

Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

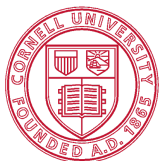
Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Agenda of the April 9th, 2018 Meeting

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Bache Auditorium, Malott Hall

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call (3 minutes)
- III. Approval of the Minutes (2 Minutes)
 - a. Minutes from March 26th, 2018
- IV. Presentations (30 Minutes)
 - a. Student Elected Trustees: Rebecca Harrison, Kasturi Mitra, Manisha Munasinghe, Tatiana Padilla (20 Minutes)
 - b. Operations Update, Alex Loiben (10 Minutes)
- V. Committee Updates (5 Minutes) (~30 sec/Committee)
 - a. Executive Committee
 - b. Operations
 - c. Communications
 - d. Appropriations
 - e. Finance
 - f. Student Advocacy
 - g. Diversity and International Students
 - h. Programming
 - i. Faculty Awards
 - j. General Committee
 - k. Consensual Relationship Task Force
 - l. Graduate School
- VI. Open Forum (5 Minutes)
- VII. New Business (45 Minutes)
 - a. Introduction to *Resolution 13: Calling For the Accommodation of International GCAs at Maplenwood Apartments* (10 Minutes)
 - b. Introduction to *Resolution 14: Updating the Byline Procedures, Eligibility Criteria, and Obligations* (20 Minutes)
 - c. Introduction to *Resolution 15: Ensuring Equal Representation for Professional Students in the GPSA* (10 Minutes)
- VIII. Adjournment



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

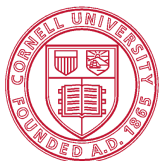
Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Minutes of the March 26th, 2018 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:* K. Angierski, C. Cannarozzo, A. Gagnon, R. Harrison, S. Hesse, G. Kanter, C. Little, A. Loiben, T. McCann, E. Michel, A. Schofield, C. Stambuk, A. Viarruel, W. Zhang.
 - c. *Members Absent:* J. Goldberg, M. Jodlowski.
 - d. M. Kalaji was elected as an At-Large Voting Member later in the meeting and took part in the votes after his election.
- II. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. A motion was made to approve the minutes from the March 12th meeting, there was no dissent.
 - b. A motion was made to amend the agenda by adding two elections (an At-Large Voting Member and a UA Delegate) during the Executive Committee update, there was no dissent.
- III. Presentations
 - a. B. Yarze then made her presentation on Finance Commission updates.
 - b. The guideline changes from 2017 brought in the Tier system (1-4 tiers) and further clarified what can/cannot be funded. Organizations must spend money on what they were approved for in order to be reimbursed
 - i. Progress: these changes incentivize organizations to keep track of usage and membership, and increases efficiency and organization. FC is seeing more detailed planning by organizations.
 - ii. Issues: the changes are unclear about the amount of detail necessary for budget requests to be approved; the reimbursement process is complicated (they are looking at getting PCards); and FC's jurisdiction remains unclear sometimes. They will use OrgSync through May 2019, but they are looking



Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

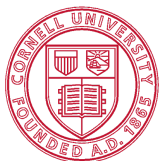
into new platforms/changes that OrgSync can implement to improve the system.

- c. FC will host several town halls soon. The one for the Law School is on March 27th, in Myron Taylor 285, from 4:30-6pm.
 - i. Johnson and Vet School town halls to come.
- d. FC is beginning the guideline revision process.
- e. Email B. Yarze (by243) with questions.
- f. T. McCann asked if there is a plan to have virtual access to the town halls. The answer was yes.
- g. M. Battaglia asked if there is anything this assembly can help FC with in publicizing anything or in any other way.
- h. B. Yarze: letting organizations know that they don't have to pay out of pocket for some reimbursement things would be helpful.
- i. E. Michel asked how will FC involve organizations and GPSA members in the revision process for guidelines.
- j. B. Yarze: hopefully by publicizing town halls people will come so she and FC can hear directly from them about what issues exist with the current guidelines.
- k. M. Munasinghe asked if groups are requesting more or less funding.
- l. B. Yarze: people are staying pretty on target, people know more of what to budget and expect with the tier system. It seems to be working well.
- m. A. Schofield asked what is FC's process for helping organizations that submit incorrect requests.
- n. B. Yarze: FC comments on budgets so organizations can fix the problem.
- o. T. McCann asked if FC is spending more than with the non-tier system.
- p. B. Yarze will look into that.

