

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

**Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly**

Minutes of the November 21, 2016 Meeting

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Bache Auditorium, Malott Hall

I. Call to Order

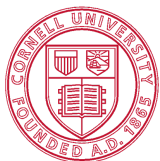
- a. N. Rogers called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.
- b. *Members Present:* E. Case, J. Goldberg, M. Jodlowski, A. Loiben, J. Maynard, M. Munasinghe, L. Munguia, I. Smythe, T. Snider, Y. Tang, A. Waymack, E. Winarto.
- c. *Members Absent:* J. Bensur, T. Bollu, C. Franklin, S. Hesse, E. Michel, M. Milano.
- d. *Also Present:* M. Horvath, S. Affel.
- e. M. Munasinghe motioned to amend the agenda by adding a bullet for the academic calendar under the Breakout Session, moving Reports of Officers to after the Breakout Session, and moving the presentation of Sarah Affel to before Open Forum, there was no dissent, the motion was **approved**.
- f. J. Goldberg motioned to add Resolution 7 to New Business, there was no dissent, the motion was **approved**.

II. Approval of the Minutes

- a. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the November 7th meeting, there was no dissent, the minutes were **approved**.

III. First Presentation

- a. Michelle Horvath, Cornell's Judicial Administrator, then made her presentation. The JA does not handle 6.4 or academic integrity complaints. The office believes in "Freedom with responsibility," adult decisions come with adult consequences. She wants the process to be an educational process. There are different intervention techniques for each person. The JA has an online reporting form. Graduate Students as TAs hear things, they can report to the JA too.
- b. A. Gagnon asked if information should be relayed if they already told their bosses per departmental policy.
- c. M. Horvath responded that she does not know if it gets relayed. She said to follow the protocols in your office, but anyone can report through the alert process. Reporting in both cases is fine and encouraged.



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- d. M. Munasinghe asked what changes are happening to transcript notations.
  - e. M. Horvath responded that under state law certain things that have to be noted on transcripts. The Code of Conduct didn't provide for a notation of transcripts, and the office was concerned that it wasn't codified. She went to the CJC to have it codified. There are three groups of conduct: 1) alcohol/drug use [minor offenses], 2) 129b offenses [major offenses, deadly weapon use, etc.], and 3) the in between ground. There was a compromise to allow university hearing boards to note on transcripts at their discretion.
  - f. N. Rogers asked what 129b is.
  - g. M. Horvath responded that 129b is sexual assault, arson burglary, armed robbery, and other really extreme offenses. The JA has to notate these. CJC trying to decide what other offenses have to be notated. The JA has to look at reputational risks, we graduate individuals of high character. That's where the idea of transcript notation comes from.
  - h. M. Srivastava asked if you have to disclose sexual assault, how do groups like EARS report things.
  - i. M. Horvath responded that those are confidential resources (counseling is confidential because it is privileged), those instances are only reported if there is an imminent threat.
  - j. I. Smythe asked for clarification for suspensions and expulsions that are not notated through the JA.
  - k. M. Horvath responded that they are trying to determine if the academic hearing boards will follow new protocol, or have their own discretion.
  - l. M. Munasinghe asked when a transcript is notated if it just says expelled/suspended or if it clarifies the reasons for expulsion/suspension.
  - m. M. Horvath responded that 129b mandates the notation of the reason, but in some circumstances after a year it could be dropped. M. Horvath's email is [mrh263@cornell.edu](mailto:mrh263@cornell.edu) if there are further questions.
  - n. N. Rogers noted that L. Munguia and E. Winarto are representatives on the CJC. Get into contact with them for more input as well.
- IV. Breakout Session by Division
- a. Transcript Notations



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- b. Academic Calendar
- V. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates
  - a. Executive: nothing to report.
  - b. Operations: appropriations and FC are having elections next week.
  - c. Appropriations: nothing to report
  - d. Communications: voting members got an email about leadership summit, if you cannot attend tell M. Munasinghe.
  - e. Finance: met two weeks ago, allocated \$19,000, have \$60,000 left to allocate for the year.
  - f. Student Advocacy: working on resource list, looking at Gannett bystander intervention and parking. There is a bias reporting tool online, if you have an incident of bias you want to report there is a form to report bias/discrimination.
  - g. Diversity and International Students: looking for input on possible resolutions, contact the committee.
  - h. Programming: nothing to report.
  - i. Faculty awards: nothing to report.
  - j. Graduates School: nothing to report.
- VI. New Business
  - a. **Resolution 7: In Support of Making Cornell a Sanctuary Campus**
  - b. A. Loiben motioned to suspend reading the resolution in its entirety, there was no dissent.
  - c. J. Goldberg: this is a short resolution to support a petition making Cornell a sanctuary campus. The Mayor of Ithaca already declared Ithaca will do this. There have been petitions like this at dozens of other universities.
  - d. R. Walroth asked if this would encourage Cornell to advocate this policy to other politicians whose localities come into contact with Cornell's campus, or if this would just apply on Cornell's campus.
  - e. J. Goldberg: Resolution is just for the Cornell campus.
  - f. A. Natarajan asked if it is legal to resist ICE.
  - g. J. Goldberg: this is something that universities can do to show support, solidarity, but if push came to shove, this sanctuary statement might not be able to hold up. He doesn't know for sure.



