

**Cornell University**  
**Graduate and Professional**  
**Student Assembly**

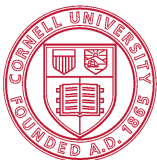
**Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly**

Agenda of the April 23rd, 2018 Meeting

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Bache Auditorium, Malott Hall

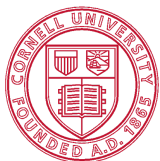
- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call (3 minutes)
- III. Approval of the Minutes (2 Minutes)
  - a. Minutes from April 9th, 2018
- IV. Presentations (20 Minutes)
  - a. Organizational Structures in the Social Sciences Review - Judith Appleton, Ted O'Donoghue
- V. Division Breakout (30 Minutes)
  - a. GPCI Special (20 Minutes)
  - b. Voting Member Elections (10 Minutes)
- VI. Committee Updates (15 Minutes) ( ~30 seconds/Committee)
  - a. Executive Committee (10 Minutes)
    - i. Sense of the Body Discussion and Vote on Consensual Relationship Policy
  - 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
- VII. New Business ( 5 Minutes)
  - a. Introduction to *Resolution 16: In support of further discussion on proposed curricular changes to language requirements in the College of Arts & Science* (5 Minutes)
- VIII. Old Business
  - a. Discussion on *Resolution 13: Calling For the Accommodation of International GCAs at Maplewood Apartments* (5 Minutes)
  - b. Discussion on *Resolution 14: Updating the Byline Procedures, Eligibility Criteria, and Obligations* (5 Minutes)



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- c. Discussion on *Resolution 15: Ensuring Equal Representation for Professional Students in the GPSA* (5 Minutes)

IX. Adjournment



# Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

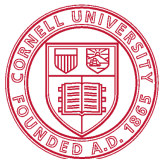
## Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Minutes of the April 9th, 2018 Meeting

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

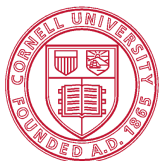
Bache Auditorium, Malott Hall

- 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, J. Goldberg, R. Harrison, M. Jodlowski, M. Kalaji, G. Kanter, C. Little, A. Loiben, T. McCann, E. Michel, A. Schofield, C. Stambuk, A. Viarrruel, W. Zhang.
  - c. *Members absent:* S. Hesse.
  - d. Note: S. Durvasula was elected as a Voting Member representing Masters (Engineering) students during the executive committee update.
- II. Approval of the Minutes
  - a. A motion was made to approve the minutes. The minutes were **approved** with unanimous consent.
- III. Presentations
  - a. Student-Elected Trustee Candidates
    - i. Manisha Munasinghe, Tatiana Padilla, and Rebecca Harrison, the student-elected trustee candidates, gave their opening statements. Voting will be held April 16th-18th.
    - ii. N. Rogers asked if the candidates could describe their opinions on Cornell's divestment policy.
      1. M. Munasinghe: when we make a negative return on investment, the students who are impacted first are the ones on financial aid. We need to strategically divest so we don't hurt students on financial aid.
      2. T. Padilla agreed that we need to have strategic divestment, and that the board really needs to take a look at this along with graduate tuition.
      3. R. Harrison: this has to do a lot with sustainability and carbon neutrality but a lot of this is also about fiduciary duties. How to balance those is tricky but also an important conversation.



