

Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

Cornell Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Agenda for 21 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 November 7, 2016
- IV. Presentations: 30 Minutes
 - a. Michelle Horvath, Judicial Administrator (15 Minutes)
 - b. Sarah Affel, University Title IX Coordinator (15 Minutes)
- V. Breakout Session by Division: 10 minutes
 - a. Transcript Notations
- VI. New Business
 - a. Motions (*none*)
 - 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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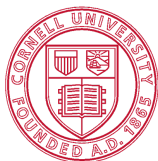
Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Minutes of the November 7, 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 5:30pm.
 - b. *Members Present:* J. Bensus, T. Bollu, E. Case, C. Franklin, J. Goldberg (late arrival), S. Hesse, M. Jodlowski, A. Loiben, J. Maynard, E. Michel, M. Milano, M. Munasinghe, L. Munguia, I. Smythe, T. Snider, Y. Tang, A. Waymack (late arrival), E. Winarto.
 - c. *Members Absent:* None
 - d. *Also Present:* C. Van Loan.
- II. Approval of the Minutes of the October 24, 2016 Meeting.
 - a. A motion was made to call the question on the minutes from the October 24, 2016 meeting, there was no dissent, the minutes were approved.
- III. Presentations
 - a. Charles Van Loan, Dean of Faculty and Co-Chair of the Academic Calendar Committee, then made his presentation.
 - i. C. Van Loan called for public comments on the [Academic Calendar Committee's website](#).
 - ii. I. Smythe asked if shifting the spring semester earlier would change thesis deadlines.
 - iii. C. Van Loan did not know.
 - iv. A question was asked as to why there are fewer lab days in the spring semester than the fall semester.
 - v. C. Van Loan responded that the people for whom this issue is important need to make their voices heard. Send the committee comments.
 - vi. A question was asked as to what will be different from the 2012 changes.
 - vii. C. Van Loan did not see the senior week changes being reversed. But everything will be on the table. Maybe fall break will be axed or it will be a full week.



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- viii. C. Van Loan stated that shortening the semester is not in the cards, the committee is just talking about shifting the whole semester earlier. Again, please comment on the website.
- ix. M. Munasinghe asked when does the website launch and how long is the submission period.
- x. C. Van Loan responded it is up now. The goal is to have comments by the end of the semester, by December 2. He stated that the committee will be in everybody's face from start to finish to ensure input in the process.
- xi. M. Munasinghe asked if C. Van Loan wants the GPSA to push this on social media now.
- xii. C. Van Loan responded in the affirmative.
- xiii. T. Bollu asked if there is anyway to gage the effectiveness of these breaks.
- xiv. C. Van Loan responded that looking at Gannett statistics the breaks do not seem to have an impact
- xv. R. Carson stated that the Saturday and Sunday exams seem like a weird oddity.
- xvi. C. Van Loan responded that thoughts should be sent to the committee. The committee wants all the input it can get.
- xvii. C. Stambuk asked who made the fact that prelims are at night.
- xviii. C. Van Loan responded that the University decided which prelims were when.
- xix. It was stated that some are worried about the 5 week break going to 3 weeks, which would make winter travel more of a hassle for international students.
- xx. C. Van Loan responded that the committee will talk with relevant offices.
- xxi. R. Walroth asked has there ever been a thought to separate the graduate and undergraduate exam schedules.
- xxii. C. Van Loan responded that graduate students have a unique vantage point, that they see undergrads and they're experiencing final exams themselves. Asked for responses on the website, not just as graduate students but as observers of other students.
- xxiii. M. Munasinghe stated she will send out an email with the website link.