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- h. N. Stetson: you don't have to cooperate with ICE if you haven't sworn an oath of office. If they have a subpoena, then you can be held in contempt of court for not cooperating. It would be very hard to resist if push came to shove, but ICE would need the courts.
- i. E. Case asked if Cornell police are with this.
- j. J. Goldberg: Cornell police could have a rule where they cannot ask about immigration status.
- k. M. Munasinghe: I think right now Cornell police don't ask about status.
- l. A question was asked if the resolution covers only card carrying (students, staff, faculty) Cornell community members or outsiders too.
- m. J. Goldberg: students, staff, faculty, and members of the broader community, so it would cover outsiders.
- n. M. Schlamp asked what would the GPSA be doing by passing this.
- o. J. Goldberg: the petition would have the official support of a shared governance body.
- p. M. Munasinghe asked if J. Goldberg sees this as a first step, passing this and then having conversations on how to really implement it.
- q. J. Goldberg: the nature of work to be done with administration would be determined by their reply to the petition.
- r. A. Waymack spoke in support of the resolution. There is external pressure for this. One of her students has already experienced awful racism.
- s. N. Stetson suggested that J. Goldberg list the asks in the resolution, if he wants them adopted jointly or separately.
- t. M. Munasinghe stated there needs to be a commitment from the GPSA to see this through, we need to be involved with administration to make this happen. She likes the resolution, but it cannot end here.
- u. A. Loiben stated it's a good idea to put this on the record explicitly:
- v. I. Smythe asked are the other assemblies looking at this.
- w. G. Giambattista said there is some talk about creating a joint resolution, however this is the first assembly to meet after the creation of the petition.
- x. R. Walroth stated if the GPSA passes this it doesn't mean we're out of joint resolution, it's the message not the exact wording that counts.



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- y. J. Goldberg asked N. Stetson to elaborate further on his earlier statement.
- z. N. Stetson wants the resolution to ask that all of the demands in the petition be implemented all together or separately, not an all or nothing approach.
- aa. B. McInnis asked if the GPSA could do more event for students that speak against these actions, like TA training. The GPSA could do more.
- bb. Manisha said FC is looking to apportion more money that meets GPCI guidelines, like these organizations.
- cc. A. Waymack asked N. Stetson to make an amendment with the exact language to convey his earlier statements.
- dd. N Stetson made a motion to **table** the resolution. he stated the GPSA should table this, rework it and come back. Or the GPSA should pass it and amend it after. Or table for 15 minutes, amend it, and discuss again. Motion **withdrawn**.
- ee. M. Munasinghe suggested a straw poll, a motion was made to take a straw poll. The results of the straw poll are 24-0-3 in favor of the resolution.
- ff. M. Srivastava asked how will people know about the resolution this.
- gg. N. Rogers stated that he sends it to the President, the oa-actions listserv, usually a Cornell Sun reporter is here as well.
- hh. M. Srivastava asked can't the GPSA do more.
- ii. T. Snider pointed out that if the GPSA passes it tonight, the President has 30 days to respond.
- jj. M. Munasinghe said we can disseminate this to our fields, important to take this back to our constituencies.
- kk. N. Stetson motioned to amend the resolution, lines 32-37.
  - i. T. Snider offered several friendly amendments.
  - ii. A. Loiben, made a motion to **call the question** on the amendment, it was **approved** 11-0-7
- ll. A. Waymack made a motion to **call the question** on the resolution, there was no dissent, the resolution was **approved** 12-0-6
- mm. A motion was made to move Open Forum ahead of the Second Presentation, there was no dissent.

