - ii. Standing committee chairs shall present a budget proposal to the Appropriations Committee Chairperson two weeks prior to the second regularly scheduled GPSA meeting of the Fall Semester.
  - iii. Standing committee budgets may include line items for operational and food expenses. The food line item is specifically for food provided at committee meetings for committee members.
  - iv. The Appropriations Committee Chairperson will execute the process of setting the GPSA Internal Budget pursuant to Item 3.05.d.vii.
  - v. Upon approval of the GPSA Internal Budget by the GPSA, the Appropriations Committee Chairperson will operate in conjunction with the Office of Assemblies to establish enforcement guidelines for committee spending.
- H. Ethical Responsibility
- i. The GPSA Activity Fee is set by the GPSA and paid by every graduate and professional student, and thus is not only set apart from other fees and tuition by the way it is determined, but also by its source. The Chairperson, the Committee, and the GPSA have a responsibility in ensuring that the money is well spent.



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307 **Section 3.06: Communications Committee**

308 A. Purpose

- 309 i. The Communications Committee is charged with maintaining a strong communication link between the  
310 GPSA and all graduate fields, professional schools, and the Cornell community.

311 B. Chairperson

- 312 i. The Vice President for Communications shall serve as the chairperson of the Communications Committee.

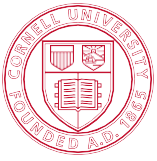
313 C. Membership

- 314 i. The Committee shall consist of **the Division Chiefs for each of the caucuses. Additional members may be**  
315 **appointed by the GPSA Operations and Staffing Committee.**  
316 ii. Termination of a committee member is at the discretion of the Chair when a committee member is absent  
317 for more than two scheduled committee meetings.

318 D. Duties

- 319 i. The Chairperson shall be responsible for the operations of the Committee: The Chairperson shall oversee  
320 the Committee's actions and operating budget, as well as schedule and run the meetings of the Committee.  
321 ii. The Chairperson is charged with contacting all appropriate administrative offices so that they and the  
322 Committee are in regular contact throughout the year.  
323 iii. The Committee will maintain the GPSAINFO listserv and is in charge of the creation of the GPSAINFO  
324 newsletter. Distribution will be coordinated by the Committee in cooperation with the Graduate School to  
325 reach all students registered through the Graduate School, and with the Johnson Graduate School of  
326 Management, the Cornell Law School, and the College of Veterinary Medicine to reach the registered  
327 professional students.  
328 iv. The Chairperson will work closely with the Executive Committee, the Executive Vice President, and the  
329 Graduate School to coordinate the involvement of the GPSA in the new student orientation.  
330 v. The committee will designate one committee member to contact all GPSA committees and focus groups  
331 throughout the year to assist them in publicizing meetings and committee-related events. These events will  
332 be announced in the GPSAINFO, any GPSA web sites, and the Graduate School Calendar.  
333 vi. **Chiefs of Communication-Division Chiefs**  
334 a. Each division caucus will elect from amongst themselves a **Chief of Communication-Division Chief.**  
335 b. A Chief will be a voting member that is not a member of the Executive Committee.  
336 c. If a **Chief of Communication-Division Chief** is elected to a position on the Executive Committee or  
337 the position is otherwise vacated, then a new **Chief of Communication-Division Chief** will be elected  
338 by the division caucus as soon as arrangements can be reasonably made.  
339 d. The Vice President for Communications may appoint interim Chiefs as necessary. These appointments  
340 are subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.  
341 e. Each **Chief of Communication-Division Chief** is a member of the Communications Committee.  
342 f. Each **Chief of Communication-Division Chief** is the primary person responsible for transmitting  
343 information between the GPSA and the Field Representatives, Field Organizations, Deans, students,  
344 and other members of their respective division.  
345 g. Each **Chief of Communication-Division Chief** is encouraged to make themselves known to, and  
346 meet periodically with the Field Representatives, Field Organizations, and other members whom  
347 they are responsible to.  
348 h. **Chiefs of Communication-Division Chiefs** are to assist the Vice President for Communications in any  
349 other way as needed.  
350 i. **Chiefs of Communication-Division Chiefs** can be removed from their position by a majority vote of  
351 their division caucus.

352 E. Meetings



# Cornell University

## Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

- 353 i. The Committee will meet at least once a month. All committee meetings shall be open to the graduate and  
354 professional student community.  
355 ii. When a consensus cannot be reached, actions shall be determined by a majority vote of all committee  
356 members present.  
357 iii. Minutes shall be taken at meetings and, upon review by the Committee Chair, shall be submitted to the  
358 Office of Assemblies for posting.  
359

### 360 **Section 3.07: GPSA Finance Commission**

#### 361 A. Purpose

- 362 i. The GPSA Finance Commission (GPSAFC) is charged with allocating funds to registered graduate and  
363 professional student organizations on the Ithaca and Geneva campuses of Cornell University.

#### 364 B. Chairperson

- 365 i. The Commission shall have a chairperson, elected by the GPSA.

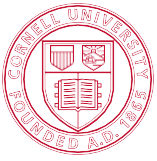
#### 366 C. Membership

- 367 i. The Commission shall consist of at least six and no more than ten members, hereafter referred to as finance  
368 commissioners, appointed by the GPSA Operations and Staffing Committee.  
369 ii. When possible, the finance commissioners should represent each of the professional schools and each of  
370 the Divisions of the Graduate School.  
371 iii. Finance commissioners have exclusive voting privileges for allocating funds according to the rules set  
372 forth in the GPSAFC Funding Guidelines.  
373 iv. Finance commissioners shall attend the meetings of the Commission.  
374 v. If a finance commissioner is absent from two or more consecutive meetings of the Commission, without  
375 providing prior notice to the Chairperson, the Chairperson may ask the GPSA Operations and Staffing  
376 Committee to replace that commissioner.  
377 vi. Finance commissioners shall serve until the end of current GPSA term in which they are appointed, unless  
378 they are subject to removal as stated in Item 3.07.c.v.

#### 379 D. Duties

- 380 i. The Commission is responsible for distributing funds to student groups according to the rules as set forth  
381 in the GPSAFC Funding Guidelines.  
382 ii. The Chairperson is responsible for the operations of the Commission: The Chairperson oversees the  
383 Commission's actions and operating budget, and schedules and runs the meetings of the Commission.  
384 iii. The Chairperson, in cooperation with the Office of the Assemblies staff, sets the schedule for the annual  
385 budget application process.  
386 iv. The Chairperson may appoint a Vice-Chair and delegate any of the Chairperson's responsibilities to the  
387 Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair shall be responsible to the Chairperson, and the Chairperson can terminate the  
388 Vice-Chair's duties at any time.  
389 v. The Chairperson shall submit a budget request outlining and justifying all planned expenditures internal  
390 to the Commission to the Appropriations Committee Chairperson two weeks prior to the second GPSA  
391 meeting.  
392 vi. The Chairperson may additionally delegate specific duties to other GPSAFC members, as necessary. These  
393 duties may include, but are not limited to: preparing materials for meetings, keeping the minutes, making  
394 updates to the GPSAFC website, and reviewing the GPSAFC Funding Guidelines and suggesting  
395 beneficial changes to the Chairperson of the GPSA Appropriations Committee.  
396 vii. The Chairperson shall submit a written update to the Appropriations Committee Chairperson on the status  
397 of the internal budget by the end of February.

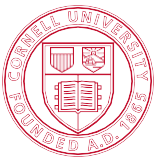
#### 398 E. Meetings



# Cornell University

## Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

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- i. The Commission shall meet at least three times each semester to deliberate on matters set forth in the GPSAFC Funding Guidelines.
  - ii. In the spring term, the Commission shall hold one half-day meeting to review all annual budget applications for the following year and to make allocations based on the GPSAFC Funding Guidelines.
  - iii. The GPSAFC Chairperson also has the responsibility of organizing one meeting during the latter part of the spring semester, prior to the annual budget request deadline, where student organizations may come to learn about the regulations and procedures of the Commission.
  - iv. The Chairperson shall notify the Office of the Assemblies of the Commission's meeting times and locations.
  - v. Meetings shall be open to the public. However, the Chairperson or any of the commissioners may call for a vote to be taken by secret ballot.
  - vi. Any representative of a student organization wishing to present his or her organization's case at a meeting must notify the Chairperson at least three days in advance of the meeting.
  - vii. When the GPSAFC cannot reach a consensus, a simple majority vote will suffice for decision-making within the Commission.
  - viii. Minutes shall be taken at meetings and, upon review by the Chairperson, shall be submitted to the Office of Assemblies for posting.
- F. Annual Budget Applications Approval Procedure
- i. The GPSAFC will make annual budget allocations at the spring meeting described in Item 3.07.e.ii.
  - ii. The Chairperson may appoint volunteers to assist the finance commissioners in reading applications and making allocations.
  - iii. The finance commissioners and volunteers shall be divided into groups, each containing at least one finance commissioner. The Chairperson shall give each group an equal number of applications to review from the total number of applications submitted. Two different groups shall review each application and individually provide suggested allocations according to the GPSAFC Funding Guidelines. All finance commissioners shall then compare the two suggested allocations and, if different, provide a third and final decision.
- G. Coordination with the Office of Assemblies
- i. The Commission shall maintain a strong working relationship with the Office of Assemblies, as the GPSAFC relies on the Office of the Assemblies to:
    - a. Collect funding applications and forward them to the Commission,
    - b. Inform student organizations of funding allocations,
    - c. Reimburse student organizations for approved expenditures,
    - d. Assist with preparatory work for the Commission's meetings,
    - e. Provide institutional memory.
  - ii. The Chairperson shall coordinate with Office of the Assemblies staff to determine a cut-off date for current-year budget changes in advance of the annual budget allocations for the following year.
- H. Deadlines for Funding Applications
- i. The deadline for current-year budget applications shall be in late ~~March~~ **April**, with the specific date set by the Commission each year.
  - ii. ~~The last date for summer funding shall be in late March. The prescribed date in Item 3.07.h.i. shall serve as the last day for applications for summer funding.~~
- I. Unallocated Funds
- i. If funds remain for allocation in the current-year budget, those funds will remain in the Commission's account for allocations in future GPSA terms.



