

Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Minutes of the October 30th, 2017 Meeting

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Bache Auditorium, Malott Hall

I. Call to Order

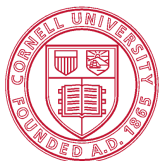
- a. E. Winarto called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.
- b. *Members Present:* R. Adityavarman, K. Angierski, R. Boylan, C. Cannarozzo, A. Gagnon, J. Goldberg, R. Harrison, S. Hesse, M. Jodlowski, C. Little, A. Loiben, T. McCann, E. Michel, D. Moon, A. Schofield, C. Stambuk, W. Zhang.
- c. *Members Absent:* J. Hernandez.
- d. *Also Present:* M. Pollack.

II. Approval of the Minutes

- a. The minutes from the October 16th, 2017 meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

III. Presentations

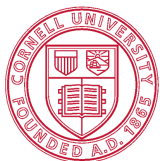
- a. Cornell University President Martha Pollack then made her presentation.
- b. M. Pollack addressed new initiatives in career services for graduate and professional students, the opening of the Maplewood development, and the expansion of the student child care grant.
- c. M. Pollack then addressed how awful this semester has been with the various incidents of racism and bigotry. She noted that the Graduate School won an award for inclusion for My Voice My Story. She very much wanted to acknowledge the input of the GPSA as we address these issues of hatred. We need substantive, meaningful institutional change and we need the entire community involved. They are increasing counselors in CAPS.
 - i. There was overwhelming interest in joining the Presidential Task Force, which will be action oriented.
 - ii. The Task Force is dividing work into three areas: what we can do right away, what would take 6 to 12 months, and what are some aspirational changes.
- d. M. Pollack then addressed sexual misconduct. The consensual relationships policy is outdated and vague which is completely unacceptable. We have to have a sound,



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rigorous policy at this university. President Pollack has decided to create a committee to address this issue, containing all stakeholders (because of previous failed efforts over the years). She has encouraged them to look at our peer institutions. The good news is that there has been an increase in knowledge of university resources, but the bad news is the number of assaults has stayed the same. This is number one on her agenda to discuss with the Faculty Senate as well.

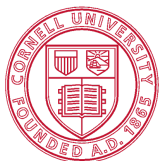
- e. E. Law: asked why OISE didn't receive a response from the President.
- f. M. Pollack: she will always reply to the GPSA. There was no intent to slight the GPSA or anyone else. When the OISE letter came in they were bombarded by groups asking for comment.
- g. M. Battaglia: what can we do for helping professional schools increase accessibility? Is there any matter we can help assist in?
- h. M. Pollack: diversity and cost of education keep her up at night. We need to drive down costs as much as we can and we need to raise more money. As far as what the GPSA can help with, let's go back to campus climate. We need everyone to pull together to help this; it can't all come from Day Hall. Reach out to people who are different from you, listen and learn from them and let them know they are welcome.
- i. N. Rogers: you're looking at institutional bias?
- j. M. Pollack: she very intentionally used the phrase "institutional change". We have to address institutional and implicit bias.
- k. D. Moon: how feasible do you think an international food festival is?
- l. M. Pollack: she thinks it's worth serious consideration.
- m. M. Munasinghe found it troubling that the GPSA heard back before OISE when our resolution was really crafted with them. She then asked if Maplewood spots would be reserved for incoming students.
 - i. K. Cunningham: they will be more flexible with timing to allow more new student spots.
- n. J. Kent-Dobias: what is your position on unionization?
- o. M. Pollack: it is distressing to me that the unionization effort here has been so fraught. Cannot comment further because of the pending referendum.
- p. N. Stetson: has your stance on hate speech changed since these incidents?



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- q. M. Pollack: it is her strong opinion that free speech be allowed on campus. Free speech doesn't mean all speech. Where the lines are between harassment and incitement of violence can be tricky, and hate speech codes at other institutions seem to backfire. She wants to have these discussions on where the lines are.
- r. M. Pollack: two upcoming events: Nov. 20th the dean of the Berkeley law school is coming to discuss free speech on campus, and on April 10th there will be a debate on campus between two prominent legal speakers. The administration is trying to address this by thoughtfully thinking through this and not having a knee jerk reaction.
- s. J. Goldberg: will you be binding yourself to the Task Force's recommendations?
- t. M. Pollack: she can't bind herself to the recommendations; cannot a priori adopt them (she has a fiduciary duty to the university). She does commit to considering the recommendations extremely seriously.
- u. J. Goldberg: could you talk about using financial resources of the university to host speakers on campus?
- v. M. Pollack: we have a commitment to recognize minority voices. In regards to safety, if the campus police say this event can't be safe then it's over, we're not having it.
- w. E. Law: would you support a university commitment to upholding the 2011 and 2014 Obama administration recommendations?
- x. M. Pollack: we are currently reviewing the new recommendations. There are some complicated regulations in this new guidance letter and some would prevent us from doing more than the bare minimum.
- y. N. Rogers: the university assembly is tasked with the Campus Code of Conduct. Shared governance is slow and complicated, could you talk to your commitment to shared governance?
- z. M. Pollack firmly believes in shared governance. That doesn't mean every time an assembly does something the administration will take the same action. We'll take the time to get this right.