IV. Division Breakouts

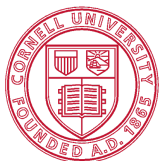
V. Committee Updates

- a. Executive: in collaboration with SAC they are holding Notice and Respond training and there is still space available for training.
 - i. Election for the At-Large Voting Member seat.
 - 1. Motasem Kalaji was nominated and subsequently elected by unanimous consent.



Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

- ii. Election for a delegate to the University Assembly.
 - 1. Gautham Madhira was nominated.
 - 2. Alexa Cohn was nominated.
 - 3. A. Cohn was elected by a secret ballot vote of 32-23.
- b. Operations and Staffing: there is a meeting this Friday (3/30) at 2pm, in ILR library 231a. There will be a virtual link. They've been thinking of having Field Reps be eligible to be counted for attendance at committee meetings. Committee chair elections are coming up.
 - i. It was raised that an evening meeting time for the committee might be beneficial for committee attendance.
 - ii. B. Kisselstein asked a question about voting on structural changes.
 - 1. A. Loiben: Operations and Staffing will vote on any changes and then they will be brought to the assembly.
- c. Communications: nothing to report.
- d. Appropriations: they have been working on finalizing obligations for by-lined funded organizations. They will talk to specific organizations about the obligations before they are brought to the assembly (probably at the next meeting).
- e. Finance: see presentation above.
- f. Student Advocacy: there will be no meeting next week because of spring break. The Notice and Respond training is for any Cornell graduate TA. The training covers how to identify a student in your class who is having an emotional crisis. They are meeting with Cornell Health on Friday to discuss satellite students, at 9:30am, in Norman Moore library, level 6 of Cornell Health. There will be a zoom link too.
- g. Diversity and International Students: the Presidential Task Force sent out a survey, please complete it and tell your friends to do so as well. A community lunch dialogue is scheduled for Wed., April 18th, 1:30-2:20pm, in 133 Emerson Hall. The Dean of Students will be at the What's Your Story Luncheon (Wed., April 25th, 12-1:30pm). Invitations and rsvp forms will be sent out after spring break.
- h. Programming: Grad Ball is May 5th, 7-11pm, at the Museum of the Earth. Agava is catering. The current working theme is land before time.



Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

- i. Faculty Awards: nominations have opened. They've updated the website and created an online voting form. Nominations will be open until April 9th, and please publicize this. Email ad689 with questions.
- j. General Committee: nothing to report.
- k. Consensual Relationship Policy Committee: nothing to report.
- l. Graduate School: J. Allen passed out a flier on the Inclusive Teaching Institute for graduate students and postdocs.

VI. Old Business

- a. **Resolution 9** (line numbers make reference to the version of the Resolution attached to the three amendments under Resolution History on assembly.cornell.edu)
 - i. The sponsors had a sit down with VP Lombardi, Dean Pendakur, and two HR officers. Their understanding is there was a huge slew of miscommunication between the EA and President Pollack's response to EA Resolution 8.
 - ii. A motion was made to amend by striking a whereas clause (lines 102-103) and adding the two subsequent whereas clauses (lines 105-113).
 - 1. A. Schofield asked for clarification on programming vs. training.
 - 2. M. Munasinghe: programming is more like gatherings for the community to get together while training is more about what is ok behavior in professional situations.
 - 3. E. Michel motioned to amend the amendment and strike "and support services" from line 112.
 - a. A motion was made to call the question on the amendment to the amendment, there was no dissent. The amendment to the amendment passed with unanimous consent.
 - 4. T. McCann asked if bias incidents were being reported to the LGBTRC prior to this change.
 - 5. E. Michel said she believed people were going to the LGBTRC with incidents and then the LGBTRC was counseling them on what to do.