445 **Section 3.08: Student Advocacy Committee**

446 A. Purpose

- 447 i. The GPSA Student Advocacy Committee works on issues of diversity, finances, stipend levels, mental  
448 and physical health, child care and the general well-being of all graduate and professional students. The  
449 Student Advocacy Committee works in consultation with other relevant student and University committees  
450 and interested parties.

451 B. Chairperson

- 452 i. The Committee shall have a chairperson, elected by the GPSA.

453 C. Members

- 454 i. Any graduate or professional student is eligible to apply to become a member of the Committee. Applicants  
455 will be reviewed and staffed by the Operations and Staffing Committee.
- 456 ii. Termination of a committee member is at the discretion of the Chairperson when a committee member is  
457 absent for more than half of the scheduled committee meetings.

458 D. Duties

- 459 i. The Committee is required to update the Graduate and Professional Student Resource List posted on the  
460 Student Advocacy Committee Website at least once each GPSA term.
- 461 ii. In order to be more fully aware of the issues faced by the graduate and professional student community,  
462 the Committee will hold an open town hall meeting, at least one per year. Funding will come from the  
463 Committee budget. The meeting will have two goals: To provide a brief overview of current and past  
464 Committee activities and to gather information and anecdotes on current problems facing the community.  
465 Following these town hall meetings, the Committee will report their results to the GPSA and any relevant  
466 Cornell administrators.
- 467 iii. The Chairperson shall be responsible for the operations of the Committee: The Chairperson shall oversee  
468 the Committee's actions and operating budget, as well as schedule and run the meetings of the Committee.
- 469 iv. The Chairperson is charged with contacting all appropriate administrative offices so that they and the  
470 committee are in regular contact throughout the year.
- 471 ~~v. To work on issues of mental health and general well-being, the committee will form a mental wellness~~  
472 ~~focus group. This focus group will hold regularly scheduled meetings with administrators from Gannett,~~  
473 ~~the Dean of Students, Empathy, Assistance & Referral Service (EARS) and the Graduate school to discuss~~  
474 ~~issues of mental health and wellness in the graduate and professional community. The focus group will~~  
475 ~~report back to the entire Student Advocacy Committee.~~

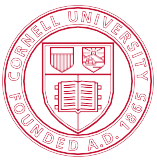
476 E. Meetings

- 477 i. The Committee will meet once per month during the months of September, October, November,  
478 December, February, March, and April, and additionally as necessary. All committee members are  
479 expected to attend these meetings unless informed otherwise.
- 480 ii. All Committee meetings shall be open to the graduate and professional student community. When a  
481 consensus cannot be reached, actions shall be determined by a majority vote of all committee members  
482 present.
- 483 iii. Minutes shall be taken at meetings and, upon review by the Chairperson, shall be submitted to the Office  
484 of Assemblies for posting.
- 485 iv. All meeting agendas and minutes shall be posted to the Committee's website.
- 486 v. It is the responsibility of the Committee to post and advertise any advocacy related material on its website  
487 and ensure that the website is kept current.
- 488

489 **Section 3.09: Graduate and Professional Student Programming Board (GPSPB)**

490 A. Purpose





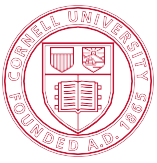
# Cornell University

## Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

- 491 i. The **Graduate and Professional Student Programming Board (GPSPB)** organizes events for graduate and  
492 professional students sponsored by the GPSA, such as receptions, speakers, socials, Grad Ball, Grads'  
493 Nights Out and other events that may arise as stated in Article 6.04.h of the GPSA Charter.
- 494 B. Chairperson
- 495 i. The Board shall have a chairperson, elected by the GPSA, as described in Article 6.02 of the GPSA  
496 Charter.
- 497 C. Membership
- 498 i. Any graduate or professional student is eligible to apply to become a member of the Committee. Applicants  
499 will be reviewed and staffed by the Operations and Staffing Committee.
- 500 ii. One member of the Committee will serve on the Slope Day Steering Committee.
- 501 iii. Termination of a committee member is at the discretion of the Chairperson when a committee member is  
502 absent for more than half of the scheduled committee meetings.
- 503 D. Duties
- 504 i. The GPSPB's primary purpose is to plan, seek funding for, and carry out the annual Grad Ball.
- 505 ii. The Chair shall submit a budget request outlining and justifying all planned expenditures internal to the  
506 Programming Board to the Appropriations Chair by two weeks prior to the second regularly scheduled  
507 GPSA meeting.
- 508 iii. At the fourth regularly scheduled meeting of the fall semester and first regularly scheduled meeting of the  
509 spring semester, the Chair shall propose a schedule of events for the upcoming term.
- 510 iv. The Programming Board shall work closely with the Office of Assemblies to contract entertainment, book  
511 rooms, and other issues as necessary.
- 512 v. The Programming Board shall work with the Student Advocacy Committee to plan town hall event(s).
- 513 vi. The Chairperson shall be responsible for the operations of the Programming Board: The Chairperson shall  
514 oversee the Programming Board's actions and operating budget, as well as schedule and run the meetings  
515 of the Committee.
- 516 vii. The Chairperson is charged with contacting all appropriate administrative offices so that they and the  
517 Programming Board are in regular contact throughout the year.
- 518 E. Meetings
- 519 i. The Programming Board will meet at least once every six weeks during the current GPSA term. The Chair  
520 will schedule additional meetings as necessary. All committee members are expected to attend these  
521 meetings unless informed otherwise.
- 522 ii. All Programming Board meetings shall be open to the graduate and professional student community.
- 523 iii. When a consensus cannot be reached, actions shall be determined by a majority vote of all committee  
524 members present.
- 525 iv. Minutes shall be taken at meetings and, upon review by the Programming Board Chair, shall be submitted  
526 to the Office of Assemblies for posting.
- 527

### 528 **Section 3.10: Faculty Teaching, Advising, and Mentorship Award Committee**

- 529 A. Purpose
- 530 i. The primary purpose of the Faculty Teaching, Advising, and Mentorship Award Committee ("Award  
531 Committee") is to solicit nominations for and administer one or more annual Awards to recognize faculty  
532 who exhibit excellence in the teaching, advising, and mentorship of graduate and professional students.
- 533 B. Chairperson
- 534 i. The Award Committee shall have a chairperson, elected by the GPSA, as described in Article 6.02 of the  
535 GPSA Charter.



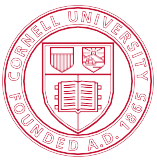
Cornell University  
Graduate and Professional  
Student Assembly

- 536 C. Membership
- 537 i. Any graduate or professional student is eligible to apply to become a member of the Committee. Applicants
- 538 will be reviewed and staffed by the Operations and Staffing Committee as specified in Section 3.03.f.
- 539 ii. Termination of a committee member is at the discretion of the Chairperson when a committee member is
- 540 absent for more than half of the scheduled committee meetings.
- 541 D. Duties
- 542 i. Articulate and disseminate selection criteria for the Award(s).
- 543 ii. Establish a process for soliciting nominations and/or applications for the annual Award(s).
- 544 iii. Select Award recipient(s) before the end of April.
- 545 iv. Seek funding for and host an Award Ceremony to celebrate and recognize the Award recipient(s) each
- 546 academic year before the end of spring semester.
- 547 v. Coordinate with the GPSA Communications Committee to publicize both the solicitation of nominations
- 548 and the administration of the Award, once selections have been made.
- 549 vi. The Chairperson shall submit a budget request outlining and justifying all planned expenditures internal
- 550 to the Award Committee to the Appropriations Chair by two weeks prior to the second regularly scheduled
- 551 GPSA meeting.
- 552 vii. The Chairperson shall be responsible for the operations of the Award Committee: The Chairperson shall
- 553 oversee the Award Committee's actions and operating budget, as well as schedule and run the meetings of
- 554 the Committee.
- 555 E. Meetings
- 556 i. The Award Committee will meet at least once per year during the current GPSA term to select Award
- 557 recipient(s). The Chair will schedule additional meetings as necessary.
- 558 ii. When a consensus cannot be reached, actions shall be determined by a majority vote of all committee
- 559 members present.
- 560 iii. Minutes shall be taken at meetings and, upon review by the Award Committee Chairperson, shall be
- 561 submitted to the Office of Assemblies for posting. Respect will be paid to the privacy of nominators and
- 562 nominated faculty members.
- 563

564 **Section 3.11: Diversity & International Students Committee**

- 565 A. Purpose
- 566 i. The primary purpose of the Diversity & International Students Committee ("Diversity Committee") is to
- 567 promote diversity and inclusion in all its forms within the GPSA membership and within the broader
- 568 graduate and professional student community at Cornell University.
- 569 B. Chairperson
- 570 i. The Diversity Committee shall have a chairperson, elected by the GPSA, as described in Article 6.02 of
- 571 the GPSA Charter.
- 572 C. Membership
- 573 i. Any graduate or professional student is eligible to apply to become a member of the Committee. Applicants
- 574 will be reviewed and staffed by the Operations and Staffing Committee as specified in Section 3.03(f).
- 575 ii. Termination of a committee member is at the discretion of the Chairperson when a committee member is
- 576 absent for more than half of the scheduled committee meetings.
- 577 D. Duties
- 578 i. Communicate with groups engaged with diversity and international student issues in order to involve and
- 579 engage diverse students with the work of the GPSA.
- 580 ii. Provide a forum to discuss diversity and inclusion within the graduate and professional student community.