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- b. N. Stetson then made his presentation on creating a Standing Rules document and on Robert's Rules of Order.
 - i. N. Stetson said the GPSA could create another governing document, it could help make meetings run more smoothly. He would like comments from members. The standing rules could put into writing a rule that when anyone makes a motion the debate would shift into a speech by the person proposing the motion. Points of Inquiry should not be used to answer everyone's questions, the standing rules could put in an automatic Q&A session after the motion maker's speech. Then a speakers' list would open up for comments and such. Speakers should not ask questions during the speakers' list, it is only for statements. In summary the standing rules would clarify the process to be: motion, speech, Q&A, speakers' list. Another standing rule could make conversation automatically go into a speakers' list the first time the chair sees two hands at one time. Could possibly include having limits on speaking time, maybe 30 seconds or 1 minute, which will encourage people to think about what they are going to say. N. Stetson will send out a cheat sheet to Robert's Rules.
 - ii. T. Bollu asked how the Q&A would work.
 - iii. N. Stetson responded that it is flexible and the speakers would run it.
 - iv. R. Walroth asked why is it beneficial to have a new governing document rather than a bylaws amendment.
 - v. N. Stetson replied that he does not have a strong feeling either way, but bylaws are not supposed to be for standing rules. Probably better to have a short document.
 - vi. I. Smythe stated that the bylaws already have an article for procedures.
 - vii. N. Stetson responded that it's just saying the GPSA uses Robert's Rules, which could be specified by a standing rules document.
 - viii. I. Smythe asked how N. Stetson intends on avoiding comments during Q&A.
 - ix. N. Stetson responded that the chair should relentlessly smack down people who abuse the Q&A.
 - x. M. Munasinghe asked for clarification on the Q&A and speakers' list.



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- xii. A. Loiben asked if this is the same thing that the US Senate's rules use for cloture/filibuster.
 - xiii. N. Stetson replied yes, but they do that all the time not just when they are filibustering.
 - xiv. A. Loiben asked if the GPSA could put into the standing rules that you do not have to read resolutions in their entirety.
- IV. Breakout Session by Division
- V. New Business
- a. Motion to create an ad hoc committee to explore founding Student Legal Services
 - i. N. Stetson motioned to create an ad hoc committee to found Student Legal Services.
 - ii. R. Walroth: over the past couple of years, work has been done on creating SLS. It would be a place where free legal advice could be sought if you come into a problem not related to Cornell University. Primarily a landlord defense thing, dealing with leases. A lawyer you could go to for anything not related to Cornell. They are trying to get the ball rolling to see this implemented. The committee would interface with the administration and the SA to get this going. In the current template there is a \$10 fee or an opt-out.
 - iii. T. Bollu asked what can these lawyers be used for.
 - iv. Because the fee is collected by Cornell, it would be a conflict of interest for SLS to deal with Cornell, which is why they cannot be used in legal action against Cornell.
 - v. N. Rogers: historically these are landlord-tenant issues SLS would take care of.
 - vi. T. Bollu asked what is preventing them from putting 10 dollars aside for a private lawyer.
 - vii. R. Walroth: we would have to go to everyone individually, really this is only meant to address issues with the outside world not Cornell.



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- viii. I. Smythe asked if issues between students would be covered.
- ix. The answer was no, both students paid the 10 dollar fee, so it would be a conflict of interest. SLS could help people find other lawyers.
- x. J. Goldberg asked could legal services provide informal advice relating to Cornell, or does that mean one cannot even have the conversation.
- xi. N. Stetson: it is a very complicated issue, part of SLS training would be to say “no stop talking to me about this” if there is a conflict of interest.
- xii. M. Srivastava asked will the committee be around in June/July.
- xiii. N. Rogers responded the committee is to explore SLS. SLS itself would be around year-round.
- xiv. I. Smythe asked would this cover a tax attorney.
- xv. R. Walroth responded yes.
- xvi. The issue of faculty landlords was raised, SLS would have to determine if it was a conflict.
- xvii. N. Rogers: the speaker’s list was exhausted, there was no dissent, the motion was approved.

VI. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates

- a. Executive: nothing to report.
- b. Operations: S. Hesse: please apply for internal/external and GPCI committees.
- c. Appropriations: nothing to report.
- d. Communications: M. Munasinghe said the leadership survey has been sent out, she’s still waiting on some responses.
- e. Finance: nothing to report.
- f. Student Advocacy: working on the student resource list, creating an online submission form, and in the middle of possibly doing a graduate student survey.
- g. Diversity and International Students: The Indigenous peoples’ day resolution will be discussed in the committee's next meeting.
- h. Programming: considering redoing the mixers, throwing around a couple of ideas on how they can work better. Please reach out to the committee.
- i. Faculty Awards: nothing to report.
- j. Graduate School: graduate students can have up to 8 semesters of leave, can submit a petition for more semesters, the number of graduate students taking leaves ranges



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from 20-40. Students who are considering this can anonymously talk to J. Allen, any questions about funding or process. They never want to know the details of the health issue, you have privacy rights.

