

Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Agenda of the February 13, 2017 Meeting

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Bache Auditorium, Malott Hall

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of the Meeting Minutes
 - a. Minutes from the February 6, 2017 meeting
- IV. Presentations
 - a. Mary Beth Grant, Associate Dean of Students: Student Child Care Grant Program
 - b. Vijay Pendakur, Dean of Students
- V. Breakout Session by Division
- VI. Old Business
 - a. **Resolution 9: A Call for Action Regarding Cornell Students Facing Uncertainties in Academic Access (SAC)**
- VII. New Business
 - a. **Resolution 10: (SAC)**
 - b. **Resolution 11: Adopting Standing Rules (Nathaniel Stetson, EVP)**
- VIII. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates
 - a. Executive Committee
 - b. Operations
 - c. Appropriations
 - d. Communications
 - e. Finance
 - f. Student Advocacy
 - g. Diversity and International Students
 - h. Programming
 - i. General Committee
 - j. Graduate School
- IX. Open Forum
- X. Adjournment

If you are in need of special accommodations, contact Office of the Assemblies at (607) 255-3715 or Student Disability Services at (607) 254-4545 prior to the meeting.



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Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Minutes of the February 6, 2017 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:* J. Bensus, T. Bollu, E. Case, C. Franklin, J. Goldberg, S. Hesse, M. Jodlowski, A. Loiben, J. Maynard, E. Michel, M. Milano, M. Munasinghe, I. Smythe, T. Snider, A. Waymack, E. Winarto.
 - c. *Members Absent:* L. Munguia, Y. Tang.
 - d. *Also Present:* J. Shortall, S. Solouki.
 - e. A motion was made to hold a provisional election for two GPSA representatives to the University Assembly under “Business of the Day.” There was no dissent.
- II. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. A motion was made to approve the minutes from the November 28, 2016 meeting, there was no dissent, the minutes were **approved** unanimously.
- III. Presentations
 - a. Janet Shortall, Associate Dean of Students: EARS Program Expansion
 - i. J. Shortall made her presentation about the EARS program, specifically reaching out to graduate and professional students who may want to get involved, or who may like to use the service.
 - b. Sabrina Solouki, President ASAP: March for Science
 - i. S. Solouki discussed Advancing Science and Policy’s (ASAP) trip to the March for Science in Washington D.C. on April 22, 2017.
 - ii. S. Solouki wanted to publicize the event, and asked interested people to answer the group’s survey. S. Solouki also asked if the GPSA could help fund the cost of travel. It is being looked into by the Appropriations Committee.
 - iii. A. Waymack made a motion to forward information regarding ASAP’s trip through M. Munasinghe to divisions, there was no dissent.
- IV. Breakout Session by Division



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V. New Business

a. Resolution 8: On Responses to the Recent Executive Order “Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States” by Cornell and Peers

- i. A. Loiben stated that Resolution 8 more or less supports the statement President Rawlings made and the statement the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students made regarding the aforementioned executive order.
- ii. A. Waymack stated that the GPSA should get used to acting with a certain degree of timeliness.
- iii. J. Goldberg also stated that he thinks it is really important for the GPSA to respond quickly and responsively to situations.
- iv. M. Munasinghe thanked the Graduate School and ISSO, particularly Dean Knuth for their previous actions.
- v. N. Stetson noted that there are procedural mechanisms to amend resolutions after they are submitted, so a certain degree of speed is ok.
- vi. I. Smythe stated that ISSO is the principal contact for international students. The vast majority of Cornell students who are affected by this order are graduate students.
- vii. A. Waymack motioned to close discussion after the last speaker and vote on the resolution, a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority was required to limit debate and the motioned **passed** 12-0-6.
- viii. R. Walroth asked for longer than 24 hours to read it and think about it.
- ix. A. Molitoris asked to include Democrats in the language concerning political parties.
- x. N. Stetson motioned to remove the limit on the speakers’ list, the motion **passed** by 14-0-4.
- xi. M. Munasinghe **motioned to amend** line 97 to say “Democrat,” before “Republican,”
 1. E. Case **motioned to amend the amendment** to replace "Democrats, Republicans and third-party" with "Political". The amendment to the amendment **passed** 14-0-4.



