

Cornell University

Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

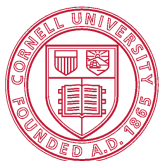
Cornell Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Agenda for 7 November 2016

Bache Auditorium, Malott Hall

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 October 24, 2016
- IV. Presentations: 20 Minutes
 - a. Charles Van Loan, Dean of Faculty and Co-Chair, Academic Calendar Committee: 15 minutes ([Academic Calendar Committee Website](#))
 - b. Nathaniel Stetson, Executive Vice President, GPSA: 5 minutes
- V. Breakout Session by Division: 10 minutes
 - a. Department compliance with work restrictions for TAs
- VI. New Business: 10 minutes
 - a. Motions
 - i. Motion to create an ad hoc committee to explore founding Student Legal Services
 - b. Resolutions (*none*)
- 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



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Minutes of the October 24, 2016 Meeting

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Bache Auditorium, Malott Hall

I. Call to Order

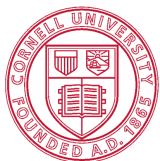
- a. N. Rogers called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.
- b. *Members Present:* J. Bensur, C. Franklin, J. Goldberg, S. Hesse, M. Jodlowski, A. Loiben, J. Maynard, E. Michel, M. Milano, M. Munasinghe, L. Munguia (late arrival), I. Smythe, T. Snider, Y. Tang, A. Waymack, E. Winarto
- c. *Members Absent:* T. Bollu, E. Case
- d. *Also Present:* B. Knuth, J. Bergfalk, S. Brylinsky,

II. Minutes

- a. A motion was made **amend** the minutes to strike E. Case from the members present, to insert that E. Michel had volunteered for the SA Liaison position, and to add a bullet point in the committee reports section for communications (which had nothing to report), there was no dissent.
- b. A motion was made to **amend** the minutes to include section III, parts xvi-xix, there was no dissent.
- c. There was a motion to **call the question**. There was no dissent and the minutes were **approved** unanimously.

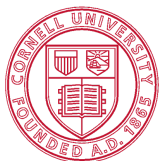
III. Presentations

- a. A motion was made to move reports of officers and committees before new business, there was no dissent, the motion was **approved**.
- b. A motion was made for a late addition to the agenda under new business for a reconsideration of Resolution 4, there was no dissent, the motion was **approved**.
- c. B. Knuth, Senior Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School then made her presentation. B. Knuth's accompanying document can viewed at the end of these minutes.
 - i. R. Walroth asked if the reason they cannot discuss the stipend rate increases is because of the NLRB's decision or because there is an active unionization effort on campus.
 - ii. B. Knuth responded it is because of the active unionization effort.



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- iii. I. Smythe asked if the federal government's healthcare decision was final.
- iv. B. Knuth responded that the last guidance that was issued gave a specific date when it would expire and when the federal government would hold universities to task, but the current guidance as of Friday (10/21) is said to not have an expiration date. However, the administration could change its mind. But B. Knuth does not believe this will happen.
- v. M. Espinosa asked what the purpose for composing this message was, if it was a reply, or if it was an opinion that the union would be purposeless, and would the administration rather talk with the GPSA or a union.
- vi. B. Knuth responded that she does not want the word purposeless associated with a union. She was not there making a university statement, she was asked to talk about what accomplishments have been made, and one of those this year is to try to stimulate students to make a decision about unionization. She stressed that it is the students who are going to make the decision.
- vii. A. Natarajan asked how GPSA interactions with the administration would change with graduate student unionization.
- viii. B. Knuth responded that a complete answer is unknown. Under federal law there is not a lot of experience of graduate unionization at private universities. That said, anything that can be conditions of employment the administration cannot discuss with the GPSA. What that is is arguable, and if there is a contract negotiation it will be addressed likely. Stipend rates are part of that.
- ix. A. Natarajan asked for clarification that members of the GPSA would not have a say on the stipend rate.
- x. B. Knuth responded that that is correct.
- xi. N. Rogers stated that the GPSA will continue to exist, however benefits will probably be off of the table. N. Rogers said the EA sets a good precedent, nine unions represent those employees, and they do just fine, however the GPSA is different from the EA, so no one is quite sure how it will turn out.
- xii. J. Goldberg asked how the stipend rates have or have not changed.
- xiii. B. Knuth responded that the stipend rate for research stayed the same while the TA stipend rate went up. After a while, departments were equalizing the



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rates on their own, so the graduate school brought up the research stipend rate to equalize the rates again.