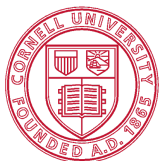
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- iii. J. Goldberg asked the candidates what they plan to do if they don't get this position and their visions for the board if they do get it.
  - 1. T. padilla: the graduate community is really divided among departments and she would like to foster more community. If we can build a better community it will help us succeed.
  - 2. B. Harrison: she will look forward to having another year on the General Committee. She'll be able to interact with students through coaching as well.
  - 3. M. Munasinghe: she is not planning on returning to the GPSA Executive Committee because she wants to make room for other people. She does plan on staying in the GPSA. She's concerned about how the GPSA passes on institutional knowledge and she and several others are working on a document for first and second year graduate students about that.
- iv. A. Natarajan asked if they could change the structure of the election would they change the fact that they have to get undergraduate votes?
  - 1. R. Harrison stated she sees campaigning for undergraduate votes as more of an opportunity than a hindrance.
  - 2. M. Munasinghe: part of the reason it's structured that way is because undergraduates outnumber graduates two to one. She would fix that by having two undergraduate trustee seats and encouraging them to be elected by their separate constituencies.
  - 3. T. Padilla: maybe the problem is that we have low voter turnout. Our efforts need to focus on explaining what the Board does, what this election means, and why this is important.
- v. M. Battaglia asked what do they see as the largest issue facing the professional student community.
  - 1. M. Munasinghe stated she is particularly concerned about professional student debt. She would encourage more robust financial aid packages. That is also a role we have to play as student leaders on the national level.



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2. T. Padilla: she understands the concern between professional debt as opposed to getting a stipend. She stated we also need to connect students with resources outside of the university.
3. R. Harrison agreed on debt being a crucial issue. The cost of vet school was a huge factor in her decision to not go. Under the debt issue comes a lot of other problems for Cornell students: mental health issues, affordable housing, etc. Trying to balance starting a family and paying for school when it's this expensive is a huge challenge.
- vi. The three candidates then made their closing remarks.
- b. A. Loiben then made his presentation on the draft misconduct policy for the GPSA.
  - i. Resolution 11 was referred to the Operations and Staffing Committee in order to create a policy.
  - ii. This draft policy covers: who hears a complaint, when a review is initiated, how reviews work, when parties are informed, appeal criteria, and an estimated timeline of the process.
  - iii. N. Rogers asked why  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority votes are used so often and if it is two thirds of the members of the Operations and Staffing Committee or of the the members that show up for that particular meeting.
    1. A. Loiben: those numbers don't really have a specific reason behind them.
  - iv. E Cecchetti asked why doesn't the GPSA get a professional mediator from the university and asked what happens if the Counsel is one of the parties.
    1. A. Loiben: the first part is an option. It depends on how formal of a process the complainant wants. It could be someone in the assembly or the Office of the Assemblies.
  - v. A. Schofield asked where would the archives be kept.
    1. A. Loiben: that's another question, the most obvious place seems to be the Office of the Assemblies.
  - vi. M. Battaglia: with this you walk right into FERPA. You have a right to see all educational records about you. This is a good process but there's a lot more that needs to be thought through.

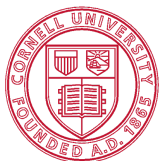


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- vii. R. Harrison thanked the Committee for taking this seriously and stated we're making progress.
- viii. M. Munasinghe: a professional mediator is a possibility. It's very rare that something like this actually happens which is why we were so unprepared. It's still a draft, but she would love to see it pass this year.
- ix. A. Natarajan asked a question about the appealing process.
  - 1. A. Loiben: one of the rationales was how can you appeal a recommendation when the Voting Members will vote on it anyway? Operations and Staffing can only remove internal and external appointments and they are the only ones that are appealable. The rationale was if the entire room agrees it doesn't need to be appealed.
- x. J. Anderson asked how will they ensure confidentiality will be enforced.
  - 1. A. Loiben did not have a response at this time.
  - 2. A motion was made to strike a name mentioned by J. Anderson from the record, there was no dissent.
- xi. Email A. Loiben with questions (aml372).

### IV. Committee Updates

- a. Executive:
  - i. A motion was made to add the election of a Voting Member representing Engineering Masters students, there was no dissent.
    - 1. M. Munasinghe nominated Samir Durvasula.
    - 2. S. Durvasula was elected by unanimous consent.
  - ii. A motion was made to approve the meeting dates for next year; it passed with no dissent.
- b. Operations and Staffing: look for an email for more discussion of the draft policy.
- c. Communications: nothing to report.
- d. Appropriations: will report during the introduction of Resolution 14.
- e. Finance: the FC is meeting on Thursday (4/12) night to decide budgets submitted in March. The summer funding deadline will be announced soon.
- f. Student Advocacy: come to their meeting next Monday at 2pm. Email B. Kisselstein for information (bmk76).



