

Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Minutes of the April 10, 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:* R. Boylan, E. Case, C. Franklin, J. Goldberg, M. Jodlowski, A. Loiben, J. Maynard, E. Michel, M. Milano, M. Munasinghe, I. Smythe, A. Waymack.
 - c. *Members Absent:* T. Bollu, J. Hernandez, S. Hesse (deactivated), L. Munguia, T. Snider, E. Winarto.
 - d. An informal division breakout was held because quorum was not reached for the first 15 minutes of the meeting. The Executive Committee voted to deactivate Sarah Hesse for this meeting, and quorum was then reached.
 - e. A motion was made to strike Jason Kahabka from the presentations section, there was no dissent.
 - f. A motion was made to add a vote on next year's proposed meeting schedule before Resolution 13, there was no dissent.
- II. Approval of the Meeting Minutes
 - a. Minutes for 20 March 2017
 - i. A motion was made to approve the minutes, there was no dissent, the minutes were approved.
- III. Breakout Session by Division
 - a. A motion was made to strike the breakout session because an informal one had already taken place.
- IV. New Business
 - a. **Proposed Meeting Calendar**
 - i. Several friendly amendments were made to the years on the calendar.
 - ii. Bylaws were suspended for the calendar by unanimous consent.
 - iii. The calendar was approved by a 12-0-5 vote.
 - b. **Resolution 13: Cornell Commitment to Web Accessibility/SAC**

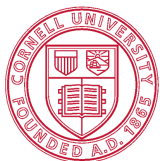


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- i. A. Loiben explained that this resolution is asking Cornell websites to be made accessible by implementing a standard set of guidelines. This resolution is starting the ball rolling.
- ii. M. Munasinghe stated that similar resolutions have done this before, the big difference with this one is this resolution talks about any new website or major updates of old websites. EA has voted on it, UA is voting tomorrow.
- iii. N. Stetson noted the lack of citations in 3 areas.
- iv. R. Carson asked if this would apply to faculty websites (they are old).
- v. M. Munasinghe: that's why this resolution talks about new websites and major updates to old ones.
- vi. R. Walroth motioned to table until next meeting, there was no dissent, the resolution was **tabled**.

c. Resolution 14: Consensual Relationships Revisited/SAC

- i. A. Waymack gave some history of the past resolution that addressed this. This resolution is asking that the GPSA sends this to the Faculty Senate to fix the current policy and make a viable reporting option. The consensual relationships policy went into effect in 1996, in 2015 the Faculty Senate voted down adding changes to this document. Original policy is vague, really want to add a check in with the student. This asks that SAC be allowed to present this resolution at the Faculty Senate by a certain date.
- ii. N. Stetson noted that the faculty handbook doesn't talk about TA-undergrad relationships.
- iii. Under this resolution, if one party is being taught by the other party in a class, no relationship can occur. If there is a relationship with someone in your field, involving someone and a class you might take, then the parties should report it but it would be allowed. If a relationship is academically unrelated, then this resolution does not care about it. Dean of Students is one possibility for reporting relationships to.
- iv. C. Franklin suggested Cornell Health as a reporting possibility as well.
- v. A CIPA student noted that TAs and graders are fellow students in CIPA, they're both graduate students.



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- vi. M. Munasinghe asked if this resolution is saying some relationships are allowed, but enforce this policy.
- vii. A. Waymack responded yes, but also relationships between recommendation letter writers and the person the letter is about are also not allowed.
- viii. R. Walroth stated that he likes the idea of not simply going back to the 1996 policy. The reason that there is no enforcement now is that so many faculty are married to former students. He likes the idea of checking in, to protect student, but is against absolute bans because they become useless.
- ix. A. Waymack noted there is potential harm not just to students for career and well being, but harm to anyone else in their field.
- x. A CIPA student stated that friendship and relationship labeling becomes unclear.
- xi. M. Munasinghe stated the GPSA should make this a referendum.
- xii. N. Stetson stated they could write in an exemption for people who are in the same tier (undergrad-undergrad, grad-grad, etc.). And noted that conflicts are much harder to work around when between romantic or sexual partners than when between friends.
- xiii. A. Natarajan did not approve of the tier idea.
- xiv. I. Smythe stated tiers are problematic, but checking in seems to have a consensus of the people at the meeting.
- xv. C. Franklin stated that at her other institution they would pass off grading to instructor or another TA if this was an issue.
- xvi. J. Goldberg stated that the 1996 policy just addresses this if the instructee is in your class.
- xvii. A. Waymack stated she disagrees with the comparison between friend and sexual partner. She is concerned about coercion. When half of the female law students are getting harassed by law faculty that's a systemic problem.
- xviii. A motion was made to cap the speakers' list, it was **approved** 9-3-5.
- xix. M. Munasinghe stated the title of the resolution is a misnomer, we're talking about when things go from consensual to non-consensual. It's unclear about what relationships are not allowed.
- xx. A. Molitoris asked why can't we focus on when something goes wrong.