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2. I. Smythe stated that the sponsors did not mean to be partisan like that.
 3. J. Maynard offered a friendly amendment to place “all” in front of “relevant political representatives.”
 4. N. Stetson motioned to **call the question** on the amendment, there was no dissent, the amendment **passed** 15-0-3
- xii. A. Waymack motioned to call the question, there were no seconds, the motion failed.
 - xiii. E. Case motioned for a straw poll of voting members on whether to include Rep. Reed in the resolution language. The straw poll results were: 5 for including, 3 for excluding, 10 abstentions.
 - xiv. T. Snider noted that Rep. Reed has a statement on his website where he voices strong support for the executive order.
 - xv. M. Munasinghe noted that there is no whereas clause mentioning his statement. That makes it unclear why the resolution mentions him.
 - xvi. A. Waymack stated that she would prefer to keep the language about Rep. Reed in, rather than striking it maybe they could add a whereas clause about reaching out to Sens. Schumer and Gillibrand, and that Rep. Reed has his statement in support of the executive order.
 - xvii. J. Goldberg stated that he would keep Rep. Reed in, because of the three federal officials representing Ithaca, he’s the one Cornell hasn’t contacted. He said the GPSA should add a clause saying he’s the third of the three.
 - xviii. N. Stetson **motioned to amend** by adding a whereas clause to read “Whereas Cornell University has announced that it has contacted two out of the three federal legislators representing Ithaca, but has yet to announce formal contact with Representative Tom Reed; and” The amendment **passed** 15-0-3
 - xix. R. Walroth motioned to table the vote on Resolution 8 until after the discussion of Resolution 9. There were no votes for the motion.
 - xx. E. Case **motioned to amend** by adding “, who has released a statement in support of the Executive Order” in line 47, and a footnote link to the statement.



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1. C. Franklin motioned to close the speakers' list and vote on the amendment. There was not a two thirds majority in favor so the motion failed.
 2. M. Munasinghe offered a friendly amendment to line 43 “, who have released statements in opposition to the Executive Order.”
 3. E. Case’s amendment **passed** 15-0-3.
- xxi. T. Bollu motioned to **call the question** on the resolution.
- xxii. **Resolution 8 passed 15-0-3.**
- b. **Resolution 9: A Call for Action Regarding Cornell Students Facing Uncertainties in Academic Access**
- i. A. Loiben: this resolution is laying out what we want Cornell to do to help students affected by this executive order. Cornell should maintain their academic standing, and provide resources for them to continue with their degree.
 - ii. R. Walroth asked if the the Graduate School had seen this.
 - iii. I. Smythe stated that this resolution is talking about preemptive action in the face of future executive orders, but asked how can Cornell predict those actions.
 - iv. A. Loiben stated that this resolution raises the question of how prepared the Cornell administration is.
 - v. M. Munasinghe said that this is a commitment to students, less than specific actions.
 - vi. A. Waymack: we are in admissions season, some of the people applying are international students. A commitment like this from Cornell might make or break whether or not someone chooses to come here.
 - vii. T. Bollu stated that support from the Graduate School is appreciated. He thinks this resolution is essential because it talks about what Cornell can do.
 - viii. R. Walroth motioned to close the current speakers' list and table Resolution 9 until the next meeting. The vote was 9-4-5. Since there was not a majority in favor of closing the speakers' list, debate did not end.
 - ix. N. Stetson motioned to extend the meeting by 5 minutes, there was no dissent.



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- x. M. Munasinghe **motioned** to close the speakers' list and recommit Resolution 9 to the Student Advocacy Committee so it can be sent to the Graduate School for further consideration. The GPSA will reconsider it at its next meeting. The motion **passed** 11-3-4.

VI. Business of the Day

- a. Provisional Election of GPSA Representatives to the University Assembly
 - i. A. Loiben and A. Waymack were nominated. Both were approved by unanimous consent.
 - ii. A motion was made to extend the meeting to 7:10 PM.

VII. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates

- a. Executive: thanked all those who came to the leadership summit.
- b. Operations: nothing to report.
- c. Appropriations: asked for more people to join the committee.
- d. Communications: if you have anything you want shared on facebook talk to M. Munasinghe.
- e. Finance: the committee is reviewing budgets.
- f. Student Advocacy: the committee is working on two resolutions (8&9), and another resolution is in the works. The committee meets every other Thursday at 6:30 PM, email aml372@cornell.edu if you're interested.
- g. Diversity and International Students: the committee will release a statement regarding a response to the recent executive order. The committee is compiling resources and gathering data about faculty recruitment as well.
- h. Programming: on March 3, there will be a Mardi Gras party with the Big Red Barn. Mixers are a bit different this term. Professional schools are going to have a mixer, and there will be a separate graduate school mixer. Grad Ball will be May 6.
- i. Graduate School: nothing to report.
- j. Faculty Awards: first meeting is Wednesday (2/08).
- k. General Committee of the Graduate School
 - i. About: the GC approves changes to the code of legislation, approves appointments of new faculty and makes recommendations for new advanced degrees. The GC is headed by Dean Knuth. Few graduate students



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know about the code of legislation or about the GC, urged GPSA members to google code of legislation.