- i. M. Munasinghe asked are there any stats on students who are leaving (why they are leaving).
- ii. J. Allen replied no, the graduate school does not keep stats, she'll talk to Gannett to see if they know why.
- iii. C. Franklin asked if students on a health leave of absence can get student health insurance.
- iv. J. Allen said she contacts the field to get the best possible outcome, it is a case by case basis. They might get it through the end of the year. On a health leave of absence you do receive the remaining funding. The only thing that might change is if a faculty grant ended. When on personal leave you are not guaranteed funding, but health leave you are. The graduate school fights for you.

VII. Open Forum

- a. C. Franklin noted the popcorn machine at the BRB is broken, they could use leftover money on that.
- b. It was then stated that the BRB is getting a new popcorn machine.
- c. T. Snider made two points: vote tomorrow, and a motion to adjourn the meeting, there was dissent.
 - i. A. Molitoris: she has been talking with workers at Gannett and you have to pay for parking now, at \$3 and hour. She asked if other people are upset.
 - ii. G. Giambattista: the EA is having a transportation forum at its next meeting, Wednesday, November 16th, in Clark 700.
 - iii. A. Loiben wished to note the email N. Stetson sent out on the housing forum.
 - iv. N. Rogers: the housing master plan does not do much for graduate housing right now, they are mainly working on undergraduate housing.
 - v. I. Smythe: Cornell Cinema is doing a crowdfunding project to get a 3d projector, check it out.



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- vi. M. Munasinghe addressing A. Molitoris: you can bring a resolution about the parking fee to the floor.
- vii. I. Smythe made a motion to close the meeting, there was no dissent.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53pm.

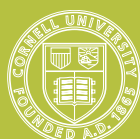
Respectfully Submitted,
Matthew Ferraro
Clerk of the Assembly

Know What to Do

If you or someone you know has been assaulted, harassed, stalked, or is in an abusive relationship, help is available.

- **If you need emergency assistance**, call Cornell Police (607-255-1111) or 911.
- **Seek support and care.** For confidential support, speak with a Cornell Victim Advocate (607-255-1212) or call Gannett Health Services (607-255-5155). In order to keep you and others in the Cornell community safe, most Cornell faculty and staff (including DGSs) have a duty to consult with the Title IX Coordinator if they become aware of potential incidents of prohibited conduct. All faculty and staff, including the Title IX Coordinator, will maintain your privacy to the greatest extent possible. See **SHARE.CORNELL.EDU/CARE** for more resources, including an explanation of which resources are confidential.
- **Seek medical attention.** Support and referral are available by phone 24 hours a day, seven days a week through Gannett Health Services (607-255-5155). You may choose to have physical and medical evidence recorded for legal purposes. In this case, seek immediate medical attention at Cayuga Medical Center where trained nurses (sexual assault nurse examiners) can provide sensitive medical care and physical evidence collection. Should you decide to later press charges, such evidence will significantly increase the possibility of prosecution.
- **Keep additional evidence of abuse.** You may choose to file a complaint or report the incident to the police and every piece of information you collect could help, should you decide to move forward with a complaint. Save emails, texts, voicemails, letters, notes, etc. Photograph anything of yours that the abuser damages and any injuries that the abuser causes. If there were witnesses, ask them to document what they saw.
- **Consider reporting the incident to the Cornell Police or to the Title IX Coordinator.** The choice of whether or not to file a complaint is yours. Cornell Police can assist you in filing a criminal complaint and obtaining and enforcing a court order of protection. The Title IX Coordinator can assist you with filing a complaint under University Policy 6.4. Even if you are unsure about filing a complaint, consultation with the Title IX Coordinator can lead to actions being taken on your behalf, including specific protective measures, such as a no-conduct order. The Title IX Coordinator will maintain your privacy to the greatest extent possible. See **TITLEIX.CORNELL.EDU** for more information including a guide for students about filing a complaint under Policy 6.4.
- **Know your rights.** According to University Policy 6.4, you have the right to make a report to university police, local law enforcement, and/or state police or choose not to report; to report the incident to Cornell, to be protected by Cornell from retaliation for reporting an incident; and to receive assistance and resources from Cornell, such as living, academic, work, or transportation accommodations. All Cornell policies apply equally to all Cornell community members regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. For additional information view the Student Bill of Rights. See **TITLEIX.CORNELL.EDU**.
- **Learn more about safe and positive options for bystander intervention.**
We can act as a community to reduce risk and promote positive, healthy behaviors and relationships. See **SHARE.CORNELL.EDU/BYSTANDER**.