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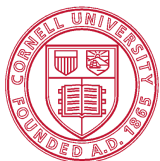
- g. Diversity and International Students: the Presidential Task Force on Campus Climate survey is still open, please do it; it's closing this Friday. There will be two more events this semester. A Community Conversation, April 18th, 1:30-2:30pm, in 133 Emerson Hall. The other is "What's Your Story" April 25th, 12-1:30pm, in the International Room of Willard Straight, food provided. It's a good opportunity for Dean Pendakur to get to know graduate students better.
- h. Programming: Grad Ball is May 5th, 7-11pm, Museum of the Earth, please RSVP on facebook. Tickets go on sale on April 20th, for \$20. There are 400 tickets available. There will be transportation to and from Cornell.
- i. Faculty Awards: the deadline for nominations will be extended one week. They have 70 so far and want some more. Please spread the word.
- j. General Committee: one GC position will be available for election soon.
- k. Consensual Relationship Policy Committee: the GPSA will be discussing the final draft at our the next meeting.
- l. Graduate School: on May 4th, from 4-5pm in the Big Red Barn, there will be the first annual recognition ceremony to thank GPSA members.

### V. Open Forum

- a. J. Goldberg asked if anyone was working on a resolution about the Consensual Relationship Draft Policy.
- b. M. Munasinghe responded that the policy committee said they only need a sense of the body, not a resolution, so we don't have to write a formal resolution.

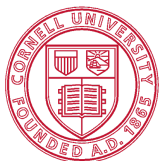
### VI. New Business

- a. Introduction of **Resolution 13**
  - i. This Resolution is the culmination of a conversation that started last Fall.
  - ii. Graduate Community Advisors try and create a sense of community within Hasbrouck. Because Maplewood is managed by a private company, international students can't be GCAs at Maplewood.
  - iii. M. Munasinghe: international students can work on campus, but Maplewood is now off campus. At our last meeting with administration it was shown that they can't do much about this. This resolution is a call for them to try and find a solution, and, if there is no solution, we don't want any other current on campus housing to be turned into off campus housing because this happens.



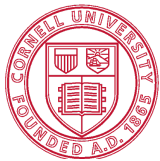
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- iv. J. Kent-Dobias: these jobs are paid worse than other graduate jobs.
  - v. A. Natarajan: the hourly system that EDR wanted to do incentivized the minimum requirements. The new model is poorer than the original Maplewood. Cornell talks about this as the gold standard for shared governance, and in some ways it was in regards to other concerns, but this issue was raised early on and not dealt with correctly.
  - vi. It was asked if the administration provided any solutions to this.
  - vii. M. Munasinghe: the university sort of responded that they'll train domestic students to build community.
  - viii. N. Rogers: he believes there are solutions if the university and EDR would be more creative. The expectation going into this was that this would replace the old Maplewood (provide the same services and employment opportunities).
  - ix. E. Winarto: part of the problem is we want this to be similar to Hasbrouck, but the administration says this is off-campus, so it can't be like Hasbrouck. But it's advertised in the Graduate School announcements, it's not in that sense off-campus. She doesn't know how we'll unify those mismatched expectations.
  - x. M. Munasinghe: we really want to stress we are against this and it happening again in the future.
  - xi. Question and answer ended as there were no more questions.
- b. Introduction of **Resolution 14**
- i. C. Stambuk introduced the Resolution. The big change is that Cornell Cinema will be weaned off by 2 dollars every cycle. There is also an enforcement procedure. Please come ask questions at office hours (listed in Resolution attachments).
  - ii. N. Rogers asked if lodging falls under "travel" because accommodations and conference registration fees are where most of the cost is.
    - 1. T. McCann: they were trying to respect the thought that people in the political class of the GPSA shouldn't be benefiting, but we need to look at this.