# Cornell University

## Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

- 581           iii. Host an annual meeting for groups representing diversity and international students.  
582           iv. Engage Cornell administration in issues affecting diversity and international students.  
583           v. Bring before the GPSA resolutions on issues related to diversity and international students.  
584           vi. Present to the GPSA annually during the second to last meeting of the GPSA term on its work supporting  
585 international students, Students of Color, gender equality, LGBTQI students, and related issues.  
586

### 587 **Section 3.12: University Assembly Representation**

- 588           A. The President of the GPSA shall serve as a member of the University Assembly.  
589           B. The Voting members of the GPSA will elect ~~two~~ four representatives to the University Assembly; two must be  
590 current members of the GPSA at the time of their election; two can come from the general graduate and  
591 professional student population. ~~from the graduate and professional student population to serve as members of~~  
592 ~~the University Assembly.~~  
593           i. If they are not already GPSA Voting Members or Field Representatives, these delegates shall be considered  
594 ex officio members of the GPSA.  
595           ii. These delegates are required to report on University Assembly activities at meetings at the request of the  
596 Executive Committee.  
597

### 598 **Section 3.13: Committee Delegates**

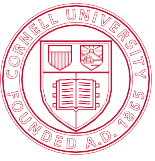
- 599           A. The Operations and Staffing Committee will appoint graduate and professional students to University  
600 committees which it staffs, GPSA committees and liaison positions, hereafter referred to as committee designees.  
601           B. Committee designees may serve as many one-year terms as they like, but must be appointed annually.  
602           C. All committee designees must be matriculated graduate or professional students of Cornell University.  
603           D. Exceptions to this rule may be made by a majority vote of the voting members at the request of the Vice President  
604 for Operations.  
605

### 606 **Section 3.14: Committee and Committee Designee Reporting**

- 607           A. To ensure accountability and responsibility to the student body, each standing committee shall present a written  
608 report to the GPSA at least once a semester in addition to oral reports at meetings.  
609           B. To ensure accountability and responsibility to the student body, each ad hoc committee shall present a written  
610 report to the GPSA at least once a semester.  
611           C. Prior to meetings of the GPSA, committee designees shall submit to the GPSA Vice President for Operations a  
612 report to be shared with the GPSA.  
613           i. Reports shall include, but are not limited to, notification of whether the committee has met the committee's  
614 agenda and a short summary of the meeting.  
615           ii. The Executive Committee may remove committee designees for failing to submit a report for two  
616 consecutive meetings and shall appoint a new designee accordingly.  
617

### 618 **Section 3.15: GPSA Ad-Hoc Committees**

- 619           A. Purpose  
620           i. The GPSA may form an ad-hoc committee when a need cannot be fulfilled through existing standing  
621 committees or through committees in the other Assemblies or in the University, or when the GPSA feels  
622 additional consideration is required.  
623           ii. To increase efficiency and decrease duplication, every effort will be made to address perceived needs of



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- 624 graduate and professional school students through existing University Committees and other appropriate  
625 bodies first.
- 626 B. Chairperson
- 627 i. The Committee shall have a chairperson, elected by the members of the ad-hoc committee.
- 628 ii. The chairperson shall schedule and chair the meetings of the committee.
- 629 iii. The chairperson is responsible for providing committee updates to the GPSA.
- 630 C. Membership
- 631 i. Any graduate or professional student is eligible to apply to become a member of the committee. Applicants  
632 will be reviewed and staffed by the GPSA Operations & Staffing committee.
- 633 ii. Shall consist of at least three members approved by the GPSA Operations & Staffing Committee.
- 634 iii. Shall have at least one GPSA Voting member.
- 635 iv. Additional committee membership may be recommended by the GPSA Operations and Staffing  
636 Committee.
- 637 D. Meetings
- 638 i. The Committee will meet as necessary during the current GPSA term. All committee members are  
639 expected to attend these meetings unless informed otherwise.
- 640 ii. All Committee meetings shall be open to the graduate and professional student community. When a  
641 consensus cannot be reached, actions shall be determined by a majority vote of all committee members  
642 present.
- 643 iii. Minutes shall be taken at meetings and, upon request, shall be presented to the GPSA.
- 644 E. Formation, Termination, and Re-Establishment
- 645 i. Formation of an ad hoc committee is to be presented as a motion.
- 646 ii. The ad-hoc committee will be dissolved when either the work of the committee has been completed or at  
647 the end of the term of office, whichever comes first.
- 648 iii. An ad-hoc committee can be re-established by a resolution to continue its function in the next GPSA term  
649 by the GPSA.

650

651 **Section 3.16: Internal Budget**

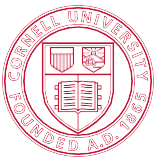
- 652 A. GPSA Committees will track their own expenses.
- 653 B. GPSA Committees will not commit to actions that could incur expenses that exceed the total amount budgeted  
654 for their operations without first obtaining the approval of the GPSA Appropriations Committee  
655 Chairperson.
- 656 C. In the event that a GPSA Committee overruns their budgeted allocation, the Committee committing the overrun  
657 will collaborate with the Appropriations Committee to draft a resolution revising the GPSA Internal Budget so  
658 the expenses may be accounted.
- 659 D. All queries regarding the GPSA Internal Budget and the current state of GPSA funds are to be directed to the  
660 Appropriations Committee Chairperson (Item 3.05.b).

661

662 **ARTICLE IV: PROCEDURES**

663 **Section 4.01: Term of Office**

- 664 A. The term of office of the GPSA shall be from June 1 to May 31, except for the positions of Appropriations  
665 Committee Chair and Finance Commission Chair, which will be from January 1 to December 31.



666

667 **Section 4.02: Meeting Schedule**

- 668 A. Meetings shall be scheduled throughout the GPSA term, totaling seven (7) meetings per semester.  
669 B. Meetings defined in Section 4.02.a shall be referred to as “regularly scheduled meetings”.  
670 C. The GPSA will adopt a schedule of regularly scheduled meetings for the next term at the last meeting of the  
671 current GPSA term.

672

673 **Section 4.03: Regularly Scheduled Meetings**

- 674 A. Regularly scheduled meetings are open to all constituents and to the public.  
675 B. The GPSA Executive Committee shall determine appropriate discussion and business items.  
676 C. The presiding officer shall only vote on resolutions or subsidiary motions when the vote will affect the result.  
677 Examples include when a tie exists (for actions requiring majority approval) and when actions requiring two-  
678 thirds approval fall one vote short.

679

680 **Section 4.04: Agendas and Resolutions**

- 681 A. Agendas  
682 i. Agenda items will be compiled by the GPSA President in consultation with the Executive Committee.  
683 ii. Agendas must be sent to the members at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.  
684 B. Resolutions  
685 i. Upon signing of a petition by 100 Cornell graduate and professional students, any Graduate and  
686 Professional Student may present a resolution to the GPSA for consideration.  
687 a. Within two regularly scheduled meetings after the presentation of the petition, the GPSA Voting  
688 members will discuss and vote on the resolution.  
689 b. The form and wording of the resolution, as voted upon by the GPSA, shall be identical in form and  
690 wording to that of the petition.  
691 ii. Any GPSA member may present a resolution to the GPSA for consideration  
692 iii. For votes on formal resolutions, a majority and super-majority shall be determined based on total number  
693 of seated members regardless of the number of members present.

694

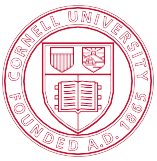
695 **Section 4.05: Additional Meetings**

- 696 A. Additional meetings may be scheduled at least one week in advance by the Executive Committee, with written  
697 approval from at least two-thirds of the Voting members.  
698 B. Only one additional meeting may be called per semester.

699

700 **Section 4.06: Division Summits**

- 701 A. For each Division of the Graduate School and jointly for the Professional Schools, at least one Division Summit  
702 shall be scheduled each GPSA term by the ~~Voting members of that Division~~ Chiefs for that Division.  
703 B. The Voting members will compile an agenda of discussion topics, focusing on issues pertaining specifically to  
704 the Division.  
705 C. The exact date is to be determined at the Voting members’ discretion. Voting members must notify Field  
706 representatives sufficiently in advance of the time and location of the summit.



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## Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

- 707 D. GPSA members from other Divisions may be invited at the discretion of the Voting members of the Divisions  
708 sponsoring the summit.

709

### 710 **Section 4.07: Executive Session**

- 711 A. Meetings may be closed for special executive session when deemed necessary to protect the rights of members  
712 of the Cornell community by majority vote of the Voting members present.
- 713 B. Field representatives may be excluded from these sessions in addition to constituents and the public.
- 714 C. No binding actions will take place while in executive session.

715

### 716 **Section 4.08: Parliamentary Procedure**

- 717 A. The GPSA will use Robert's Rules of Order (latest edition) as the basis for determining procedures for formal  
718 debate and legislative action.
- 719 B. The GPSA is not constrained to use parliamentary procedure for all discussions.

720

### 721 **Section 4.09: Quorum**

- 722 A. A quorum of GPSA Voting members is required before business items may be voted on at regularly scheduled  
723 meetings.
- 724 B. A quorum of the Voting members shall consist of a majority of the seated, Voting members of the GPSA.

725

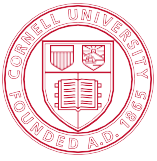
### 726 **Section 4.10: Absences**

- 727 A. Voting members
- 728 i. Must notify the Executive Vice-President in advance of any absence.
- 729 ii. Absences will be determined to be excused or unexcused by two-thirds majority vote of the Executive  
730 Committee.
- 731 iii. May be unseated **by a simple majority of the Executive Committee** if they have more than two ~~unexcused~~  
732 absences from GPSA meetings during the current GPSA term. Unseated members do not count as part of  
733 the total vote when calculating **quorum, either-majority votes**, or two-thirds votes.
- 734 iv. **May move to be reseated in any GPSA meeting.**
- 735 a. **A motion to be reseated is automatically tabled to the following meeting.**
- 736 b. **A motion to be reseated passes by simple majority vote of Voting members.**

737

### 738 **Section 4.10: Removal**

- 739 A. Voting members
- 740 i. An unseated member may be removed from the GPSA Voting members following a vote by two-thirds of  
741 the Executive Committee.
- 742 ii. **The Executive Committee may not vote to remove an unseated Voting Member until one regularly  
743 scheduled GPSA meeting has elapsed since the Voting Member was informed that they were unseated.**
- 744 B. **Field Representatives**
- 745 i. **Must notify the Executive Vice-President in advance of any absence.**
- 746 a. **A Field Representative who will miss a meeting may send an alternate from their field, who will satisfy  
747 their attendance requirement for that meeting.**

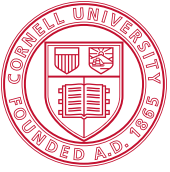


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- 748 ii. Absences will be determined to be excused or unexcused, and alternates approved, by two-thirds majority  
749 vote of the Executive Committee.
- 750 C. Committee Chairs and University Assembly Representatives
- 751 i. A GPSA standing committee chair, ad hoc committee chair, or University Assembly representative may  
752 be removed from their position by a two-thirds vote of the Voting members but may retain their seat as a  
753 Voting member.
- 754 D. GPSA Officers
- 755 i. GPSA officers may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the Voting members but may retain  
756 their Voting membership.
- 757

758 **ARTICLE V: SUSPENSION OF THE GPSA BYLAWS**

- 759
- 760 A. A GPSA Voting member may make a motion to suspend an Article of the GPSA Bylaws for the duration of a  
761 meeting.
- 762 B. The Article of the GPSA Bylaws is suspended with two-thirds of the GPSA Voting members in favor.
- 763 C. ~~Item~~ Article V, in its entirety, may not be suspended.