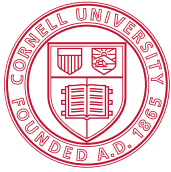
- ii. Updates: Dean Knuth proposed an amendment to mandate a timely response for communication between the provost and affected parties in grievance cases. The Graduate School wants to create a review form for fields.

VIII. Open Forum

- a. A workers' compensation resolution was mentioned by an audience member.
- b. A motion was made to extend the meeting by 5 minutes, there was no dissent.
- c. A. Molitoris: Programming is looking to cosponsor a few more events. Email A. Molitoris if your group would be interested.
- d. R. Walroth **motioned** to formally request that the Appropriations Committee inform the GPSA whether it will help fund ASAP's trip to D.C. no later than the first meeting in March. There was no dissent and the motion **passed**.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matthew Ferraro
Clerk of the Assembly



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**GPSA Resolution 9: A Call for Action Regarding Cornell Students
Facing Uncertainties in Academic Access**

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4 *Whereas* rapid changes to federal immigration policy are creating uncertainty amongst the Cornell
5 community and in particular the graduate and professional student body; and

6
7 *Whereas* graduate and professional studies often necessitate fieldwork, programs, conferences,
8 internships, externships, and collaborative exchange outside of the United States; and

9
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

12
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

15
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

18
19 *Whereas* affected students may be unable to continue their education without overstaying their visas;
20 and

21
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

25
26 *Whereas* key graduate and professional student and faculty recruitment will take place in the coming
27 months; and

28
29 *Whereas* the aforementioned concerns and uncertainty will discourage potential members of the
30 Cornell community from applying or matriculating; and

31
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

34
35 *Whereas* Cornell University has an interest in the application and matriculation of a broad, diverse
36 and international body of scholars; and

37

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

41

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

44

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

46

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;

67

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.

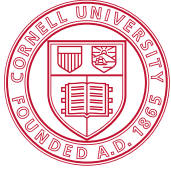
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73 Respectfully submitted,

74 Alex Loiben

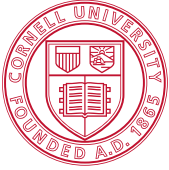
75 Voting Member for the Physical Sciences, GPSA

76



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- 77 Anna Waymack
78 Voting Member for the Humanities, GPSA
79
80 Jesse Goldberg
81 Voting Member for the Humanities, GPSA
82
83 Manisha Munasinghe
84 Voting Member for the Biological Sciences, GPSA
85
86 Iian Smythe
87 Voting Member for the Physical Sciences, GPSA
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89 GPSA Student Advocacy Committee



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**GPSA Resolution 10: Workers' Compensation Coverage & Fair
Medical Leaves and Disability Coverage for Graduate Employees**

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4 *Whereas* in August 2016 the National Labor Relations Board ruled that Graduate Teaching Assistants (TAs)
5 and Graduate Research Assistants (RAs) at private universities are employees under the law¹; and
6

7 *Whereas* graduate workers are exposed to dangerous instruments, hazardous chemicals,
8 and/or other workplace risks every day; and
9

10 *Whereas* at least one serious very workplace accident occurred on the Cornell campus in the 2013-14
11 academic year²; and
12

13 *Whereas* a total of 41 Graduate & Professional Students reported injuries in the 2014-15 academic year³; and
14

15 *Whereas* following GPSA Resolution 9 in 2014 and subsequent intervention by the New York State Workers'
16 Compensation Board, Cornell now complies with state laws and provides coverage up to the minimum level
17 of state mandated workers' compensation benefits to graduate workers⁴; and
18

19 *Whereas* graduate workers funded on fellowship may not be covered under the law; and
20

21 *Whereas* other graduate workers such as those officially employed as a TA but working in a hazardous research
22 environment may not be covered under the law for injuries incurred while working in said research
23 environment not directly related to their assistantship; and
24