- IV. Division Breakouts
- V. Committee Updates

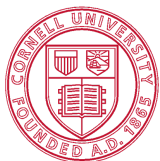


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- a. Executive: five delegates went to the Ivy+ Summit. If you're interested in knowing about the summit come talk to M. Munasinghe. Exec is actively looking for a liaison to Cornell Graduate Students United. Exec will be co-hosting a listening session this Friday (11/3), in G76 Goldwin Smith Hall.
- b. Operations: the committee had a long discussion about the current structure of the GPSA and will continue this discussion in the future. The bylaws and standing rules updates will come back on the agenda for next week. There are still lots of opportunities to get involved on internal/external committees.
- c. Communications: the committee is trying to be more involved with professional student organizations, starting to utilize graduate school announcements, and considering being more physically present on campus with posters and such.
- d. Appropriations: has a meeting next Friday (11/10).
- e. Finance: nothing to report.
- f. Student Advocacy: working on an international food fest. Please join the committee.
- g. Diversity and International Students: tomorrow (10/31) at 11:45am in G10 Biotech people can meet and talk with two associate deans of the graduate school. Wednesday (11/1) in G10 biotech there will be a breaking bread dinner for the entire campus community at 5pm. Saturday (11/4) at 7pm is renaissance ball (also in G10 biotech). Please join DISC.
- h. Programming: PB is doing a lot of co-sponsorships (just had a Halloween event). If you did not receive an email about a PB meeting contact C. Cannarozzo (cjc365).
- i. Faculty Awards: the committee has met once; they are trying to implement a new online voting platform for awards. If any of you are tech savvy feel free to email A. de Micheli (ad689).
- j. General Committee: nothing to report.
- k. Graduate School: nothing to report.

VI. Open Forum

- a. R. Boylan: do committee chairs have to attend GPSA meetings?
- b. M. Munasinghe: it's not a requirement. We could request them on the speaker's list.
- c. M. Munasinghe: ask treasurers of your groups if you've had problems with reimbursements.
- d. A. Waymack raised the idea of holding shared governance office hours.



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VII. Old Business

a. Resolution 3

- i. T. McCann: the rollover amount has been updated. Expenses for the current year went up. Travel and Ivy+ summit numbers have changed. Under the Travel category, money will now only be spent on transportation to/from Cornell Tech.
- ii. It was raised that the Travel category might need to be expanded.
- iii. M. Munasinghe made a motion to amend “Travel” to add “Geneva, and”
 1. A. Poon friendly amended the amendment to “Geneva,” “, and other satellite campuses under the GPSA’s purview.”
 2. The amendment passed 16-0-2.
- iv. A motion was made to call the question on the resolution, there was no dissent. The resolution passed 16-0-2.

b. Preliminary vote on Appropriations Committee’s Student Activity Fee Recommendations

- i. T. McCann went over the process of the preliminary vote: the assembly will go through each individual organization and vote on their funding. If passed, the recommendation goes into the final SAF Resolution. If it does not pass, the assembly can either strip funding completely, or the recommendation goes back to the Appropriations Committee for reconsideration.
 1. Cornell Concert Commission: \$5.76/student.
 - a. A motion was made to call the question, there was no dissent. The recommendation passed 15-0-3.
 2. CUEMS: \$1.80/student.
 - a. A motion was made to call the question, there was no dissent. The recommendation passed 15-0-3.
 3. GPSA: \$4.90/student.
 - a. A motion was made to call the question, there was no dissent. The recommendation passed 17-0-1.
 4. Risk Management: Club Insurance: \$5.50/student.
 - a. D. Moon why isn’t there a change from last cycle?



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- b. It's what they need to supply insurance, the premium hasn't gone up.
 - c. A motion was made to call the question, there was no dissent. The recommendation **passed** 15-0-3.
- 5. Athletics and PE: \$7.64/student.
 - a. A motion was made to call the question, there was no dissent. The recommendation **passed** 17-0-1.
- 6. CU Programming Board: \$2.46/student.
 - a. A. Loiben: this group didn't attend its hearing can you expand on that?
 - b. T. McCann: they missed it but the Appropriations Committee held a make up hearing.
 - c. M. Munasinghe: they're being cut, will they be adversely affected?
 - d. T. McCann: they did not discuss being adversely affected.
 - e. A motion was made to call the question, there was no dissent. The recommendation **passed** 15-0-3.
- 7. Big Red Barn: \$11.44/student
 - a. A motion was made to call the question, there was no dissent. The recommendation **passed** 17-0-1.
 - c. A motion was made to adjourn, there was no dissent.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matthew Ferraro
Clerk of the Assembly