**Cornell University**  
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1 **GPSA Resolution 3: A Resolution Revising the GPSA**  
2 **Finance Commission Guidelines**

3  
4 Sponsored by: Mariko Alexander, Hoang Long Nguyen, Siddarth  
5 Chandrasekaran, Teja Bollu, Aravind Natarajan, Elizabeth Curley  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, the current Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Finance  
8 Commission (GPSAFC) funding applications are unnecessarily complex, hampering both  
9 the groups applying for funding and the Commissioners who review the applications;  
10

11 **WHEREAS**, the current funding model is inefficient, resulting in significant rollover each  
12 year due to underuse of allocated funding;  
13

14 **WHEREAS**, the current GPSAFC guidelines unfairly favor funding of academic events;  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, the GPSAFC guidelines are outdated;  
17

18 **BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that the current GPSAFC funding guidelines are revised  
19 as follows in the appendix attached.  
20

21 **Respectfully submitted,**  
22 **Mariko Alexander**  
23 *GPSA Appropriations Chair*  
24

25 **Hoang Long Nguyen**  
26 *Subcommittee Chair*  
27

28 **Siddarth Chandrasekaran**  
29 **Aravind Natarajan**  
30 **Teja Bollu**  
31 **Elizabeth Curley**  
32

1 **I. Eligibility Criteria for Organizations**

- 2 1. An organization must register with the **Campus Activities Office (CAO) (or equivalent**  
3 **office)** for the current year. If an organization has not registered with the **CAO**, or  
4 equivalent office, it cannot access any funds, even if such funds have already been  
5 allocated.
- 6 2. An organization’s President and Treasurer must sign the GPSAFC “Statement on Ethical  
7 Conduct”.
- 8 3. An organization’s Treasurer must be familiar with these Funding Guidelines and sign a  
9 statement to this effect. The GPSAFC will not be responsible for costs that it cannot  
10 reimburse due to violation of provisions set forth in these Funding Guidelines or university  
11 policies.
- 12 4. An organization must have an advisor who is a full-time member of the faculty or staff of  
13 Cornell University. Graduate students do not qualify.
- 14 5. An organization must have more than 40% graduate/professional student membership.
- 15 6. The President or Treasurer of an organization must be registered as a graduate or  
16 professional student at Cornell University for the current academic year.
- 17 7. An organization must provide a valuable service to the Cornell community.

18 **II. General Funding Parameters**

- 19 1. The membership criteria and selection processes of an organization should enable any  
20 student to join and participate if they have interest and ability.
- 21 2. To obtain funding for an event, an organization is strongly encouraged to submit the event  
22 details (i.e. time, location, program speakers and topic descriptions) to University Events  
23 Calendar and provide a link to the GPSAFC Event Calendar two (2) weeks before the  
24 event.
- 25 3. The organization must be open to the entire graduate and professional student community.  
26 All advertising must include the statements “Funded by the GPSAFC”, “Open to the  
27 Graduate Community” and “Please contact (name of event host) at (netID of the host) for  
28 any special arrangements you may require in order to attend this event”. Exceptions are  
29 detailed in the Field Category in **Item VI.5.A.**



- 30 4. Groups applying for GPSAFC funding for the first time will have allocations in their annual  
31 budgets restricted to the maximum amount set annually as described in **Item VI**.
- 32 5. The GPSAFC will treat organizations that have previously applied for GPSA funding, but  
33 had a hiatus in applications for GPSAFC funding for two or more years, as “first time  
34 applicants”.
- 35 6. In order to receive allocated funding, an organization must turn in receipts for expenses to  
36 the GPSAFC accounts representative within one month of expenditure.
- 37 7. Events funded through annual budget allocations or special project requests must occur  
38 during the academic year, defined for GPSAFC purposes as starting the first day of  
39 graduate student classes in August and ending the day of commencement in May, to ensure  
40 that majority of the Cornell community has the opportunity to participate.
- 41 8. **All events** must occur on the Cornell’s campus (in Ithaca or Geneva) to ensure that the  
42 majority of the Cornell community has the opportunity to participate. The GPSAFC may  
43 grant exceptions under special circumstances, such as a lecture series in a downtown  
44 science centre or community centre. An organization must submit a detailed explanation  
45 of why the event must be held off campus. The organization must provide reasonable  
46 transportation options for off-campus events. Reimbursement for off-campus events will  
47 be furnished only if the GPSAFC has approved, in writing, the event location prior to the  
48 event.
- 49 9. University organizations (as defined by the CAO) are encouraged to consult with their  
50 specific school or department’s financial affairs office, if applicable, in submitting funding  
51 requests.
- 52 **10. All GPSAFC-funded organizations are encouraged to maintain a sign-in sheet or other**  
53 **record of attendees at their events for up to a year after the event. Information on event**  
54 **attendance is required to support funding requests for future events.**
- 55

11. Important deadlines:

Budget Type	Submission Date	Review Date
Summer	Last Friday of March	By April 15th
Annual Budget	<p>Last Fridays of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April (for the next academic year)</li> <li>• August</li> <li>• September</li> <li>• October</li> <li>• November</li> </ul> <p>Second Friday of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• February (Last date to submit Annual Budget)</li> </ul>	<p>By:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• August 15th</li> <li>• September 15th</li> <li>• October 15th</li> <li>• November 15th</li> <li>• December 15th</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• End of February</li> </ul>
Special Project Requests (SPRs)	<p>Last Fridays of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September</li> <li>• October</li> <li>• November</li> <li>• March (Last date to submit SPR)</li> </ul> <p>Second Friday of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• February</li> </ul>	<p>By:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October 15th</li> <li>• November 15th</li> <li>• December 15th</li> <li>• April 15th</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• End of February</li> </ul>

58 **III. Organizations and Activities Ineligible for GPSAFC Funding**

59 1. Per GPSA policy, the GPSAFC cannot fund:

60 A. Partisan political organizations and activities: The University defines partisan  
 61 political organizations as those that are affiliated with a registered political party or  
 62 candidate, or that are formed for the purpose of supporting or opposing any  
 63 particular legislation. Activities used to support or oppose any particular legislation

64 also fall under this definition. The GPSAFC may fund non-partisan activities  
65 sponsored by partisan organizations. Funded groups may “not participate in or  
66 intervene in (including the publication or distribution of statements), and campaign  
67 on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.” (Internal Revenue  
68 Code - Section 501 (C{3}))

69 B. Any religious activities: The GPSAFC relies on the University definition of  
70 religious activities: “A practice or observance that includes moral or ethical beliefs  
71 as to what is right and wrong that is sincerely held, with the strength of traditional  
72 religious views, even if no religious group espouses such beliefs, or the religious  
73 group to which the individual professes to belong may not accept such belief.” The  
74 GPSAFC may fund activities comparing religious systems of belief and activities  
75 examining the intersection of religion with one or more non-theological academic  
76 disciplines. Activities that a religious organization organizes to achieve research,  
77 educational, or public service goals are not considered religious activities and are  
78 eligible for GPSAFC funding.

79 C. Charitable organizations: The University prohibits any direct allocation to  
80 charitable organizations; it does allow, however, for the funding of “recruiting,  
81 administration, and travel expense, which would be necessary to make it possible  
82 for Cornell students to participate in service projects.” The essential difference is  
83 between making an outright financial gift and aiding Cornell students in a  
84 promising and valuable project. For fundraising event rules, refer to **Item IV**.

85 2. The GPSAFC will not fund activities for which any organization member receives  
86 academic credit.

87 3. In keeping with the University’s policy on non-discrimination, no organization or activity  
88 funded by GPSAFC shall discriminate in its membership policies based on race, religion,  
89 age, gender, sexual preference, or ethnic background, except where gender or age are *bona*  
90 *fide* qualifications for membership. Any group that violates this policy may have its  
91 remaining funding suspended or revoked.

92 4. The GPSAFC avoids funding activities that duplicate the activities of other campus  
93 organizations. In allocating funds, the GPSAFC considers whether an organization  
94 provides a unique service or event for the Cornell community. The GPSAFC may make

95 organizations aware of other groups providing similar services to the University  
96 community in an effort to encourage collaboration.

#### 97 **IV. Additional Funding Requirements and Restrictions**

- 98 1. To be eligible for funds, an organization must make full disclosure of its income and  
99 expenses (Refer to **Item XII** for Enforcement). If additional funding is obtained from other  
100 University sources and/or external sources during a school year, a report of this funding  
101 should be furnished to the GPSAFC upon request. In a Special Project Request, an  
102 organization must detail whether it intends to use funds for the project that come from its  
103 annual budget allocation from the GPSAFC.
- 104 2. No faculty or staff salaried by Cornell University within the last six months can receive  
105 payment for services with GPSAFC funds. No enrolled graduate student may receive  
106 payment for services with GPSAFC funds.
- 107 3. The GPSAFC will not make fund transfers to Student Assembly Finance Commission  
108 (SAFC)-funded organizations; events may be co-sponsored.
- 109 4. Student organizations shall take full advantage of income-producing opportunities and  
110 alternate funding sources, and the GPSAFC shall consider their capacity and willingness  
111 to do so when making allocations (see **Item XIV**).
- 112 5. In making funding allocations, the GPSAFC considers the extent to which graduate and  
113 professional students determine and direct an organization and its programs.
- 114 6. The GPSAFC may partially support fundraising events. The organization must  
115 demonstrate an effort to find co-sponsorship, and must charge admission to cover (part of)  
116 the event production cost.
- 117 7. Organizations must submit an original, itemized receipt that includes the name of the  
118 member to be reimbursed within one month of the expense being incurred.
- 119 8. For all requests of 300 USD or more for a single event, detailed information, including but  
120 not limited to previous receipts, quotes, and budget breakdown, should be submitted at the  
121 time of budget submission. For other events, this is not required but recommended. Please  
122 note that the lack of justification can be a basis for budget denial, even when details are not  
123 explicitly required (see **Item VIII** for Appeals).