25 *Whereas* all Cornell graduate students yield intellectual property rights to all work produced at Cornell by
26 agreeing to the following: "I agree to assign and do hereby assign to Cornell University all right, title, and
27 interest in any Cornell Invention as defined in Policy 1.5"⁵; and
28

29 *Whereas* faculty members, postdoctoral scholars, lab technicians and other staff working in
30 the same facilities and assuming similar risks as graduate workers are unequivocally covered by Cornell's
31 Workers' Compensation Program in addition to a comprehensive system of Medical Leaves & Disability

¹<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2016/08/24/nlr-says-graduate-students-private-universities-may-unionize>

² <http://www.chronicle.com/article/Graduate-Students-at-Cornell/145221>

³ <http://news.cornell.edu/stories/2015/11/improved-procedure-clarifies-handling-grad-student-injuries>

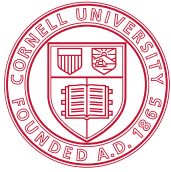
⁴ Actual levels of state mandated minimum coverage can be found here:

<http://www.wcb.ny.gov/content/main/onthethejob/wcBenefits.jsp>

$2/3 \times \text{average weekly wage} \times \% \text{ of disability} = \text{weekly benefit}$

Currently benefit level would be maximum \$388.53 / week at 2016-17 AY Cornell Minimum Stipend Rate.

⁵ https://www.dfa.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/policy/vol1_5.pdf



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32 Coverage, including: Musculoskeletal Injury Prevention, Disability Accommodations, Short-Term Disability,
33 and Long-Term Disability Insurance⁶; and

34

35 *Whereas* graduate workers at Cornell are only covered by Cornell's Workers' Compensation Program and thus
36 are not eligible for any of the other Medical Leaves Benefits mentioned above; and

37

38 *Whereas* graduate students are therefore currently still expected to be personally liable for many or all of the
39 significant health, safety, and financial risks required of them as they perform their duties as researchers,
40 teaching assistants and instructors at Cornell in excess of the minimum state-mandated benefits provided to
41 the Workers' Compensation Program;

42

43 *Be it therefore resolved*, that the GPSA asserts that Cornell University has a legal and moral obligation to
44 insure a dependable method of providing benefits to all graduate workers if they are temporarily or
45 permanently disabled due to work-related injury or illness;

46

47 *Be it further resolved*, that the GPSA calls on the University to clarify its stance and policies regarding Workers
48 Compensation Coverage for graduate workers funded on fellowship and other graduate workers such as
49 those officially employed as a TA but who still are required to work in a hazardous research environment and
50 may not be covered under the law;

51

52 *Be it further resolved*, that the current policy on Workers' Compensation be extended to include all work
53 covered under Policy 1.5 "Inventions and Related Property Rights";

54

55 *Be it further resolved*, that the GPSA asks the University to specifically clarify its policy on Musculoskeletal
56 Injury Prevention, Disability Accommodations, Short-Term Disability, and Long-Term Disability Insurance
57 for graduate workers as soon as possible;

58

59 *Be it further resolved*, that if the University believes that it is not responsible for providing these benefits to
60 graduate workers, that it provides a detailed, public report available to all of the Cornell community
61 explaining the University's position and referring to the logic it uses to reach this conclusion before the end
62 of the 2016-2017 academic year;

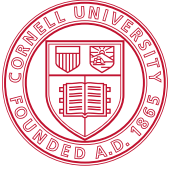
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64 *Be it further resolved*, that at least one representative of the Graduate & Professional Student Assembly be
65 included in any working group formed to address any of these issues;

66

67 *Be it finally resolved*, that this Resolution be sent to Hunter R. Rawlings III, Interim President; Martha E.
68 Pollack, Incoming President; Vijay Pendakur, Dean of Students; Michael I. Kotlikoff, Provost; Joel Malina,
69 Vice President for University Relations; Barbara Knuth, Senior Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate
70 School; Craig R. McAllister, Director of Risk Management & Insurance; Kent Bullis, Interim Executive

⁶ Detailed information regarding all of these programs available here:
<https://hr.cornell.edu/benefits-pay/leaves-disability>



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71 Director of Gannett Health Services; James J. Mingle, University Counsel and Secretary of the Corporation;
72 Madelyn F. Wessel, Incoming University Counsel and Secretary of the Corporation; Mary George Opperman,
73 Vice President for Human Resources; Eduardo Penalver, Dean of Cornell Law School; Lorin Warnick, Dean
74 of Veterinary Medicine; Soumitra Dutta, Dean Cornell College of Business; Charles Van Loan, Dean of
75 Faculty, and Kenneth J. Munnely, Chair New York State Workers' Compensation Board.