VII. Open Forum



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- a. N. Stetson said the standing rules email will not be out before the end of the semester, but he will send a cheat sheet for Robert's Rules of Order. The Law school does a cool program for the Holidays, Cornell Elves, you can sponsor a child, buy a gift, or donate money.
- b. T. Snider asked his fellow GPSA members to seek out the petition, especially if they were one of the 12 voting members who voted for the body to endorse it
- c. M. Munasinghe will send out the petition and the resolution.
- d. There was discussion on whether it was right to pass the resolution without discussing it with constituents.
- e. M. Munasinghe said that's why the GPSA's agenda is public, it is the field rep's responsibility to bring up agendas with their fields.
- f. N. Rogers pointed out that this was not included on the agenda.
- g. N. Stetson said that is why we had to vote on whether to add this to the agenda, if the members think it is time sensitive, than we can add it. He endorsed what M. Munasinghe just said. They can't publish the agenda 3 weeks out. He reminded Field reps, that even though they can't vote, they have equal speaking rights and rights to make motions.
- h. B. McInnis asked if Cornell has a formal method for responding to petitions or students making a petition and does Cornell have infrastructure to supply petitions.
- i. N. Stetson said the assembly can move to hold a referendum. The resolution says the GPSA as an institution endorses the petition.
- j. I. Smythe said the resolution enters a formal process, that's why we did this. The President has to say something about this. Besides this though, he doesn't think Cornell has a process.
- k. M. Munasinghe said the formalized process is asking an assembly to hold a referendum on it.

### VIII. Second Presentation

- a. Sarah Affel, University Title IX Coordinator, then made her presentation about the university's Title IX office and various actions and procedures related to Cornell's 6.4 policy.
- b. S. Affel noted the high numbers of sexual assault cases among the graduate student population. Cornell's romantic relationship policy (see the Faculty Handbook) is not



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in the 6.4 policy, but could end up there if sexual harassment happens. Reporting to the Title IX office is really easy. There's an online reporting form (form covers any bias), you can tell staff and faculty, they have to tell Title IX. She strongly encourages individuals to come forward, however the office will honor the choice of the student. There are confidential resources students can go to that won't tell Title IX. She also clarified the investigative procedures of the office.

- c. N. Stetson motioned to extend the meeting by five minutes, there was no dissent.
- d. S. Affel talked about the complaint process and clarified the hearing process. Hearings are safe and controlled where no one is surprised or ambushed.
- e. N. Stetson asked if Cornell's policy is affirmative consent? (the answer is yes) and is there enforcement provision for the romantic relationships with students policy.
- f. S. Affel responded that deans of the colleges handle the romantic relationship cases, the faculty handbook has many areas of misconduct where the dean is the primary investigator. It's a special situation if a tenured faculty member is accused. The more formal procedures are dismissal, suspension, and grievances by faculty members. Dean of faculty has this listed. Changes to appendix C were under the provost under President Garrett, others have to be under the Faculty Senate.
- g. M. Munasinghe motioned to extend the meeting by 5 minutes, there was no dissent. She asked if parties involved can acquire legal assistance.
- h. S. Affel responded that you have a right to a counselor of your choice (through the Law School). Cornell will supply one. Students may select to have a private attorney.
- i. L. Munguia asked what is the extent of the hearing board training.
- j. S. Affel said training includes 6 hours of in person training, plus a handbook, plus online training. So a total of about 10 hours of mandatory training plus a handbook.
- k. S. Affel was asked if it makes a difference if conduct happened on or off campus. Asked can people who are not members of the Cornell community file against a Cornell student?
- l. S. Affel: If you're a student it still applies (unless you're in a position where you have to reapply to the university). And yes, anyone can make a complaint. Procedures are here for anyone who is impacted by a student. If something happened on campus or at affiliated programs, it counts (Geneva, DC, frats, teams, etc.). If something



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happens between two students in colleegetown it still impacts Cornell's climate and will be investigated by the Title IX office..

- m. M. Srivastava asked how does Title IX work across universities.
- n. S. Affel said the ability to talk between universities is limited, to protect student privacy. Cornell has to note on transcripts if a student has been suspended or expelled for a disciplinary matter.
- o. N. Rogers said either a motion to adjourn or to extend was needed. A motion to extend the meeting was offered, there was no dissent.
- p. M. Schlamp asked how does this apply outside Cornell's campus.
- q. S. Affel responded that these are called Title IX, but they are Cornell's policies, and they apply to all of our affiliates.
- r. A. Waymack asked when/where are student-employees mandatory reporters and when/where are they not.
- s. S. Affel said some people are mandatory reporters by state law. Under Cornell policy 6.4, any member of staff and faculty must consult with the Title IX coordinator when they are told something. When students are fulfilling an employment roll, when the student is at work, they are obligated to talk to the Title IX coordinator. When they are not at work they are students, they are not obligated then. RAs are obligated all the time.
- t. N. Stetson made a motion to adjourn, there was no dissent.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Matthew Ferraro  
Clerk of the Assembly