124 9. Organizations should make efforts to reduce the carbon footprint of their events. We highly  
125 encourage use of biodegradable products, and minimization of non-renewable resources at  
126 all events.

127 10. Organizations must leave equipment purchased with GPSAFC funds on campus at the end  
128 of the academic year, and keep an inventory of all such items so the club may continue to  
129 use them in future years. A current list of the club's relevant inventory should be provided  
130 along with the request for funding.

131 11. Organizations that provide a thorough plan to make the event accessible to a broad  
132 audience, outlining efforts to enable those with special needs to attend the event will be  
133 looked upon favorably. Contact the Cornell University ADA Coordinator Team  
134 (<https://disability.cornell.edu/>) for assistance.

## 135 V. Restricted and Ineligible Items for GPSAFC Funding

### 136 1. Ineligible Items

#### 137 A. General items:

- 138 • Office supplies or equipment
- 139 • Organization stationery, certificates, membership or business cards
- 140 • Resume books, directories, or other materials for professional/career  
141 development
- 142 • Phone equipment, toll call or fax expenses
- 143 • Postage
- 144 • Office space or secretarial expenses
- 145 • Conference expenses or membership fees (except for some Club Sports with  
146 the appropriate permission from the GPSAFC)
- 147 • Admission fees for performances, films, museums or sporting events
- 148 • Container deposits
- 149 • Gifts (except for speakers) or trophies
- 150 • Publication of academic journals
- 151 • Purchase of books, magazines, or academic journals
- 152 • Newsletters
- 153 • Web design and web-hosting unless for an online publication

- 154 • Honorariums, travel expenses, and accommodation for alumni whose last  
155 degree from Cornell University was received within the last 5 years.  
156 Exceptions may be granted with the inclusion of a letter of support from the  
157 organization’s advisor.
  - 158 • Speaker or performance expenses for University employed graduate  
159 students.
  - 160 • Purchase of T-shirts and other clothing (except non-personalized jerseys for  
161 club sports).
  - 162 • Items that will be retained by individual members of the organization.
- 163 B. Items towards speakers:
- 164 • Charges for bar, video, valet, phone or other personal charges
  - 165 • Grocery shopping for food

166 2. Restricted Items

- 167 A. Publicity and media expenditures should not exceed 5% of Tier cap
- 168 B. Honorariums should not exceed 500 USD per speaker
- 169 C. Publication expenses should not exceed 500 USD per academic year, and only for  
170 the publication of a non-professional journal or magazine.
- 171 D. Welcome and/or end-of-year receptions will not be funded if they are the only  
172 events planned by an organization in a particular academic year.

173 **VI. Funding Tiers**

- 174 1. For the purposes of these Funding Guidelines, the GPSAFC defines two types of student  
175 organizations: (1) interest organizations and (2) field organizations:
  - 176 A. Interest organizations: are groups that represent an extracurricular pursuit, broadly  
177 including any social or academic activity that is not directly linked to the interests  
178 of a specific Cornell University-defined academic field. All university  
179 organizations that are not field organizations are treated as interest organizations  
180 for purposes of these Funding Guidelines.
  - 181 B. Field organizations: are groups whose goals and objectives are to foster the  
182 academic and social interests of a particular University-recognized academic field,  
183 with specific attention to fostering interaction and communication amongst field

184 members. The graduate school keeps an online record of the graduate fields; each  
185 professional school is also considered a field. Field organizations may apply for  
186 Field funding, which is not counted toward Tier limits.

187 2. Student organizations are categorized into specific funding tiers, which dictate the upper  
188 limit of funds each organization is eligible for per academic year. These funding brackets  
189 are recommended for the 2017-2018 academic year. Each year, the GPSAFC in  
190 consultation with the GPSA and the GPSA Appropriations Committee, should re-evaluate  
191 these funding brackets as deemed necessary. Changes to funding brackets may be made  
192 yearly at the GPSAFC's discretion, and do not require formal amendment of these  
193 Guidelines. Funding brackets must be made available to organizations in the fall semester  
194 of each year.

195 A. Tier 1: 500 USD cap

196 i. Includes first-time applicants.

197 B. Tier 2: 1500 USD cap

198 C. Tier 3: 2500 USD cap

199 i. Groups in this tier must send at least one member to attend at least 50% of  
200 the GPSA meetings during the academic year.

201 D. Tier 4: 3500 USD cap

202 i. Groups in this tier must demonstrate a history of funding utilization >90%  
203 and have a large membership base (registered through OrgSync, as  
204 determined and announced by the GPSAFC each year). In addition to Tier  
205 3 requirements, groups must send at least one member to serve on the  
206 GPSAFC, either as Commissioners or volunteers (see GPSAFC Bylaws for  
207 more details)

208 ii. Groups must apply annually to remain in Tier 4.

209 E. Tier assignment will be considered at the beginning of the new academic year,  
210 either by the GPSAFC or a special committee led by the chair of the GPSAFC. An  
211 organization may move up or down a maximum of one Tier per academic year.

212 Tiers are assigned as follows:



- 213 i. Moving up: The organization may apply for consideration to move up a Tier  
214 at the same time as their annual budget. To be considered for this promotion,  
215 the organization must fulfill any one of the following criteria:
- 216 a. Utilization of at least 90% of Tier cap and allocated funds (including  
217 additional funding through Field and Initiative funding) for at least  
218 the past two consecutive years.
  - 219 b. Utilization of at least 90% of Tier cap and allocated funds in the past  
220 consecutive year, AND at least 35% increase in membership.
  - 221 c. Utilization of at least 90% of Tier cap by a Tier 1 organization for at  
222 least the past year.
- 223 ii. Moving down a tier: The GPSAFC may review the fund utilization of any  
224 organization from past academic years at their discretion.
- 225 a. If the organization's utilization of allocated funding was less than  
226 80%, they will be considered for a downgrade in their Tier allocation.
  - 227 b. Groups in Tier 4 failing to reapply to retain their Tier will be moved  
228 down a Tier automatically.
- 229 iii. Retaining your tier: An organization will retain its Tier placement, as long  
230 as it spends greater than or equal to 80% of the funds allocated in an  
231 academic year, and is not eligible for or does not apply for a Tier promotion.  
232 To remain in Tier 4, groups must reapply annually.
- 233 3. Each organization may submit one annual budget request per academic year. Refer to **Item**  
234 **II.11** for specific deadlines. All budgets will terminate at the end of the academic year,  
235 regardless of when they were submitted. The organization should contact the current  
236 GPSAFC chair for specific dates for budget review.
- 237 4. Budget requests submitted in April for the following academic year will be reviewed with  
238 the assumption that the organization will retain their Tier. If, following review at the start  
239 of the fall semester, the organization moves down a Tier, their allocations will be altered  
240 accordingly. Groups that move up a Tier in the fall semester may submit Special Project  
241 Requests to make use of their increased Tier cap, if desired.
- 242 5. Additional funding: This funding is in addition to the organization's Tier cap limit, and  
243 does not count towards the Tier cap.

244 A. Field: Only one organization per academic field can apply for this funding, once  
245 per academic year together with the annual budget, and such an organization must  
246 represent all the students in a given field. If necessary, the field's Director of  
247 Graduate Studies (DGS) or Director of M.Eng. Program, or the professional  
248 school's Director of Student Affairs, will make the final determination on which  
249 organization represents the graduate or professional students of a given field. While  
250 only one organization per field can apply for this funding, if several fields are  
251 represented in the aforementioned manner by one organization, that organization  
252 can apply for funding (the total membership of all the fields involved will determine  
253 the funding allocation for such an organization).

- 254 i. All organizations that wish to receive "field" funding must apply for "field"  
255 funding in their annual budget applications.
- 256 ii. To apply for field funding, at least one seat on the GPSA (voting member  
257 or field representative) must be filled by a member from that field. This  
258 requirement must be satisfied at the time of annual budget submission. If  
259 this member misses more than two consecutive meetings in a given semester  
260 and does not send a replacement, the Executive Vice President shall notify  
261 the Chair of the Finance Commission, so that any funding allocated in the  
262 "field" category to that organization can be frozen. The funds will be  
263 restored when the member attends two consecutive GPSA meetings.
- 264 iii. Each eligible field organization that applies for funding will receive a base  
265 allocation of 200 USD, with an additional **one (1) USD** for each student in  
266 that field. The GPSAFC bases field membership numbers on official data  
267 from the Fall Census conducted by the graduate school and on official  
268 statistics from the data management officials at each of the professional  
269 schools. Funding allocations for a given academic year are based on the  
270 field membership numbers from the previous academic year's Fall  
271 Semester.
- 272 iv. Organizations can use field funding for events occurring during the  
273 academic year for which the funds were allocated. Events funded by field  
274 funding (and not relying on any other GPSAFC funding) can, at the

275 organization's discretion, be open exclusively to members of that field.  
276 Organizations must advertise all events using field funding to all field  
277 members, whether via a list-serve or some other appropriate means in  
278 accordance with **Item II.3** with relevant exceptions.

#### 279 **B. Initiative Funding**

- 280 i. Additional funds are available through Special Project Requests (see **Item**  
281 **IX**) for events aligning with GPSA Initiatives, as outlined in the GPCI  
282 Document. Initiative Funding is limited to 200 USD maximum per event  
283 and is subject to availability of funds.
- 284 ii. Groups applying for Initiative Funding must outline how their event  
285 supports one or more GPSA Initiatives in their SPR.
- 286 iii. Groups approved for Initiative Funding must introduce the goals of the  
287 funded events at a GPSA meeting prior to the events, and provide a report  
288 to the GPSAFC about how the event met these goals, within one month  
289 from the event.