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

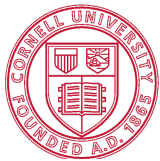
6. A motion was made to call the question on the amendment, there was no dissent. There was no dissent to passing the amendment.
- iii. A motion was made to amend by adding the whereas clause on lines 115-117.
 1. A motion was made to call the question, there was no dissent. The motion to amend passed with no dissent
- iv. A motion was made to amend by striking the first "be it therefore resolved clause" (lines 119-122) and by adding the three subsequent resolved clauses (lines 124-136).
 1. A. Loiben made a friendly amendment to the amendment to change "therefore" to "further" (in line 128).
 2. N. Rogers made a friendly amendment to put a comma after "programming" in line 112.
 3. A motion was made to call the question on the amendment, there was no dissent. The motion to amend passed with no dissent.
- v. A motion was made to call the question on the Resolution, there was no dissent. By a vote of 14-0-3, the resolution passed.

b. Resolution 12

- i. A. Loiben made a friendly amendment to the footnote on line 10 to make it before the "; and".
- ii. A motion was made to end discussion and call the question on the Resolution, there was no dissent. By a vote of 14-0-3 the resolution passed.

VII. Open Forum

- a. N. Rogers reminded everyone about the GPCI committee. Their first meeting will be after spring break. Email ngr27 with questions.
- b. T. McCann asked N. Rogers to send out headings (categories) within the GPCI so people can see what's in it.
- c. M. Battaglia: the Codes and Judicial Committee is considering a number of changes to the Code. If anyone has questions talk to mab622.
- d. M. Munasinghe: applications are open to the university hearing and review board. Please consider applying. She will send out an email.
- e. A motion was made to adjourn, there was no dissent.



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matthew Ferraro
Clerk of the Assembly

Draft outline of procedure:

1. Counsel is the designated person to receive a formal complaint, allegation of misconduct, etc.
 - a. Counsel discusses with the complainant and informs VP Ops
 - b. Three options are available to the Counsel and VP Ops, one of which must be chosen before the second General Assembly meeting following the initial receipt of complaint
 - i. Counsel and VP Ops unanimously decide GPSA should not further investigate the issue
 1. Counsel and VP Ops must inform complainant in writing why they decided to dismiss the complaint
 - a. This document should be archived
 2. VP Ops informs Ops/Staffing with minimal disclosure of details (names of parties withheld)
 3. Accused party is not informed of the complaint
 4. No further action is taken
 - ii. Counsel will attempt to mediate an agreement between the complainant and the accused
 1. VP Ops can also serve as a mediator if agreed upon by all parties
 2. The agreement can include options such as resolving of differences, voluntary resignation, talking to external office such as Ombudsman or Scheiman Institute, etc.
 3. Accused is informed of complaint for purposes of mediating agreement between the parties
 4. If agreement is found
 - a. Counsel and VP Ops must describe the agreement in writing
 - i. This document should be archived
 - b. VP Ops informs Ops/Staffing with minimal disclosure of details (names of parties withheld)
 - c. If both parties are satisfied with the agreement, no further action is taken
 - d. If parties are still in conflict after the agreement is executed, Counsel and VP Ops will reassess and decide whether to trigger an internal review
 5. If an agreement cannot be found before the second General Assembly meeting following receipt of the complaint, an automatic internal review by Ops/Staffing is triggered
 - iii. Counsel and/or VP Ops vote to undergo an internal review of the case
 1. This only requires one vote to initiate
2. Internal review is organized by VP Ops
 - a. Ops/Staffing formally meets at least once to discuss the issue