76

77 Respectfully submitted,

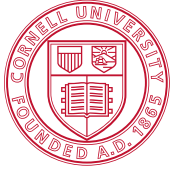
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79 Paul Berry

80 Cornell Graduate Students United & GPSA Advocacy Committee

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82 GPSA Student Advocacy Committee



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GPSA Resolution 11: Adopting Standing Rules

Whereas the GPSA has modified the rules of parliamentary procedure in many ways to aid the smooth operation of the Assembly; and

Whereas inconsistent application of parliamentary procedure can impair members' opportunity to be heard; and

Whereas codifying the modifications as Standing Rules will resolve inconsistencies;

Be it therefore resolved, that the GPSA adopts the attached Standing Rules.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathaniel Stetson
Executive Vice President

Sarah Hesse
Vice President for Operations
Chair, Operations and Staffing Committee



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1 GPSA Resolution 12:
2 In Support of the March for Science

3
4 Sponsored by: Tyler McCann

5
6 **WHEREAS**, on February 6th, 2017 Advancing Science and Policy (ASAP) spoke to the Graduate and
7 Professional Student Assembly in regards to the March for Science taking place on April 22, 2017, in
8 Washington D.C¹; and

9
10 **WHEREAS** ASAP is a graduate student group “dedicated to training STEM researchers and graduate
11 students to share the value and significance of their work with policy makers”²; and

12
13 **WHEREAS**, the March for Science self-identifies as a "diverse, nonpartisan group to call for science that
14 upholds the common good and for political leaders and policy makers to enact evidence based policies in the
15 public interest"³; and

16
17 **WHEREAS**, one of Cornell University's core values is a "commitment to search for knowledge-based
18 solutions to societal and world problems" and to "use knowledge to enlighten ourselves and benefit the
19 world"⁴; and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, Cornell University’s outreach mission “emphasizes being proactive (actively engaged) and
22 having a public impact”⁴; and

23
24 **WHEREAS**, the March for Science’s motivation is in line with Cornell University’s mission; and

25
26 **WHEREAS**, ASAP described their efforts to organize and fund charter bus service for graduate and
27 professional students to attend this event both at the February 6th, 2017 GPSA Meeting and the February
28 9th, 2017 Appropriations Committee Meeting; and

29
30 **WHEREAS**, this event is open to all matriculated graduate and professional students on a first come, first-
31 served basis; and



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33 **WHEREAS**, ASAP disseminated a survey for graduate and professional students to reserve a space on the
34 buses that will remain open until March 3rd⁵; and

35

36 **WHEREAS**, as of February 11, 2016, 135 graduate and professional students have requested a seat on one
37 of ASAP's buses; and

38

39 **WHEREAS**, ASAP contacted Swarthout Coaches, Inc. to obtain a price estimate for renting out one bus
40 which can seat 55 travellers; and

41

42 **WHEREAS**, ASAP currently estimates that each bus will cost \$2,825 indicated in the attached quote
43 document; and

44

45 **WHEREAS**, based off of the current rate of students still filling out ASAP's reservation survey, they
46 anticipate needing to book at least 3 buses; and

47

48 **WHEREAS**, ASAP is exploring alternative fundraising options, but they are asking the GPSA for assistance
49 in securing funding to pay for at least two buses; and

50

51 **WHEREAS**, the GPSA currently holds in excess of \$22,000 in rollover funds to be utilized for an event or
52 service accessible to all graduate and professional students;

53

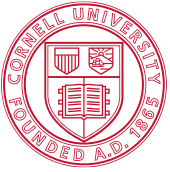
54 **BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that ASAP will inform the GPSA Appropriations Committee of all
55 fundraising efforts undertaken and how much revenue is generated from these events prior to chartering any
56 buses;

57

58 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the GPSA will grant ASAP up to \$5,650 to charter two buses to
59 take at least 110 graduate and professional students, their spouses or partners and/or children to the March
60 for Science in Washington D.C. on April 22, 2017;

61

62 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that if ASAP's reservation survey demonstrates enough interest from the
63 graduate and professional student community to justify chartering at least four buses of 55 people each, the



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64 GPSA will grant ASAP up to an additional \$2,825 for one additional bus, bringing the maximum total grant
65 to \$8,475 for three buses and 165 students, their spouses or partners and/or children from the graduate and
66 professional student community;

67

68 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the non-GPSA sources of funding will be fully utilized before the
69 GPSA grant, and that copies of the receipts from the bus order and a final headcount the day of the event
70 will be provided to the GPSA Appropriations Committee, with the exact number of graduate and
71 professional students, their spouses or partners and/or children noted.