- d. J. Bergfalk, Doctoral Candidate in Mathematics, and S. Brylinsky, Sustainability Communications and Integration Manager, Campus Sustainability Office, then made their presentation on the document: "Options for Achieving a Carbon Neutral Campus by 2035." The document can be viewed online at:

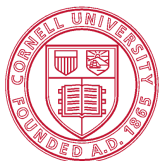
<http://csc-production.s3.amazonaws.com/2016/10/31/18/53/34/ccb70786-90a6-4feb-b1b7-0ce9dc520c1f/Cornell%20University%20-%20Options%20for%20Achieving%20a%20Carbon%20Neutral%20Campus%20-%202016.pdf>

- i. A. Loiben asked J. Bergfalk and S. Brylinsky that if they were to put betting odds on the ability of the earth source heating to work, what would they be.
- ii. S. Brylinsky responded that she thinks Cornell has a suite of talented students, staff and faculty, and that only a university could do this. The report's purpose is to not put all the eggs in one basket, which is why other options are included. She believes there is real opportunity for earth source heat to work.

IV. Breakout Session

V. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates

- a. Executive Committee: nothing to report.
- b. Operations: S. Hesse will be sending out an email for approval of internal and external committees. For the GPCI, there are 2 applications spots, please apply.
- c. Appropriations: setting up a joint meeting to discuss long term handling of activity fees at other campuses.
- d. Communications: M. Munasinghe will be sending out an email with another copy of Dean Knuth's report and a link to the website with the sustainability report. M. Munasinghe is setting up a leadership summit about agenda items for next semester.
- e. Finance: the deadline for the November budget is this friday (10/28), asked for more applicants to the committee.
- f. Student Advocacy: they are exploring creating a form online so people can submit concerns, questions and comments. They have also begun the long process of reconfiguring the student resource list.
- g. Diversity and International Students: the committee is switching to biweekly meetings.



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- h. Programming: they thanked everyone who forwarded emails, there is a mixer on thursday (10/27), there will be another email to all field representatives about upcoming events like grad ball. They had some good ideas from GPSA members about events and people wanting to join the committee, please email them for more information.
- i. Faculty: nothing to report.
- j. Grad school: the new cash course begins this week, there is a new website with personal finance information (taxes, etc). The committee still needs a student member.

VI. New business

a. Resolution 6: GPSA Finance Commission Guideline Amendments for Ph.D. Students at Cornell Tech (PACT)

- i. There was a discussion on the resolution.
- ii. J. Goldberg motioned to **amend** line 36 to insert “with regards to PACT” after the word “guidelines”.
 - 1. There was discussion, R. walroth motioned to **call the question**, the amendment was **approved** 10-4-4.
- iii. R. Walroth, motioned to **amend** to strike “be it finally resolved” from line 50 and insert in its place “be it further resolved” and add in line 55 “be it finally resolved that these changes apply to PACT only and do not alter GPSAFC guidelines or organizations in general.”
 - 1. A motion was made to **call the question**, there was no dissent. The amendment was **approved** unanimously.
- iv. T. Snider motioned to **amend**, lines 28-30 to read as they appear on dashboard.
 - 1. M. Munasinghe motioned to extend the meeting by 10 minutes, there was no dissent.
 - 2. A. Loiben motioned to **call the question** on the amendment, there was no dissent, the amendment was **approved** 16-0-2
- v. T. Snider motioned to amend lines 32-53 to read as they appear on dashboard.



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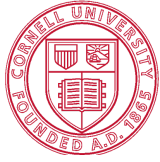
1. A. Waymack motioned to amend the amendment in line 41 to insert "be" in between "PACT" and "recognized". The amendment to the amendment was **approved** 16-0-2.
2. A motion was made to **call question** on the amendment, the amendment was **approved** 16-0-2.
- vi. A. Loiben motioned to **call question** on the resolution. The resolution was **approved** 16-0-2

b. Resolution 4: In Support of the Maplewood Redevelopment Project

- i. There was a discussion on the resolution.
- ii. A. loiben motioned to table discussion of the resolution, there was dissent, and the motion was **withdrawn**.
- iii. R. Walroth motioned to amend lines 15-18 to read as they appear on dashboard.
 1. A. Waymack motioned to **amend** the amendment to strike "additional", the amendment was **withdrawn**.
 2. S. Hesse motioned to amend the amendment to change "GP" to "graduate students", there was no dissent, the amendment was **approved** 14-0-4.
 3. A motion was made to extend the meeting by 5 minutes, there was no dissent
 4. E. Case motioned to amend the amendment to insert "on assistantships" after "students", there was no dissent, the amendment was **approved** unanimously.
 5. A motion was made to call the question on R. Walroth's amendment, there was no dissent, the amendment was **approved** 13-1-4
- iv. T. Snider motioned to **call the question** on the resolution. The resolution was **approved** 11-3-5.

VII. Open Forum

- a. M. Munasinghe: the FC is looking to make amendments to its guidelines, so if you would like to make an amendment contact them.
- b. A. Waymack made a motion to close business, there was no dissent.



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The meeting was adjourned at 7:24.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matthew Ferraro
Clerk of the Assembly