#### 290 **VII. First Time Applicants for GPSAFC Funding**

- 291 1. First-time applicants will be placed in Tier 1.
- 292 2. New groups can apply to move up one Tier in the next academic year.

#### 293 **VIII. Appeals**

- 294 1. An organization that feels unfairly treated by a GPSAFC funding decision has the right to  
295 appeal. An organization may submit an appeal only to contest the GPSAFC's interpretation  
296 of the Funding Guidelines. Groups may ask for reconsideration of funding allocation a  
297 maximum of one time per budget request to the GPSAFC chairman via the OrgSync system  
298 or by email. The decision to adjust the allocation will be voted on by the GPSAFC.
- 299 2. The following procedure applies to all appeals:
  - 300 A. The organization is advised to reach a resolution with the GPSAFC chairperson on  
301 an informal basis, initiating contact by email to the commission.

- 302 B. If the matter cannot be resolved on an informal basis, the GPSAFC chairperson will  
303 provide the organization with an Appeal Form. The organization must fill out and  
304 submit the Appeal Form with proper signatures.
- 305 C. The GPSAFC will discuss the appeal at its next regular meeting. A representative  
306 of the organization submitting the appeal is encouraged to attend this meeting to  
307 present the group's case and further clarify the appeal.
- 308 D. The GPSAFC will notify the organization of its decision within three days of its  
309 meeting. If the organization wishes to further appeal the GPSAFC's decision, its  
310 officers must contact the GPSAFC chairperson by e-mail at [gpsafc@cornell.edu](mailto:gpsafc@cornell.edu)  
311 within one week of this notification.
- 312 E. If an organization makes this second appeal, the GPSAFC chairperson will refer  
313 the matter to the Appropriations Committee (GPSA-AC), which can uphold the  
314 GPSAFC's decision, advise the GPSAFC to reconsider, or refer the matter to the  
315 GPSA.
- 316 F. If an organization has appealed to the GPSAFC and the GPSA-AC and wishes to  
317 appeal further, the GPSAFC and GPSA-AC Chairpersons will take the matter to  
318 the GPSA for a final decision.

## 319 **IX. Special Project Requests**

- 320 1. Groups that have submitted an Annual Budget Application and need additional funds for  
321 specific events may submit Special Project Requests. The amount allowed for a Special  
322 Project Request must fit within the organization's total annual Tier limit, i.e, the sum of  
323 the annual funding and the special project funding cannot exceed the Tier funding cap.
- 324 2. Special Project Requests should include as much detail as possible, including informed  
325 estimates of all major costs, specific dates and times for events, event location, names of  
326 speakers, expected attendance, and other funding sources for the event.
- 327 3. Organizations must submit Special Project Requests at least three business days before the  
328 last GPSAFC meeting prior to the event date. The GPSAFC does not grant funding for  
329 events that have taken place prior to consideration for funding. The GPSAFC will base its  
330 allocation on funds available at the time of the request.

331 4. The GPSAFC requires detailed event descriptions that demonstrate the event’s appeal to  
332 graduate and professional students and outline responsible planning. The GPSAFC rarely  
333 allocates more than 1000 USD per organization for a single event; to obtain around 1000  
334 USD the event must demonstrate strong appeal to graduate and professional students. The  
335 organization seeking funding must show evidence of substantial efforts to secure co-  
336 sponsorship.

## 337 **X. Summer Budgets**

338 1. For events during the summer (the dates between Graduation and the day before classes  
339 begin in the Fall semester), an organization must submit a summer funding application by  
340 the last Friday of March detailing information on location, time, program descriptions, and  
341 financial breakdown for all planned events.

342 2. The total sum of allocations towards events hosted during the summer may not exceed 20%  
343 of the group’s annual GPSAFC allocation.

344 3. In order to receive the awarded funding, the organization must submit receipts within 30  
345 days after the event.

## 346 **XI. Co-Sponsorship**

347 1. If two or more GPSAFC funded organizations wish to combine their efforts to produce a  
348 single event, they can apply for co-sponsorship from the GPSAFC. GPSAFC organizations  
349 cannot transfer funding from one group to another, but they can submit separate Special  
350 Project Requests for a single event. Organizations must use Special Project Requests (and  
351 not annual budgets) to apply for funding for a co-sponsored event. Organizations must  
352 detail what expenses each group will bear at the event.

353 2. Each organization must apply for funds for particular non-overlapping costs of producing  
354 the event.

355 3. Total allocation for a single event shall not exceed the cap for Tier 4.

## 356 **XII. Enforcement**

357 1. If, at any point, the GPSAFC finds that an organization has not adhered to these Funding  
358 Guidelines, has used funds improperly, or has provided false information in an application

359 or correspondence of any kind with the GPSAFC, the commission reserves the right to take  
360 one or more of the following actions:

361 A. Provide the organization with a written warning noting the violation and asking the  
362 organization to change its practices so that it is no longer in violation.

363 B. Impose a defined probationary period (e.g., one semester or one year) during which  
364 the organization cannot apply for GPSAFC funding.

365 C. Withdraw part or all of any annual budget and/or special project request funds  
366 remaining from previous allocations.

367 2. The GPSAFC reserves the right to audit (budget, spending, and inventory) all GPSAFC-  
368 funded organizations, and it is incumbent on all organizations to aid the audit to the fullest.

### 369 **XIII. Amendments**

370 1. These Funding Guidelines may be amended by a majority vote of seated GPSA members.

371 2. The GPSAFC Chairperson will review these Funding Guidelines each year and suggest  
372 appropriate alterations to the Chairperson of the GPSA Appropriations Committee.

373 3. The GPSA can raise Funding Maximums **on Restricted Items (Item V.2)** at any time; any  
374 lowering of maximums will not take effect until the next budget cycle. The GPSA  
375 Appropriations Committee shall recommend changes for the next fiscal year's budget cycle  
376 before the end of February of the current academic year.

377 4. The Appropriations Committee must recommend changes to these Funding Guidelines  
378 necessitated by changes in University policies and procedures.

379 5. Amendments to the Funding Guidelines must be presented to the GPSA for discussion at  
380 least one meeting in advance of the meeting in which the final vote will take place. **Changes**  
381 **to Tier brackets and/or the Appendix (Item XIV) may be done yearly at the GPSAFC's**  
382 **discretion, and do not require formal amendment of these Guidelines.**

### 383 **XIV. Appendix**

384

385 1. Best practices to maximize favorable funding outcomes:

386 A. While not a requirement for all budget requests the GPSAFC highly recommends  
387 submission of previous bills, quotes and a thorough justification of budget supplied

388 for funding. The more detailed the line items on the request for funds, and plan for  
389 event, the more likely you are to receive a favorable decision.

390 B. Collaborative efforts in hosting of events will be seen positively, and the event is  
391 likely to receive greater allocation.

392 2. Examples of GPSAFC-fundable items include:

393 A. Program:

394 i. Speaker: For expenses of bringing a speaker or performer to campus,  
395 including:

- 396 1. Honoraria or gifts.
- 397 2. Personal vehicle travel, including toll fares and parking fees.
- 398 3. Rental vehicles for transportation from outside of Ithaca to Cornell,  
399 including rental fee, gas, toll fares, and parking fees.
- 400 4. Airline, train, boat, Zeppelin, or bus travel.
- 401 5. Lodging.
- 402 6. Meals eaten at a restaurant.

403 ii. Event Production: For expenses of producing a cultural, educational, or  
404 theatrical event on campus, including:

- 405 1. Rental or purchase of equipment: any equipment necessary for an  
406 event to be successful, including Audio-Visual equipment, VCRs,  
407 slide or film projectors, and table space.
- 408 2. Services: additional services provided by the university required for  
409 an event, such as CU Police Department and/or Life Safety, lighting  
410 or sound experts, or security fees to protect an exhibit.
- 411 3. Room rental: for on-campus (or GPSAFC-approved off-campus)  
412 facilities that charge a fee.
- 413 4. Films: for expenses of showing a film on campus.

414 iii. Reception: For food served during or following a cultural, educational, or  
415 theatrical event on campus.

416 iv. Publicity:

- 417 1. For advertising of GPSAFC funded events, such as: poster printing,  
418 banners (for specific events), advertisements and programs.



419                   2. The GPSAFC encourages organizations to be sustainable by  
420                   reducing the quantity of paper advertisements and using electronic  
421                   forms of communication where possible.

422           B. Club Sports:

- 423                   i. Non-personalized sport equipment (including jerseys).
- 424                   ii. Facilities rental: funds to rent space for practices or competitions within  
425                   Tompkins County and Geneva Station.
- 426                   iii. Tournaments: expenses for competitions or tournaments hosted by the  
427                   organization within Tompkins county or Geneva Station.

428           C. Publication: non-professional journal or magazine, including the costs related to  
429           printing or copying of issues, or costs related to the production of an online journal.