- i. Any Ops/Staffing members with direct conflicts of interest must recuse themselves from discussion and voting, including but not limited to the following:
 - 1. Complainant
 - 2. Accused
 - 3. Other direct conflicts as determined by 2/3 majority of non-implicated Ops/Staffing members
 - ii. All review meetings are governed by strict confidentiality requirements
- b. Accused is informed they are under internal review due to a formal complaint
- c. Ops/Staffing can vote to place the accused on temporary suspension from position(s) while review is ongoing
 - i. This requires unanimous consent
 - ii. This action should only be taken in cases where the allegations are serious and substantiated, and such action is clearly necessary to ensure the wellbeing of community members
 - iii. This action requires a detailed explanation in writing of why it was taken
 - 1. This document should be archived
 - iv. If this action is taken, the effect is the same as if a Voting Member was unseated; i.e. the position(s) should not be reassigned to a new individual until the review has concluded
- d. The review must take all relevant viewpoints into account (complainant, accused, direct witnesses, etc.)
- e. Only the following direct actions are permitted to be voted on as a result of the review; each of these requires a 2/3 majority of non-recused Ops/Staffing, and each requires a separate vote
 - i. Removal or recommendation for removal from an internal committee position
 - ii. Removal or recommendation for removal from an external appointment
 - iii. Recommendation for removal from an elected officer position
 - iv. Recommendation for removal from a University Assembly delegate position
 - 1. This option includes UA delegates in the voting pool
 - v. Recommendation for removal from a Voting Member position
 - vi. Recommendation for removal from a Division Chief position
 - vii. Recommendation for removal from a Field Representative position
- f. It is at Ops/Staffing's discretion whether to immediately remove positions under its direct authority, such as
 - i. Internal committee appointments
 - ii. External appointments
- g. It is at Ops/Staffing's discretion whether to recommend removal for positions outside Ops/Staffing's authority, such as
 - i. Elected officer
 - ii. UA delegate

- iii. Field Representative
 - iv. Voting Member
 - v. Division Chief
 - h. The review must conclude by the second General Assembly meeting following official initiation of the review
 - i. VP Ops can petition the Executive Committee for a single extension of an additional General Assembly meeting, which must be approved by unanimous consent
 - 1. If this extension is granted, VP Ops must document why an extension was warranted
 - ii. If no conclusion is reached by the designated meeting, the review is considered complete
 - 1. The complainant and accused are informed of the failure to reach a conclusion
 - 2. Any temporary suspension is immediately rescinded
 - 3. No further review of the incident in question is permitted, but the accused may be the subject of another review if a separate complaint is brought forward to the Counsel
 - i. Implicated parties must be informed of agreed-upon actions at least 24 hours prior to disclosure to the General Body
 - i. The complainant and accused are informed of both the findings of the review and the agreed-upon actions 24 hours prior to disclosure to other implicated parties (i.e. 48 hours prior to disclosure to the General Body)
 - ii. Implicated committees are informed of removal or recommendation for removal from committee positions 24 hours prior to disclosure to the General Body.
 - iii. Voting Members are informed of recommendation for removal from Voting Member or Division Chief positions, and removal or recommendation for removal from elected officer positions and UA delegate positions 24 hours prior to disclosure to the General Body
 - iv. Fields/Organizations are informed of recommendation for removal from Field Representative positions
 - v. Disclosure to the General Body must be limited to agreed-upon actions, and must not breach confidentiality of the complainant
 - j. Discussion points and agreed-upon actions from the review must be documented and archived, available upon request from any GPSA member under strict confidentiality guidelines
3. The accused has a limited right to appeal
- a. The appeal can only apply to direct removal decisions taken by Ops/Staffing; there is no appeal of any ensuing removal actions taken if Ops/Staffing issues a recommendation
 - b. The accused cannot appeal a unanimous decision taken by Ops/Staffing