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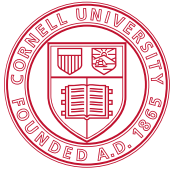
73 **RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

74

75 **TYLER MCCANN**

76 GPSA Appropriations Committee Chair

-
1. [Link to March for Science website](#)
 2. [Link to ASAP website](#)
 3. [Link to March for Science mission](#)
 4. [Link to Cornell University's mission](#)
 5. [Link to ASAP reservation survey](#)



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1 **Standing Rules**

2 **Cornell University**

3 **Graduate and Professional Student Assembly**

4
5 **ARTICLE I: ESTABLISHMENT AND AUTHORITY**

6 1: Establishment

- 7 a. The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Standing Rules are established in
8 accordance with the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Charter, Article VII.

9 2: Authority

- 10 1. The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Standing Rules are granted authority in
11 accordance with the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Charter, Article VII.

12
13 **ARTICLE II: DEFINITIONS**

- 14 1: The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly is hereafter referred to as the GPSA.

- 15 2: The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Charter hereafter is referred to as the GPSA
16 Charter.

- 17 3: The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Bylaws hereafter are referred to as the GPSA
18 Bylaws.

- 19 4: The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Standing Rules hereafter are referred to as the
20 GPSA Standing Rules.

- 21 5: Motions are classified as main, subsidiary, incidental, and privileged in accordance with Robert's
22 Rules of Order (latest edition).

- 23 a. Unless otherwise specified, the term "motion" includes resolutions.

- 24 6: Members are the Field Representatives and Voting Members of the GPSA as specified in the
25 GPSA Charter, Article IV.

26
27 **Article III: FORMS OF MOTIONS**

28 1: Introduction of Resolutions

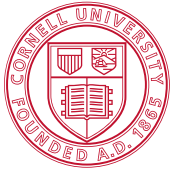
- 29 a. Upon introducing a resolution in accordance with GPSA Bylaws §4.04(B), a sponsor (or
30 sponsors) shall provide the Assembly with a suitable means of reviewing the resolution.

- 31 i. The preferred method of review is displaying the text of the resolution via projection or
32 similar means.

- 33 ii. Other methods of review, including reading the resolution aloud, are presumed
34 acceptable but may be objected to via a Point of the Assembly's Privilege.

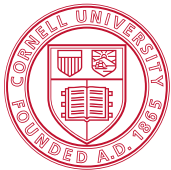
- 35 b. The sponsor will conduct a question-and-answer session on the text of the resolution.

- 36 i. The question-and-answer session will address the content of the resolution only.



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- 37 ii. Only privileged and incidental motions are in order during the question-and-answer
38 session.
- 39 iii. During the question-and-answer session, the sponsor may alter the text of the resolution
40 at will to reflect input from the Assembly or their own judgment.
- 41 iv. The question-and-answer session shall end
- 42 A. At the discretion of the sponsor (or sponsors, unanimously),
- 43 B. At the discretion of the Chair, or
- 44 C. When there are no further questions.
- 45 c. Once the question-and-answer session has ended, further alterations to the resolution must
46 be made by motion to amend.
- 47 d. When a resolution calls on the Assembly to adopt or endorse an attached document or
48 documents, subsections (a) through (c) apply to the document(s) as well.
- 49 2: Friendly Amendments
- 50 a. A friendly amendment is one that the movant whose motion is to be amended considers in
51 line with the purpose of their motion and wishes to be adopted.
- 52 i. A friendly amendment does not require a second.
- 53 ii. A friendly amendment does not require a vote but passes automatically except as
54 described in (c).
- 55 b. The sponsor of a motion (or sponsors, unanimously) may, upon a motion to amend, declare
56 that they accept the amendment as friendly.
- 57 i. A member who moves to amend a resolution may similarly, upon a motion to amend the
58 amendment, declare that they accept the amendment as friendly.
- 59 c. Any member of the assembly who disagrees with a friendly amendment may object to its
60 designation as friendly by declaring their objection after the amendment is declared friendly.
- 61 i. If an objection is made, the motion requires a second and a vote as normal for that
62 motion.
- 63 3: Unanimous Consent
- 64 a. Unanimous consent allows an uncontroversial motion to pass without a vote.
- 65 i. A motion by unanimous consent does not require a second.
- 66 ii. A motion by unanimous consent does not require a vote but passes automatically except
67 as described in (c).
- 68 iii. Any motion may be made by unanimous consent except for the following:
- 69 A. Resolutions
- 70 b. To move by unanimous consent, a member states “I move by unanimous consent...” and
71 states their motion as normal.
- 72 i. The Chair may also, at their discretion, convert a motion to one by unanimous consent
73 by calling for unanimous consent before or after it is seconded.
- 74 c. Any member of the assembly who opposes a motion by unanimous consent may object to
75 its adoption by declaring their objection when the Chair asks for dissent.