430   3. Other Funding Sources:

431           In addition to GPSAFC funding, organizations may be eligible to apply for funding from  
432           other agencies on and off campus, including co-sponsorship from other byline-funded  
433           organizations. Some on-campus groups that often co-sponsor events include:

- 434           • Diversity and International groups: International Students Union (ISU), ALANA,  
435           SDDI, Dean of Student, Graduate School (OISE), International Students and  
436           Scholars Office (ISSO), Asian and Asian American Center (A3C), South Asia  
437           Program
- 438           • Performances: Cornell Concert Commission, Cornell University Programming  
439           Board, Department of Music, CUTonight (for late night events)
- 440           • Co-sponsorship: GPSA-Programming Board

441

# GPSAFC Funding Guideline Revision Committee Opinion Paper

*This is a companion opinion paper (a la Supreme Court) in which we outline points of contention among the committee. This document is intended to clarify our decision-making process regarding controversial areas of the Guidelines.*

## 1. Funding of Religious Activities:

- a. The current guidelines do not fund the practice of religion (through sermon/prayers), while permitting the discussion of religion by hosting academic talks, and seminars.
- b. The University guidelines are silent on this matter, i.e, they take no stance on supporting the practice of religion.
- c. Opinion 1 (**Siddarth Chandrasekaran**; Cosigned: Elizabeth Curley, Aravind Natarajan):
  - i. In an inclusive campus environment, all activities deemed legal irrespective of their nature (social, academic or religious) should be supported. I believe that current guidelines preventing the GPSAFC from funding the practice of religion is discriminatory in nature (and infringes on one's right to religious freedom). In a University setting, that cradles the interactions between individuals with diverse beliefs, faiths and culture, it is important to support (& therefore fund) activities that raise awareness (and exposure) about different cultures and religions.
  - ii. Religious organizations should be treated akin to any other organization that promotes a specific idea or belief. Therefore, practice of religion should be supported as long as the activities remain open to the entire graduate and professional student community. There can be no restrictions on participation of graduate and professional students in any activity (religious or otherwise) funded by the GPSAFC.
  - iii. Furthermore in the current academic environment where students are under extreme duress, the practice of religion can nurture a sense of community and alleviate stress. The role of religion in building community and providing hope is well researched. Personally, I have friends who have leaned on sermons and prayers for improved mental health.
  - iv. Some members of the committee feel strongly about the use of funds towards an activity that they (and others in the community) may not subscribe to i.e. 'as an atheist, I don't want to financially support the practice of any religion', or 'as a believer of one particular religion, I don't want to support the practice of any other'. This disposition is by definition non-inclusive. In an analogy, there are strong feelings about the support of football as a sport, given the debilitating effects it has on the health of players - would it be fair to say that since the majority of the community does not play competitive football, and that some feel strongly against the practice of football as a sport, that the GPSAFC should not fund a Football club or any activity beyond discussions on football? The GPSAFC is bounden to create an inclusive environment, supporting diversity in all its forms, including those that are religious.
  - v. Finally, the current guidelines on the definition of clubs and the activities thereof are loose and lend themselves to interpretation biases. A book reading club is a fully

fundable organization. Hence, a book reading club that decides to read exclusively any religious scripture would also warrant funding. And such a book reading club may invite a guest to lead the reading, and can choose to read in a sing song with musical accompaniments.

- vi. The SAFC (undergraduate equivalent of the GPSAFC) also funds religious activities, and so there is a precedent set for the GPSAFC to follow.

- d. Opinion 2 (**Teja Pratap Bollu**; Cosigned: Hoang Long Nguyen, Mariko Alexander):

The question of whether to support the practice and propagation of religion is at its root a question of how strongly we believe in the separation of church and state.

- i. Funding religious activities and their propagation would imply that the GPSA through the GPSAFC is condoning taxing its members in order to support the religion of others. GPSA is a diverse body with members from many religions, some have decided that they don't have any religion.
- ii. To reiterate the current standing of the GPSA, we are supportive of discussion of religion and theology, and conversations about our place in this universe. What we will NOT do is use student activity fees to pay for a sermon.
- iii. In committee deliberations it has been suggested that not funding the practice of religion through student funds is a violation of religious freedom. I strongly disagree with that argument, and think it trivializes what violations of religious freedom imply. On the contrary, I strongly believe that funding religious activities WILL violate student's religious freedom by providing proportional support to religious groups.
- iv. When this committee determines its guidelines, we adhere to the law of the land. However, through the guidelines we also determine the viability and relevance of causes to the entire graduate student community. Legality of any act shouldn't imply institutional endorsement.
- v. Permitting funding of inclusive intellectual discussions of religion, but not promotion or practice of a particular religion, would be in line with the guidelines for events/groups related to political candidates or legislation - ie, discussion can be funded, but events solely designed to promote a single viewpoint cannot.

- e. Outcome:

- i. The committee was split (equally) and hence decided to keep the current guideline, declining support for religious practices.

## 2. Allocation of Field Organization Specific Funding

- a. The current guidelines exclusively provide Field organizations access to a portion of the funds with few restrictions.
- b. The contention here is that the guidelines provide Field organizations unfair access to a limited pot of funds, through multiple headers.
- c. Opinion 1 (**Teja Pratap Bollu**; Cosigned: Hoang Long Nguyen, Mariko Alexander and Elizabeth Curley):

The GPSA's representation is based on a decentralized model of student government. While this allows the GPSA to focus on issues that are relevant to students across disciplines, its ability to govern policy in individual fields is limited. Field organizations better understand the policies being applied to their field and are best equipped to pursue any reforms, making them a logical extension of the government of the GPSA.

The core argument comes down to determining if field organizations are special and if granting funds exclusively for their use is justified.

- i. It is important to note that field specific funding isn't designed as an incentive for fields to have attendance at the GPSA meetings. It is designed to give some financial support and independence to the governance units (field organizations) which are a logical extension of the GPSA.
  - ii. There is an implicit expectation of field organizations to serve as the student government and as proponents for their fields. While there are special interest organizations (SIO) which have pursued reforms and have been involved in campus governance, SIOs have fairly diverse goals and don't carry the same implicit expectation. This field specific funding provides a means for fields to carry out this extra expectation.
  - iii. Through appropriations and the finance committee, the GPSA decides where and how a majority of student activity fee should be spent. Individual fields end up having little control over what money raised from their membership can be spent on. The field specific funding gives fields more control over at least a part of the student fee to use as they see fit. Importantly, while making decisions about allocating resources "per student", it should be noted that field membership is the only unique identification metric as members can only belong to one field.
  - iv. Diversity and fair representation in the GPSA is a continuing concern, and it is imperative to have a conversation about restructuring the membership of the GPSA. If special interest organizations are brought into the governance structure of the GPSA, some of the arguments here could need revisiting. However, the composition of the GPSA is beyond the scope of this sub-committee.
- d. **Opinion 2 (Aravind Natarajan; Cosigned: Siddarth Chandrasekaran). Exclusivity, Field, governance.**
- i. As per the funding guidelines herein, a Field organization with say 50 students is eligible to receive at least 250 USD through Field funding, 2500 USD through the regular Tier based scheme, and up to 200 USD per event through Initiative Funding.
  - ii. The shortage of money available to the GPSAFC highly limits its ability to enable events on campus that clearly add value to the lives of graduate and professional students. Every year, worthy events get turned down, or scaled down.
  - iii. Field organizations are crucial to the social and academic lives of students. They are natural extensions of the GPSA in enabling students to participate and be informed of governance. However, it is a reality that some Field organizations are more active than others. There are several Fields that are unable to sustain an active, purposeful Field organization. As per the current guidelines, even these groups, irrespective of their size have access to over 700 USD, through the mere effort of registering the club.
  - iv. Proposed herein is the idea of eliminating Field specific funding and combining these organizations with other clubs. This means, a Field organization will be eligible for 500 USD (instead of over 700 USD), through the minimal effort of registering their clubs. Further, Field organizations that are active can receive up to 3500 USD through the regular Tier based system, in addition to, up to 200 USD per event through the Initiative Funding. This implies, Field organizations that are, true

to their purpose, active in building a community for their membership will continue to enjoy the highest financial support from the GPSAFC. All Field organizations will receive funding proportional to the extent of their efforts and activities. The least functional of these clubs, ones that only register in the academic year, will also receive 500 USD.

- v. It is important for the GPSAFC to recognize its responsibility in allocating funds to organizations (irrespective of its origins, through a Field or Special Interest) in a manner that reflects the most optimal use of the limited resource of funds. Funds allocated inattentively to clubs without paying attention to their responsible usage steals resources from other worthy ventures; this is true of all organizations Field, and Special Interest. This will encourage all clubs to be judicious and purposeful.
  - vi. Some members of the committee feared that small Fields that lack the physical membership to sustain a Field organization might further suffer. It is worthy to note here that ALL organizations, irrespective of their size and history of activity are eligible to 500 USD. Large organizations, and those that are active will further naturally ascend the tier system to receive up to 3500 USD, in addition to the Initiative Funds.
- e. Outcome:
- i. Majority resolved to reduce the automatic Field funding to \$200 + \$1 per member (originally \$2 per member), in addition to access to the Tier based funding and Initiative funds.

### 3. Access to Initiative Funding:

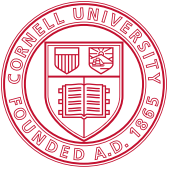
- a. Current guidelines enable Field organizations access to funding through the GPSAFC under three different headers - Field funding, Tier based funding and Initiative funding.
- b. Assuming that the motion to retain Field funding (contention #2) remains, the contention here is that access to Initiative funding is essentially double dipping into the same pool of money, for the same purpose of building a community for graduate and professional students, but under two headers on paper.
- c. Opinion 1 (**Siddarth Chandrasekaran**; Aravind Natarajan):
  - i. The criteria for Initiative funding, based on the Graduate and Professional students Community Initiative (GPCI) supports and reaffirms in a focussed manner the efforts of the GPSA to build a community in Cornell.
  - ii. In the current model of student governance through the GPSA, Field organizations are a natural extension GPSA, enabling last mile connectivity with students in every Field. Field funding, uniquely set aside for Field organizations, is in order to enable efforts towards building a community for graduate and professional students, in line with GPSA's efforts.
  - iii. Essentially the GPCI is a subset of the total efforts through the GPSA to nurture a community in Cornell. Ergo, the Initiative funding and Field funding, both accessible to Field organizations in order to nurture a community in every Field, are different headers for access to a common limited pool of funding, for the very same reason.
  - iv. It is important for the GPSAFC to recognize its responsibility in allocating funds to organizations in a manner that reflects the most optimal use of the limited resource of funds. Enabling a subset of organizations to receive funding under the pretext of different headers, essentially towards the same end goal is injudicious.

- v. Hence, proposed here is the idea that Field organizations that receive funds through Field funding in order to nurture a community in their allied fields should not have additional access to Initiative funding.
- d. Opinion 2 (**Elizabeth Curley**; Cosigned: Teja Pratap Bollu, Hoang Long Nguyen, Mariko Alexander):
- i. Restricting Initiative funding to special interest organizations might discourage the Field organizations from doing activities in alignment with GPCI, which is against the goal of this committee.
  - ii. As presented above if field organizations are special then granting funds exclusively for their use is justified.
- e. Outcome
- i. Majority vote to keep the Initiative funding accessible to all organizations, in addition to the Field organization's exclusive access to Field funding.