- c. The accused must inform the Counsel of their intent to appeal a removal decision within 24 hours of being informed of the removal decision
 - i. This action overrides disclosure of the decision to other implicated parties (committees, Voting Members, etc.)
- d. The appellate reviewers are the five Division Chiefs
 - i. Any Division Chiefs with direct conflicts of interest must recuse themselves from discussion and voting
 - 1. Complainant
 - 2. Accused
 - 3. Other direct conflicts as determined by 2/3 majority of non-implicated Division Chiefs
 - ii. There must be at least three non-recused appellate reviewers
 - 1. The GPSA President can serve as an additional reviewer if necessary
 - 2. If fewer than two Division Chiefs are non-recused, appeal is not allowed
- e. The appellate reviewers can only rule in favor or in opposition to the initial removal action of the Ops/Staffing reviewers
 - i. A 2/3 majority is necessary to overturn a removal action
 - ii. No additional actions can be taken
- f. The appellate review decision is final
- g. The appellate review must conclude by the second General Assembly meeting following official initiation of the appeal
- h. Following the appellate review, Implicated parties must be informed of agreed-upon actions at least 24 hours prior to disclosure to the General Body
 - i. The complainant, accused, Executive Committee, and Ops/Staffing are informed of the findings of the appellate review 24 hours prior to disclosure to other implicated parties (i.e. 48 hours prior to disclosure to the General Body)
 - ii. Implicated committees are informed of removal, if appropriate
 - iii. Voting Members are informed of removal from elected officer positions and UA delegate positions
 - iv. Disclosure to the General Body must be limited to agreed-upon actions, and must not breach confidentiality of the complainant
- i. Discussion points and agreed-upon actions from the appellate review must be documented and archived, available upon request from any GPSA member under strict confidentiality guidelines



GPSA Resolution 13: Calling For the Accommodation of International GCAs at Maplewood Apartments

April 9th, 2018

Sponsored by: Manisha Munasinghe, GPSA Executive Vice-President; Ekarina Winarto, GPSA President; Nathaniel Rogers, GPSA Counsel; Aravind Natarajan; Prateek Sehgal; Hao Shi;

Whereas, “about 13% of Cornell’s graduate and professional students (GPS) live on campus” in housing complexes such as Hasbrouck Apartments or Thurston Court¹; and

Whereas, international students make up 47% of the GPS community, and these students can often face difficulty finding affordable and secure housing while overseas²;

Whereas, about 72% of graduate and professional students living in University Housing are international students¹; and

Whereas, Graduate Community Advisors (GCAs) are GPS who live and work among their peers in the GPS on-campus communities³; and

Whereas, while a GCA’s “primary role is to help create a sense of community within their respective areas”, they also serve as a general resource to all residents and a main point of contact during emergencies; and

Whereas, Maplewood Park was an on-campus housing complex built in 1989 had a capacity of 360 beds for graduate and professionals students; and

Whereas, Maplewood Park was an attractive housing option for graduate and professional students as it was family-friendly both in price and programming, walking distance from campus, promoted community building/support, and had payment/deposit options that are adjusted to Cornell’s payroll calendar; and

Whereas, in May 2015, students were notified that that Maplewood Park would be closing at the end of the 2015 - 2016 academic year⁴; and

Whereas, on January 28th, 2016, the Buildings and Properties Committee of the Cornell University Board of Trustees approved the selection of EdR for a new housing complex on the site of Maplewood Park¹; and

¹ <https://living.sas.cornell.edu/live/wheretolive/gradhousing/upload/Graduate-and-Professional-Housing-Guide-2016-17-web-version.pdf>

² <https://www.cornell.edu/about/facts.cfm>

³ <https://living.sas.cornell.edu/participate/employment/GCA.cfm>

⁴ <http://news.cornell.edu/stories/2015/05/cornell-addresses-short-and-long-term-student-housing-needs>



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

Whereas, Cornell entered into a Public Private Partnership (P3) with EdR “outlining a framework for Cornell to retain ownership of the land, but with EdR financing, constructing and managing the new housing project”⁵; and

