

Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Minutes of the March 20, 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:* T. Bollu, R. Boylan, E. Case, C. Franklin, J. Goldberg, J. Hernandez, S. Hesse, A. Loiben, J. Maynard, E. Michel, M. Munasinghe, I. Smythe, T. Snider, Y. Tang, A. Waymack, E. Winarto.
- c. *Members Absent:* M. Jodlowski, M. Milano, L. Munguia.
- d. *Also Present:* J. Lamey, J. Kahabka.

II. Approval of the Minutes

- a. A motion was made to approve the minutes from the March 6, 2017 meeting. The minutes were **approved** by unanimous consent.
- b. A motion was made to add an election for DISC chair to the agenda after division breakouts, there was no dissent.

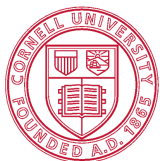
III. Presentations

- a. Janna Lamey then made her presentation.
 - i. GPWomeN is a unified voice for women's organizations across Cornell. They recently won a \$10,000 leadership grant for their speakers' series. Asked the GPSA to continue to support the speakers' series.
- b. Jason Kahabka
 - i. The CGSU election is scheduled for March 27 & 28. The election will be overseen by the American Arbitration Association. Everyone wants high turnout.
 - ii. Government issued IDs or Cornell issued IDs are valid
 - iii. It was asked that if one is on fellowship and can't vote, would the unit still apply to that person.
 - iv. The unit would negotiate with regards to employment, and would not cover academic issues.
- c. Tyler McCann and Paul Berry



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- i. CGSU is a member driven organization. It has local autonomy and opportunities to get involved. Big issues are child care, dependent health care coverage, workers' compensation, intellectual property rights, gender equity and harassment in the workplace, more details on [CGSU's website](#).
 - ii. CGSU is affiliated with AFT because they needed staff who could devote more time to the campaign. But CGSU will run contract negotiations, AFT will not.
 - iii. It was asked if graduate students would potentially strike.
 - iv. Strikes are a tool that unions have. Not something to use easily or carelessly, they are only effective if the membership really cares. Members never have to go on strike. Membership votes whether or not to go on strike, and even if they vote to strike, you can still go to work. You don't have to follow it.
 - v. Contract negotiates fair minimums for everyone.
 - vi. CGSU has current internal governing documents.
 - vii. Some CGSU staff get paid an hourly wage so they can have enough time to organize.
 - viii. The bargaining unit would apply to all assistantships, establishing minimums that meet as many needs as possible. Many labor needs are not related to fields (i.e. child care).
 - ix. Everyone pays the same amount in dues and has the same rights.
 - x. Contact tbm45@cornell.edu or pgb52@cornell.edu if you have questions.
 - d. Nathaniel Stetson, EVP, then made his presentation on workers' compensation, attempting to clarify previous conversations the GPSA has had on the subject.
 - i. If you have further questions, please email nms96@cornell.edu
 - ii. A motion was made to extend the meeting by five minutes, there was no dissent.
- IV. Breakout Session
- V. Election for Diversity and International Students Committee chair
- a. A. Natarajan was nominated and elected by unanimous consent.
- VI. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates
- a. Executive: email N. Stetson if you are not receiving emails.
 - b. Operations: nothing to report.



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- c. Appropriations: nothing to report.
- d. Communications: the GPCI committee is meeting for the first time at 10am on Wednesday (3/22), talk to S. Hesse if interested.
- e. Finance: \$20,000 left, will probably extend budget deadlines.
- f. Student Advocacy: think about filing your taxes.
- g. Diversity and International Students: Tuesdays are going to be the new meeting days.
- h. Programming: nothing to report.
- i. Faculty Awards: nominations are supposed to be due April 3rd, please send in nominations. Email C. Franklin (cgf44@cornell.edu) with questions.
- j. General Committee: nothing to report.
- k. Graduate School: nothing to report.

VII. Open Forum

- a. March 24th is the deadline to request an absentee ballot for the CGSU election.
- b. Sexual Health Awareness Week is happening in April.
- c. E. Winarto thanked survey respondents.
- d. April 10th is the next GPSA meeting
- e. A motion was made to adjourn, there was no dissent.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matthew Ferraro
Clerk of the Assembly