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76 i. If an objection is made, the motion requires a second and a vote as normal for that
77 motion.
78

79 Article IV: FORM OF DEBATE

80 1: Discretion of the Chair in implementing Speakers' Lists

81 a. At the Chair's discretion, they may wait to implement a Speakers' List if debate is so
82 uncontentious that members' ability to be heard will not be impeded by the lack of a
83 Speakers' List.

84 i. The Chair should err on the side of caution and implement a Speakers' List if any
85 question arises as to whether it is needed.

86 ii. Any member may request implementation of a Speakers' List at any time as a Point of
87 the Assembly's Privilege.

88 2: Default Parameters of the Speakers' List

89 a. Unless a motion is made otherwise, speakers on the Speakers' List shall receive a 30-second
90 speaking time.

91 b. Unless a motion is made otherwise, debate on a motion shall be capped at 3 complete
92 Speakers' Lists.

93 c. Any motion to alter the parameters of the Speakers' List must pass by supermajority.
94

95 Article V: CHANGES TO AND SUSPENSION OF THE STANDING RULES

96 1: Changes to the Standing Rules

97 a. The Standing Rules may be amended by a supermajority vote of Voting Members.

98 b. The Standing Rules may be rescinded by a supermajority vote of Voting Members.

99 2: Suspension of the Standing Rules

100 a. The Standing Rules may be suspended by a majority vote of Voting Members.

101 i. The Standing Rules may be suspended by Rule, by Section, by Article, or in their
102 entirety.

103 ii. The Standing Rules may be reinstated during the same session by a majority vote of
104 Voting Members.

105 iii. A suspension of the Standing Rules expires at the end of the session in which it occurs.

106 3: Inseparability of Article V

107 a. Article V may not be suspended, amended, or rescinded, either in part or in its entirety,
108 except by rescinding the Standing Rules as described in § 5.1(b).

February 6, 2017

Briefing for Updated GPSA Resolution Concerning Workers' Compensation & Medical Leaves Benefits

Members of the Assembly may be interested in reading the following media as context:
(Estimated Reading Time ~15 minutes)

“Workers Compensation Inquiry Response”

Author: Barbara A. Knuth

Document Addressed to GPSA Leadership

February 12, 2014

Relevant Selection Quoted in **Appendix A** (see Page 2)¹

“Graduate Students at Cornell U. Push for Right to Workers' Compensation”

Author: Vimal Patel

Chronicle of Higher Education

March 10, 2014

Available at: (link may only be available on campus)

<http://www.chronicle.com/article/Graduate-Students-at-Cornell/145221>

“Guest Room: Graduate Students' Workers Compensation”

Author: Barbara A. Knuth

Cornell Daily Sun

November 5, 2015

Available at:

<http://cornellsun.com/2015/11/05/guest-room-graduate-students-workers-compensation/>

“Letter to the Editor: A Response to Dean Knuth”

Author: Paul Berry and James Ingoldsby

Cornell Daily Sun

November 11, 2015

Available at:

<http://cornellsun.com/2015/11/11/letter-to-the-editor-a-response-to-dean-knuth/>

“Advancement in the Quality of Graduate Student Life in Recent Years”

Author: Barbara A. Knuth

Document Shared with the GPSA

October 24, 2016

Relevant Selection Quoted in **Appendix B** (see Page 3)²

Appendix A (“Workers Compensation Inquiry Response.” February 12, 2014)

{Question from Graduate Student Leaders, January 2014}

¹ Truncated for brevity only. Full document available upon request (pgb52@cornell.edu)

² Full document located at end of GPSA Minutes for 10/24/16

“Our initial research leads us to believe that other major research universities in NY State, such as NYU, all the SUNY schools, and Syracuse provide workers' compensation coverage to graduate students working as TAs and RAs. However, it is our understanding that Cornell believes graduate students working as TAs and RAs are not eligible for NY State Workers' Compensation coverage.