Whereas, the Graduate & Professional Student Assembly (GPSA) was asked for input and partnership during the redevelopment planning, culminating in testimonials to help EdR, Cornell’s P3 partner, gain the permit for construction; and

Whereas, the GPSA recognizes that EdR has listened to many student concerns such as keeping unit prices comparable to other current on-campus housing, providing in-unit washer and dryer, and allowing pets; and

Whereas, during a meeting between EdR and GPS designed to solicit feedback regarding GPS housing needs, students discovered that International Students would no longer be eligible to serve as GCAs in Maplewood; and

Whereas, EdR, as a private entity, would only legally be able to hire International Students if they have Curricular Practical Training (CPT) work permission, which in practice would make international students ineligible for these positions; and

Whereas, the inability to hire International Students as GCAs in Maplewood effectively strips International Students, who make up a significant portion of the demographic in GPSA on-campus housing, the opportunity for equitable representation in leadership positions that provide programming and mental health support to residents; and

Whereas, while GCAs are not hired based on nationality, international students have always been strongly represented among the current and previous GCAs at Hasbrouck and the old Maplewood complex;

Whereas, international students have issues unique to them and are generally more comfortable seeking support from other international student leaders in their community;

Whereas, we believe that international student GCAs play an important role in building international student community, helping international students acclimate to life at Cornell, and serving as a community leader in GPS housing complexes; and

Whereas, while we recognize that, under the new P3 model, it is illegal for EdR to hire international students as GCAs, students reached out to Cornell administrators in the hopes of finding a way to ensure the continued existence of international GCAs at Maplewood, even if it would be in a different form; and

Whereas, despite repeated attempts to find a solution, it was made clear that international students will not be eligible for these positions and that the University would not be creating alternative opportunities

⁵ <http://news.cornell.edu/stories/2016/02/board-gives-green-light-new-grad-student-housing>



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

for international students to serve as community leaders in Maplewood and receive compensation for their services; and

Whereas, Cornell and EdR attempted to assure students that domestic students serving in these positions would be well-trained in building community amongst international students; and

Whereas, we do not have confidence in this proposal and we reject the idea that community leadership teams exclusively consisting of domestic students can provide the same level of community support compared to a diverse team of students that includes international students;

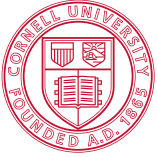
Whereas, we think that Cornell's refusal to explore ways to accommodate International GCAs at Maplewood Park, based on the fact that Maplewood is now an off campus housing, is misleading because this housing complex is advertised specifically in the official Graduate School Announcements, unlike other off-campus housing options; and

Whereas, acknowledging that Maplewood Park is exclusively off-campus housing means that Cornell has taken away on-campus graduate housing with this new funding model;

Be it therefore resolved, that the GPSA reiterates its commitment to international students and their right to apply and serve as Graduate Community Advisors in graduate and professional student housing complexes and have their identity represented in community leaders; and

Be it further resolved, that we urge Cornell University to find a solution that allows international students to serve as Graduate Community Advisors at the new Maplewood Apartments; and

Be it finally resolved, if Cornell is unable to find a solution that allows international students to serve as Graduate Community Advisors in off-campus housing complexes under the P3 model with Cornell University, we ask that the University keep the remaining on-campus housing options for graduate and professional students on-campus so that International Students can continue to serve as GCAs in these complexes.