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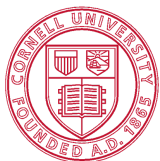
- xxi. A. Waymack stated we can't because she's seen too many non-consensual relationships that faculty thought were consensual.
- xxii. N. Stetson **motioned** to recommit the resolution to SAC until next meeting, the motion was **approved** by unanimous consent.

d. **Resolution 15: Subsidizing the BRB's 25th Anniversary Improvements/AC**

- i. The BRB had a crowdfunding drive in November and raised \$7,500. They want to replace a piano and get more bike racks and are requesting more funding because they only have \$2,300 left. The cost to the GPSA for these items would be \$6,700.
- ii. I. Smythe asked if the BRB had any other sources of funding for these and what is the anticipated rollover fund.
- iii. T. McCann: the BRB could continue to crowd fund but they want these items for the 25th anniversary. Overall we want to make the rollover account go down, building on this until we get to a good safety amount in the rollover account.
- iv. C. Franklin asked if they want a piano because they had one, or because graduate students want one.
- v. The BRB piano didn't get put back because it was old, many graduate students have asked about it. End of the year celebrations are when it would be played mostly.
- vi. R. Carson asked if there is a source of funding for maintenance of the new piano.
- vii. Maintenance would be funded out of the BRB operating budget.
- viii. M. Munasinghe **motioned** to recommit the resolution to the Appropriations Committee until the next meeting of the GPSA, the motion was **approved** by unanimous consent.

V. **Reports of Officers and Committee Updates**

- a. Executive: nothing to report.
- b. Operations: nothing to report.
- c. Appropriations: nothing to report.
- d. Communications: nothing to report.
- e. Finance: nothing to report.

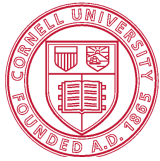


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- f. Student Advocacy: next meeting is Thursday (4/13), 121 Weill Hall, 6:30pm, there will be food.
- g. Diversity and International Students: currently working on a workshop for sexual assault awareness week. Also, with the closing of Maplewood, there will be a webinar to talk about housing options (different neighborhoods, etc.). Please reach out if you're interested in helping with these two things. Next meeting is Tuesday (4/11), 12-1:30 PM, 246 Olin Hall.
- h. Programming: graduate student mixer is on April 20th. Grad Ball is on May 6th, the ticketing website should be going live on Wednesday. Working on a wine tour. Grad Ball tickets cost \$20 and include two drinks and better food.
- i. Faculty Awards: deadline for nominations is now April 21st.
- j. General Committee: look over code of legislation
 - i. R. Walroth asked if the GC has jurisdiction over the consensual relationship policy.
 - ii. It has jurisdiction over academic policies and grievance procedures. They'll look into it.
 - iii. J. Allen: code of legislation applies only to graduate faculty, not to all faculty across the university.
- k. Graduate School: check graduate announcements tonight, financial literacy week is coming up, there will be a March for Science event, a travel safety event for field research, and an intellectual property rights event all happening soon.
- l. A motion was made to extend the meeting by five minutes, there was no dissent.

VI. Open Forum

- a. J. Goldberg: we started this meeting 20 minutes later than we were supposed to, it is b.s. that we cut discussion on Resolution 14 short because of that.
- b. A. Waymack: the graduate and professional student event for sexual assault awareness week is happening at noon on Thursday, April 20th, 401 Physical Sciences.
- c. N. Stetson: please come to meetings. He stated that the Executive Committee can deactivate a member to reach quorum if that member has 2 or more absences.
- d. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, there was no dissent.



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The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matthew Ferraro
Clerk of the Assembly