-Is this correct? If so, will you explain the University's position and direct us to the specific statutory language that the University uses to reach this conclusion?

Our own initial research has noted that the NYS Workers' Compensation Law states that anyone who receives compensation from an organization (whether or not that organization considers them to be an employee) must receive workers' compensation coverage: 'Please note that compensation includes stipends, room and board, and other 'perks' that have monetary value (WCL §3 Group 18)' “

{Response from Dean Knuth, February 2014. Response to question quoted in full}

RESPONSE: “According to the provisions on the following website (excerpted below), graduate students are excluded from Workers' Compensation coverage under NYS law.

http://www.wcb.ny.gov/content/main/Workers/Coverage_wc/workerWhoNotCovered.jsp

{Text Below Quoted from NYS WCB website within document; Bold text below was highlighted in original document}

Who Is Not Covered By The Workers' Compensation Law?

1. Individuals who volunteer their services for nonprofit organizations and receive no compensation. Please note that compensation includes stipends, room and board, and other "perks" that have monetary value (WCL §3 Group 18). Money used solely to offset expenses incurred while performing activities for the nonprofit is not counted as a stipend (WCL §2 [9]);
2. Clergy and members of religious orders that are performing religious duties (WCL §3 Group 18);
3. Members of supervised amateur athletic activities operated on a nonprofit basis, provided that such members are not otherwise engaged or employed by any person, firm, or corporation participating in such athletic activity (WCL §3 Group 18);
4. **People engaged in a teaching capacity in or for a nonprofit religious, charitable or educational institution (Section 501(c)(3) under the IRS tax code). (WCL §3 Group 18) To be exempt, the teachers must only be performing teaching duties;**
5. **People engaged in a non-manual capacity in or for a nonprofit religious, charitable or educational institution (Section 501(c)(3) under the IRS tax code (WCL §3 Group 18).**

Manual labor includes but is not limited to such tasks as filing; carrying materials such as pamphlets, binders, or books; cleaning such as dusting or vacuuming; playing musical instruments; moving furniture; shoveling snow; mowing lawns; and construction of any sort; In addition, we did not examine each of the institutions you mention in your question because many of them exist in contexts different from Cornell, i.e., they are not private institutions. We did inquire with colleagues at Syracuse University, however, and learned that Syracuse provides

workers compensation coverage for registered/enrolled graduate students only for circumstances in which it is very clear, in the university's judgment, that the graduate student was injured while performing duties for the university and not when the graduate student was performing activities for their own academic purposes or scholarship.”

Appendix B (“Advancement in the Quality of Graduate Student Life in Recent Years.” October 26, 2016)

“Workers' Compensation: Injury claims from students who receive financial support through assistantships or hourly paid appointments and who are injured while conducting the duties of their appointment are sent to the New York State Workers' Compensation Board. The NYS Workers' Compensation Board reviews each case and determines compensability under NYS Law. Eligibility determination for Workers' Compensation is ultimately made by the NYS Workers' Compensation Review Board, not Cornell.

Note: There was some media coverage in 2014 about an individual who was seeking Workers' Compensation from Cornell, but the media coverage did not include the complete context that the individual was not on a paid university appointment at the time of the injury. Because of FERPA restrictions (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act), we are not able to discuss the specifics of any individual student's situation, but if an individual is not on a paid university appointment, Workers' Compensation is not applicable. Student Injuries: After seeking medical attention, an injured graduate/professional student should file a University injury report. Filing the report will begin the process to aid an injured student. Injury claims from students who are appointed on assistantships or are on hourly paid appointments will be handled through the Workers' Compensation process described above. Injury claims from students not on assistantships or hourly paid appointments will be handled through the student's health insurance with additional support from Cornell offices depending on the nature and severity of the injury.”

Appendix C: Other Relevant Webpages

Cornell Graduate School Policy on Workers' Compensation:
<https://gradschool.cornell.edu/workers-compensation>

Medical Leaves and Disability Benefits³: Cornell Division of Human Resources
<https://hr.cornell.edu/benefits-pay/leaves-disability>

³ Not available to graduate workers.

Quoted from “Workers Compensation Inquiry Response.” February 12, 2014: “Cornell does not provide disability compensation, disability insurance, nor long-term medical benefits for graduate students injured in the course of performing their assistantship responsibilities.”