



1 **GPSA Resolution 9: A Call for Action Regarding Cornell Students**
2 **Facing Uncertainties in Academic Access**
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4 *Whereas* rapid changes to federal immigration policy are creating uncertainty within the Cornell
5 community and in particular the graduate and professional student body; and
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7 *Whereas* graduate and professional studies often necessitate fieldwork, programs, conferences,
8 internships, externships, and collaborative exchange outside of the United States; and
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10 *Whereas* Cornell University has 4,921 international students as of 2016, with international students
11 making up 43.4% of the graduate and professional student body¹; and
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13 *Whereas* the above data may omit United States permanent residents or students with dual citizenship
14 registered with Cornell University under a different citizenship; and
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16 *Whereas* international graduate students on F-1 or J-1 visas may be required to travel outside of the
17 United States to renew their visas or obtain other diplomatic services; and
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19 *Whereas* affected students may be unable to continue their education without overstaying their visas;
20 and
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22 *Whereas* the rapid implementation of this executive order and the current political climate raise
23 legitimate concerns regarding potential expansion of this or similar executive orders for current and
24 potential international members of the Cornell community; and
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26 *Whereas* key graduate and professional student and faculty recruitment will take place in the coming
27 months; and
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29 *Whereas* the aforementioned concerns and uncertainty may discourage potential members of the
30 Cornell community from applying or matriculating; and
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32 *Whereas* the official motto of Cornell University is “I would found an institution where any person
33 can find instruction in any study”; and
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35 *Whereas* Cornell University has an interest in the application and matriculation of a broad, diverse
36 and international body of scholars; and
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¹ <http://isso.cornell.edu/sites/isso.cornell.edu/files/isso/documents/Stats16-17.pdf> page 10



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38 *Whereas* in GPSA Resolution 8, the GPSA praised interim-President Hunter Rawlings’s initial
39 responses to the EO and called on the University to augment the resources available to ISSO as well
40 as expand its already admirable political lobbying efforts; and

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42 *Whereas* Cornell University possesses equipment for allowing students to participate in lectures,
43 meetings and seminars via telepresence; and

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45 *Whereas* Cornell University is part of a worldwide community of academic research institutions;

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47 *Be it therefore resolved*, that the GPSA calls on the Graduate School to ensure that the academic
48 progress of any graduate or professional student for whom freedom of movement is restricted as a
49 result of recent Executive Orders or any future similar Executive Orders will not be detrimentally
50 interrupted as a result of such Executive Orders;

51
52 *Be it further resolved*, that the GPSA asks the President of Cornell University to clarify those academic
53 provisions -- which could include but are not limited to accommodating deviations from degree
54 milestones and timelines, extending deadlines for coursework, making alternative accommodations
55 for impacted internship and externship appointments, and facilitating access to research materials
56 and field work whenever and wherever possible-- for students unable to take up or continue without
57 interruption their academic work as a result of such Executive Orders;

58
59 *Be it further resolved*, that the GPSA calls on the Graduate School to enable the academic progress of
60 these students by waiving the residency requirements of their degrees, utilizing its extensive digital
61 and telepresence resources, and establishing access to labs and necessary resources at peer
62 universities;

63
64 *Be it further resolved*, that the GPSA calls on the Graduate School to make every effort to ensure
65 continued financial support – including but not limited to teaching assistantships and research
66 assistantships - of students that are affected by such Executive Orders;

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68 *Be it finally resolved*, that the GPSA calls on the Administration to maintain clear lines of
69 communication with the GPSA leadership concerning any potential developments on policies meant
70 to address future Executive Orders that will similarly impact Cornell graduate and professional
71 students.

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73 Respectfully submitted,
74 Alex Loiben
75 Voting Member for the Physical Sciences, GPSA

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- 77 Anna Waymack
- 78 Voting Member for the Humanities, GPSA
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- 80 Jesse Goldberg
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- 83 Manisha Munasinghe
- 84 Voting Member for the Biological Sciences, GPSA
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- 86 Iian Smythe
- 87 Voting Member for the Physical Sciences, GPSA
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