4. **Membership Requirement:**

- a. The current guidelines require all clubs recognized as a graduate and professional student club to have a minimum membership of 40% graduate and professional students.
- b. The contention here is that the guidelines enable clubs with a minority of graduate and professional students to receive funding from the student activity fee paid for by graduate and professional students.
- c. Opinion 1 (**Aravind Natarajan**):
  - i. Briefly, money from the student activity fee charged to graduate and professional students (you and me) reaches the Appropriations Committee (AC), which then allocates funds to the GPSAFC to support events on campus.
  - ii. Hence, the GPSAFC as responsible for supporting clubs and events that cater to an audience of vastly graduate and professional students, with an eye towards their engagement and development. Similarly the undergraduate parallel of the GPSAFC (SAFC) caters to the needs of undergraduate students.
  - iii. Currently the GPSAFC guidelines require that only 40% of the membership of a club regarded as a graduate club be comprised of graduate and professional students, while the SAFC requires 60% of the membership of any undergraduate club to be undergraduate students.
  - iv. In essence, currently a club of vastly undergraduate students (up to 60%) can apply to be a graduate club, and get funded through money derived from activity fees charged to graduate and professional students, for their events.
  - v. This, particularly in light of recent debates with regard to admission to Slope day, and given that the operational resources of the GPSAFC is far lesser than that of the SAFC is ironic. This contention recommends that the GPSAFC require graduate clubs to be comprised of 60% graduate and professional students to be eligible for funds thereof.
- d. Opinion 2 (**Hoang Long Nguyen**; Co signed: Teja Pratap Bollu, Elizabeth Curley, Siddarth Chandrasekaran and Mariko Alexander):
  - i. The current membership requirements are sufficient to request fair support from the GPSAFC.

- ii. Some graduate and professional student organizations also have postdoctoral fellows among their members, which are not counted toward the graduate/professional student membership. We believe that these organizations should not be penalized for including a community that consists primarily of recently graduated professional and graduate students.
  - iii. If the membership requirement was increased to 60%, any organization with more than 40% but less than 60% graduate/professional student membership would not be able to obtain funding from either the SAFC or the GPSAFC.
- e. Outcome
  - i. Resolved to keep the membership requirement for every graduate and professional student club at 40%.



Cornell University  
Graduate and Professional  
Student Assembly

1 GPSA Resolution 4:  
2 In Support of the Maplewood Redevelopment Project

3  
4 Sponsored by: Richard Walroth, Nate Rogers, GPSA Student Advocacy Committee

5  
6 **WHEREAS**, Cornell currently has capacity for 727 of its 7,589 Graduate and Professional (GP)  
7 students, and currently only houses 4% of GP students on campus with the remaining capacity  
8 occupied by family members of students;<sup>1,2</sup>

9  
10 **WHEREAS**, a recent survey commissioned by Cornell indicated that 40% of GP students live  
11 farther than a 30 minute walk from campus, in part due to a high cost of rent and low supply of  
12 quality housing closer to campus, while proximity to campus is viewed by GP students to be  
13 critical to academic success;<sup>3</sup>

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, current off-campus housing options at Cornell are not well tailored to the needs of  
16 GP students, and the median apartment cost of \$1,165 represents 46% of the income of GP  
17 students receiving “typical” stipend support at \$2,547 per month;<sup>4,5</sup>

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, international students make up 48% of the GP student community, and these  
20 students often face difficulty in securing housing from overseas;<sup>2</sup>

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, the new Maplewood development is positioned to address these needs of the GP  
23 student community by providing affordable housing close to campus, with amenities based  
24 around fostering a strong GP student community and tailored to the needs of GP students more  
25 broadly;

26  
27 **WHEREAS**, EdR has made commitments to sustainability and will be utilizing  
28 environmentally friendly electricity for heating, and the planned development allows for further  
29 improvements in sustainable energy use long term;

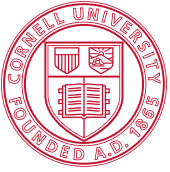
30  
31 **WHEREAS**, Cornell’s Real Estate Department has maintained a high level of student  
32 involvement in all phases of the proposed redevelopment, beginning before the call for a  
33 developer was put out, continuing through the process of selecting the developer, and finally  
34 multiple meetings with EdR once they were selected as the developer.

35  
36 **BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that the GPSA is in favor of the proposed redevelopment,  
37 and urges the University and its representatives, the Town of Ithaca, and the City of Ithaca to do  
38 all that is necessary to see it is completed as soon as possible.

39  
40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in addition to maintaining rent levels commensurate  
41 with previous levels at Maplewood, the GPSA calls for EdR to strive to keep rents at affordable  
42 levels based on the minimum stipend level set by the Graduate School.

43  
44 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the GPSA recognizes the hard work of Jeremy Thomas,  
45 Senior Director of the Cornell University Real Estate Department, to conduct the Maplewood





**Cornell University**  
Graduate and Professional  
Student Assembly

46 redevelopment project in close consultation with GP students, that this process has exemplified  
47 the principles of shared governance espoused by the university, and that the GPSA urges Cornell  
48 to maintain this level of transparency and community feedback in all areas of policy  
49 development where feasible.

50

51 **RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

52

53 **Richard Walroth**

54 *Counsel to the GPSA*

55

56 **Nate Rogers**

57 *President, GPSA*

58

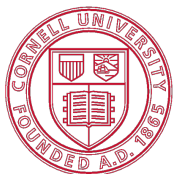
59 **GPSA Student Advocacy Committee**

60

- 61 1. <https://living.sas.cornell.edu/live/wheretolive/gradhousing/upload/Graduate-and-Professional-Housing-Guide-2016-17-web-version.pdf>
- 62 2. <https://www.cornell.edu/about/facts.cfm>
- 63 3. <http://scl.cornell.edu/sites/scl.cornell.edu/files/documents/HousingMasterPlansurveys9.21.16.pdf>
- 64 4. [Nocella, Michael. "Why Is Ithaca One of the Least Affordable US Cities?" \*Ithaca Times\*. 23 Apr. 2014. \[http://www.ithaca.com/news/why-is-ithaca-one-of-the-least-affordable-us-cities/article\\\_e67f68f4-cb0e-11e3-9571-001a4bcf887a.html\]\(http://www.ithaca.com/news/why-is-ithaca-one-of-the-least-affordable-us-cities/article\_e67f68f4-cb0e-11e3-9571-001a4bcf887a.html\). Web. 22 Sept. 2016. \[http://www.ithaca.com/news/why-is-ithaca-one-of-the-least-affordable-us-cities/article\\\_e67f68f4-cb0e-11e3-9571-001a4bcf887a.html\]\(http://www.ithaca.com/news/why-is-ithaca-one-of-the-least-affordable-us-cities/article\_e67f68f4-cb0e-11e3-9571-001a4bcf887a.html\)](http://www.ithaca.com/news/why-is-ithaca-one-of-the-least-affordable-us-cities/article_e67f68f4-cb0e-11e3-9571-001a4bcf887a.html)
- 65 5. <http://gradschool.cornell.edu/costs-funding/stipend-rates>

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71



Cornell University  
Graduate and Professional  
Student Assembly

1 Resolution 5:

2 In Support of the Proposed Renaming of  
3 Cornell Plantations

4 Sponsored by: Alexander Loiben, Anna Waymack

5 **Whereas**, in 2004 Leaders at Cornell Plantations questioned the appropriateness of the name  
6 “Cornell Plantations” and whether a different, more descriptive name was needed; and

7 **Whereas**, in 2009 and 2010 Plantations went through a rebranding process in an effort to better  
8 define themselves, working with outside firm Lipman Hearne, to develop marketing tag lines that  
9 captured the essence of experiences at Plantations and to redesign their logo to try to visually depict  
10 what and who they are more clearly; and

11 **Whereas**, in 2014, Dr. Christopher Dunn started as the E. N. Wilds Director of Cornell Plantations  
12 and was tasked by Dean Kathryn Boor to take an in-depth look at Plantations, their mission and  
13 vision, and to see if it should be adapted to inform modern needs. She noted that one possible result  
14 of this examination is the Plantations that we know today could end up looking somewhat different  
15 in the future. Prospective changes could include rebranding; and

16 **Whereas**, from April 2014 through April 2015, Dr. Dunn met with Plantations’ staff, the advisory  
17 council, university leadership, CALS leadership, and other community stakeholders to better  
18 understand Plantations’ brand within the College and greater University context; and

19 **Whereas**, in October of 2015 Cornell Plantations began a strategic planning process and hired  
20 Beacon Associates to lead them through the process; and

21 **Whereas**, in December of 2015 Beacon held a series of focus groups amongst Plantations brand  
22 fans both on the Ithaca campus and in New York City and conducted a follow-up survey to better  
23 understand how they related to the mission, the vision and brand, which showed that 70-75% of  
24 respondents felt the name Cornell Plantations did not fit with who they are, and what they actually  
25 do; and

26 **Whereas**, in February of 2016 the Cornell Plantations name attracted distracting and negative press  
27 from *Inside Higher Ed*; and

28 **Whereas**, in November of 2015, Black Students United provided the Cornell University  
29 administration a list of demands that they felt needed immediate addressing, which included the  
30 changing of the name of the Cornell Plantations; and

31 **Whereas**, the word “plantations” is, in the modern sense, strongly associated with slavery; and



## Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

32 **Whereas**, Liberty Hyde Bailey’s attempt in the naming of the Cornell Plantations to reinscribe an  
33 increasingly archaic, horticultural meaning of “plantations” over the word’s connection to slavery  
34 has not succeeded.

35 **Be it therefore resolved that** the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly encourages the  
36 Board of Trustees to include the proposed name change of Cornell Plantations on their October  
37 2016 board meeting agenda.

38 **Be it further resolved that** the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly encourages the Board  
39 of Trustees to approve the proposed name change to “Cornell Botanic Gardens”, so that Cornell’s  
40 botanic gardens, arboretum and natural areas may better represent what they do, and reach broader  
41 audiences.

42 **Be it finally resolved that** this resolution be sent to the President, the Board of Trustees, the Dean  
43 of Students, and the Dean of the Graduate School.

44 **Respectfully Submitted,**

45 **Alexander Loiben**

46 *GPSA Student Advocacy Committee Chair*

47 *GPSA Voting Member, Physical Sciences*

48 **Anna Waymack**

49 *GPSA Voting Member, Humanities*