

Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

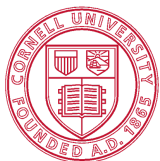
Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Minutes of the November 27th, 2017 Meeting

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

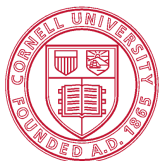
Bache Auditorium, Malott Hall

- I. Call to Order
 - a. E. Winarto called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.
 - b. *Members Present:* R. Adityavarman, K. Angierski, R. Boylan, C. Cannarozzo, A. Gagnon, J. Goldberg, R. Harrison, J. Hernandez, M. Jodlowski, C. Little, A. Loiben, T. McCann, A. Schofield, C. Stambuk, W. Zhang.
 - c. *Members Absent:* S. Hesse, E. Michel, D. Moon.
 - d. *Also Present:* B. Knuth, J. Malina.
- II. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. A motion was made to table approval of the minutes, there was no dissent (the minutes passed later during Open Forum).
- III. Presentations
 - a. Barbara Knuth, Dean of the Graduate School, then made her presentation on the impact of the proposed Congressional tax plan on Cornell graduate students.
 - i. The provision of greatest concern is the repeal of IRS code section 117.d in the House bill. There's a lot of uncertainty and a lot of process that needs to unfold. Repealing 117.d would not affect Cornell graduate students, but it would have a large effect on graduate education in the country as a whole. Cornell is lobbying very strongly against 117.d repeal.
 - ii. J. Malina: Cornell has an office of Federal relations. All of these lobbying efforts have begun to have an impact, but we should know in the next week or two if they worked. They are hearing receptivity in New York Republican congress people's offices, except for Tom Reed. They are trying to convince three senators to be "no" votes, and if that doesn't work they will try to get the language out of the conference bill.
 - iii. A. Gagnon asked for clarification on how Cornell students are classified.



Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

- iv. B. Knuth: assistantships and fellowships, the tuition credit, is treated as a qualified scholarship under 117.a-c, and that section is not being slated for repeal.
 - v. A. Waymack: is it reasonable to expect Congress wouldn't go after our exemption? How come only a few schools take this loophole? (Cornell, Iowa, Notre Dame).
 - vi. If this bill passes, there will be a multi-year process trying to figure out this mess.
 - vii. M. Battaglia: are there any other sections that Cornell is worried about in this tax bill?
 - viii. J. Malina: the excise tax on University Endowment funds is troubling. Cornell's team has estimated that the ten year cost would be \$105 million. The endowment tax and section 117.d are the top worries.
 - ix. B. Knuth: the elimination of student loan deductions is also very concerning.
 - x. B. Lipinski: what's the easiest way to tell which other schools are affected?
 - xi. J. Malina: if you have graduate student friends at other schools, just assume they will be impacted.
- b. The Senior Leaders Climate Action Group (SLCAG) then made their presentation: Cornell's Annual Sustainability & Climate Action Update.
- i. The powerpoint slides and report are in the meeting packet online (at the end of the packet).
 - ii. Cornell is the top Ivy League institution for sustainability this year
 - 1. Emissions have been reduced 33% since 2008, 50% since 1998.
 - iii. They are working on the next 5 year Campus Sustainability Plan.
 - iv. There are many ways to get involved, for instance you can join one of the many focus teams. You can join their listserv as well, email sustainability@cornell.edu with questions.
 - v. T. McCann: are there plans to include Geneva and Cornell Tech in this?
 - vi. The 2035 Agreement and footprint measuring is for just the Ithaca Campus, though other campuses are doing their own things.
 - vii. M. Battaglia: how are we going to make sure there are sufficient funds to do this down the road?



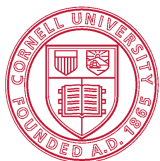
Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

- viii. The capital cost cap is \$750 million. The main idea is that this won't be funded by Cornell capital. Either something has to have revenue returns or it has to be interesting to government or corporations in order to receive grants.

IV. Division Breakouts

V. Committee Updates

- a. Executive: held the call-a-thon two Wednesday's ago, it's not too late to contact your representatives about the tax plan.
- b. Operations: the GPCI and SLS committees are being launched. Look for an email.
- c. Communications: A. Gagnon has stepped down as VP of Communications, this role will remain vacant until next semester, when there will be an election. If you are interested in running please contact A. Gagnon (amg458) or anyone on the Executive Committee.
- d. Appropriations: election of a new chair:
 - i. T. McCann nominated C. Stambuk.
 - ii. C. Stambuk was **confirmed** without dissent.
- e. Finance: if there are still any questions about budget troubles, contact T. Bollu through early December. Election of a new chair:
 - i. T. Bollu nominated Beth Yarze.
 - ii. B. Yarze was **confirmed** without dissent.
- f. Student Advocacy Committee: SAC is recruiting members, they want to know what graduate and professional students care about, what concerns are going through their minds. They tend to meet every other week. A google form was sent out to the listserv. There will be food at meetings. Email B. Kisselstein (bmk76) and N. Carre (nyc22) with questions.
- g. Diversity and International Students: the last thing they are doing this semester is a community lunch on Thursday (11/30) from 12:15-1:30 in Plant Science 336.
- h. Programming Board: nothing to report.
- i. Faculty Awards: no meetings have occurred yet. They will start next semester.
- j. General Committee: representatives on the GC can help change the Code of Legislation. A. Natarajan talked about the change to the Director of Graduate Studies policy. Email A. Natarajan (an393) and R. Harrison (rah288) with questions.



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

- k. Consensual Relationship Task Force: they are meeting regularly. They have a website on the Dean of Faculty's website. They would really like feedback. Email A. Waymack (afw47) with questions.
- l. Graduate School: nothing to report.

VI. Open Forum

- a. A. Gagnon noted that the Code of Legislation is not updated on the Graduate School website. J. Allen promised to work on that.
- b. J. Goldberg motioned to approve the minutes from Nov. 13 that were tabled, there was no dissent, the minutes were **approved**.

VII. Old Business

- a. Discussion of **Resolution 2**
 - i. N. Stetson motioned to amend by capitalizing "Voting Member[s]" and capitalizing "Field Representative[s]" throughout the Resolution.
 - 1. A motion was made to **call the question** on the amendment. The amendment **passed** 14-0-4.
 - ii. B. Kisselstein motioned to amend section 3.08.A.i to add "accessibility"
 - 1. A motion was made to extend the meeting by five minutes, there was no dissent.
 - 2. A motion was made to **call the question**, there was no dissent. The amendment **passed** 14-0-4.
 - iii. T. Bollu motioned to amend by removing section 3.07.G
 - 1. A motion was made to **call the question**, there was no dissent. The amendment **passed** 14-0-4.
 - iv. A. Schofield motioned to **call the question** on the Resolution, there was no dissent. The Resolution **passed** 14-0-4.
- b. A motion was made to adjourn, there was no dissent.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew Ferraro

Clerk of the Assembly