For more information: [SHARE.CORNELL.EDU](https://share.cornell.edu)



Definitions of Policy 6.4 Prohibited Student Conduct

Cornell University will not tolerate gender-based harassment, sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, or other forms of sexual misconduct committed by or against students, staff, or faculty. All reports will be taken seriously and all individuals will be treated with respect. Sanctions may include any of the following, depending on the nature of the conduct: dismissal, suspension, probation, counseling, and education.

DATING/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, also sometimes referred to as intimate partner violence, is any intentional act or threatened act of violence against the complainant committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the complainant; a current or former spouse or intimate partner; a person with whom the complainant shares a child; or anyone who is protected from the respondent's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of New York. Dating/Domestic violence also includes behavior that seeks to establish control over a complainant by causing that person to fear violence to themselves or another person. Such behavior may take the form of harassment, property damage, intimidation, and violence or a threat of violence to one's self or a third party. It may be one act or a pattern of behaviors used to gain power and control over current or previous intimate partners.

For examples of typical signs of intimate partner violence and unhealthy relationships, see **SHARE.CORNELL.EDU/SIGNS**.

SEXUAL ASSAULT is a broad term used to define sexual intercourse or sexual contact without affirmative consent.

- **Sexual intercourse** means any penetration—however slight—with any object or body part.
- **Sexual contact** means intentional sexual touching—however slight—with any object or body part, whether directly or through clothing.
- **Affirmative consent** is a knowing, voluntary, and mutual decision among all participants to engage in sexual activity. Consent can be given by words or actions, as long as those words or actions create clear permission regarding willingness to engage in the sexual activity. Silence or lack of resistance, in and of itself, does not demonstrate consent. The definition of consent does not vary based upon a participant's sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Consent can be withdrawn at any time. Consent cannot be given by a person who is less than 17-years-old, mentally disabled, or incapacitated. A person is incapacitated when they lack the ability to choose knowingly to participate in a sexual activity. So when engaging in sexual activity, be sure your partner wants to be intimate and is not too intoxicated to make the choice to engage in sexual activities.

STALKING is engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to (a) fear for their safety or the safety of others or (b) suffer substantial emotional distress. For examples of stalking behaviors, see **SHARE.CORNELL.EDU/EXAMPLES**.

NYS LAW: Sexual offenses (including rape and sexual abuse), family offenses, and stalking are crimes in New York State. Under NYS penal code, lack of consent results from (a) forcible compulsion, (b) incapacity to consent, (c) no express or implied acquiescence, where the offense charged is sexual abuse or forcible touching, or (d) clear expression of non-consent, where the offense charged is rape. NYS state law states that a person is incapable of consent when he or she is (a) under the age of 17, (b) mentally disabled, (c) mentally incapacitated, (d) physically helpless, or (e) committed to the care of the state. In NYS, "family offenses" are certain violations of the penal code, including but not limited to harassment, sexual abuse, stalking, and menacing, committed by a family member or intimate partner that have created a substantial risk of physical or emotional harm to a person or a person's child. Under NYS penal code, stalking is an intentional course of conduct directed at a specific person who causes harm to the mental or emotional distress of that person, fear for their health, safety or property, or the health, safety or property of their family or acquaintances, or fear that their employment, business or career is threatened. For more information, contact Cornell Police at (607-255-1111).

*For more detailed definitions of prohibited conduct and information about Policy 6.4 and reporting options, visit **TITLEIX.CORNELL.EDU***

8/15/16

Sexual Harassment & Assault—Response & Education (SHARE)

SHARE.CORNELL.EDU

Get help. Get involved.
a caring community resource