Resolution 14: Updating the Byline Procedures, Eligibility Criteria, and Obligations

Sponsored by: Cassandra Stambuk, Biological Sciences Voting Member and Chair of
Appropriations Committee on behalf of the Appropriations Committee

Whereas, the process by which the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GPSA) sets and allocates the Graduate and Professional Student Activity Fee (GPSAF) is specified in The GPSA Byline Allocation Procedures; and

Whereas, the obligations for byline-funded organizations are specified in The GPSA Eligibility Criteria and Obligations for Byline Funded Organizations; and

Whereas, the GPSA adopted Resolution 8, setting the GPSAF for Fiscal Years 2019 and 2020; and

Whereas, Section 4.06(c) of The GPSA Eligibility Criteria and Obligations for Byline Funded Organizations requires that they be updated every two years, in accordance with the passage of a new GPSAF;

Whereas, both the Student Assembly (SA) and the GPSA maintain documents containing procedures and obligations for the purposes of collecting, setting, and allocating a student activity fee for their respective constituencies

Whereas, the The GPSA Byline Allocation Procedures and The GPSA Eligibility Criteria and Obligations for Byline Funded Organizations are currently maintained separately from the GPSA Charter; and

Whereas, the SA maintains documents equivalent to The GPSA Byline Allocation Procedures and The GPSA Eligibility Criteria and Obligations for Byline Funded Organizations as appendices in the SA Charter; and

Be it therefore resolved, The GPSA Byline Allocation Procedures is renamed as "Appendix A: The GPSA Byline Allocation Procedures" (Appendix A) and The GPSA Eligibility Criteria and Obligations for Byline Funded Organizations is renamed as "Appendix B: The GPSA Eligibility Criteria and Obligations for Byline Funded Organizations" (Appendix B) to mirror the organization of information as the Student Assembly (SA) for easier understanding for the byline-funded organizations.

Be it finally resolved, Appendix A and Appendix B are amended as shown in the attached documents.



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

GPSA Resolution # 15

Ensuring Equal Representation for Professional Students in the GPSA

April 8, 2018

Sponsored by: Manisha Munasinghe, Executive Vice President, GPSA; Matthew Battaglia, Ex-Officio Member, GPSA

Whereas, the Preamble to the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GPSA) Charter states: “The purpose of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly is to ensure a direct focus for the continued involvement of graduate and professional school students in the governance of non-academic affairs and in the life of the University, as well as to foster an increased sense of community among all constituencies through shared responsibilities.”; and

Whereas, by its nature, the Assembly is charged with representing the unique and shared needs of both graduate as well as professional students; and

Whereas, professional students currently makeup approximately one third of the total graduate and professional student body with an increasing overall enrollment; and

Whereas, the three professional schools currently are allocated approximately 15% of the voting seats on the GPSA and approximately 3-4% of the field representative seats; and

Whereas, this incongruence is contrary to the purpose of the GPSA, underweights the needs of the professional student body, and focuses the representation and composition of the GPSA primarily around the graduate student community; and

Whereas, with the GPSA undertaking extensive discussions about restructuring it is crucial to ensure that professional students are well represented within the Assembly; and

Whereas, while the discussion concerning restructuring is ongoing it is unjust to the professional student community to continue to underweight their voice in the Assembly’s voting membership; and

Whereas, increasing the number of professional student seats proportionally retains the current balance between the three professional schools and partly ameliorates the overall



Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

representative imbalance; therefore

Be it Therefore Resolved, that the GPSA Charter § 4.04 §§ B be amended to read:

B. There shall be **twenty-seven (27)** Voting members, composed as follows:

i. **Four (4)** graduate **or professional** students enrolled in Master's degree programs as follows: **One (1) at-large, one (1) Master of Public Administration, one (1) Master of Engineering, and one (1) Masters of Industrial & Labor Relations.**

ii. Fourteen (14) from the divisions of the Graduate School as follows: three (3) from Humanities, three (3) from Biological Sciences, four (4) from Physical Sciences, and four (4) from Social Sciences.

iii. **Nine (9)** professional students, **three (3)** each from the Samuel Curtis Johnson School of Business, Cornell Law School, and College of Veterinary Medicine.

Be It Finally Resolved, the Assembly notes that the number of field representatives allocated for professional schools is not adequate to represent the size of the professional student community and instructs the Operations and Staffing Committee to ensure proposals on restructuring consult professional students and include adequate provision for professional student representation within the Assembly.