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- iii. M. Munasinghe thanked the Appropriations Committee especially for working with Cornell Cinema. She raised the question of who in the GPSA is responsible for the survey on line 484.
  - 1. M. Battaglia responded that they do need to determine this and put it in their bylaws, it has to be someone's responsibility.
- iv. Question and answer ended as there were no more questions.
- v. C. Stambuk: talk to Krista for Cornell Cinema questions (see office hours).
- c. Introduction of **Resolution 15**
  - i. M. Munasinghe introduced the Resolution. It's purpose is to make sure professional students are fairly represented in the GPSA.
  - ii. They got these numbers because the Johnson, Vet and Law Schools are all about a third of the professional student populations.
  - iii. A. Loiben asked why create more Masters Voting Member seats when there's been a historical lack of Masters representatives.
  - iv. M. Battaglia: the GPSA is very graduate student heavy and the goal of this is that the seats will drive the interest.
  - v. It was asked why did they chose these masters seats.
  - vi. M. Munasinghe: these were masters programs that specifically asked for seat and were interested in doing internal elections.
  - vii. M. Battaglia: these are also the largest in terms of students.
  - viii. A. Nataravind: if we do this we need to do it holistically. While DISC chair, one concern was the lack of diverse representation in the GPSA. He asked is apportionment by field/school the best way to decide voting membership.
  - ix. M. Munasinghe: there's a large conversation about how we structure seats in that way. We'd be willing to do that, but this resolution is more of a numbers problem. She is open to having this conversation. She stated we've been ambitious about doing holistic things in the past and they don't get done. This is something they can do right now.
  - x. A. Natarajan stated he is hurt because this seems like a quick fix for a voice that is loud today. He continued that we should ride these coattails to increase representation for underrepresented groups. We always push off this larger conversation.



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- xi. S. Durvasula: it has to be a much larger conversation. Masters students don't always know these seats exist.
- xii. J. Goldberg: the GPCI is up, if people want to see this body change then the GPCI conversation is a structural mechanism that already exists for you.
- d. A motion was made to adjourn, there was no dissent.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Matthew Ferraro  
Clerk of the Assembly



## **GPSA Resolution 13: Calling For the Accommodation of International Students as Leaders Maplewood Apartments**

*April 9th, 2018*

Sponsored by: Manisha Munasinghe, GPSA Executive Vice-President; Ekarina Winarto, GPSA President; Nathaniel Rogers, GPSA Counsel; Aravind Natarajan, General Committee, Graduate School; Prateek Sehgal, GCA, Hasbrouck Apartments; Hao Shi, GCA, Hasbrouck Apartments

**Whereas**, “about 13% of Cornell’s graduate and professional students (GPS) live on campus” in housing complexes such as Hasbrouck Apartments or Thurston Court<sup>1</sup>; and

**Whereas**, international students make up 47% of the GPS community, and these students can often face difficulty finding affordable and secure housing while overseas<sup>2</sup>;

**Whereas**, about 72% of graduate and professional students living in University Housing are international students, a testament to their reliance on on-campus housing as a safe space <sup>1</sup>; and

**Whereas**, Graduate Community Advisors (GCAs) are GPS who live and work among their peers in the GPS on-campus communities<sup>3</sup>; 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, had global leadership, 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 year<sup>4</sup>; and

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

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

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

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



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**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 Park<sup>1</sup>; and

**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”<sup>5</sup>; 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, Cornell administrators, and GPS designed to solicit feedback regarding GPS housing needs, students discovered that international students would no longer be eligible to serve as community leaders/GCAs in Maplewood and voiced concerns; 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 are an especially vulnerable group with students having concerns ranging from a language barrier, stark cultural differences, new and challenging academic setting, unfamiliar environmental conditions, and isolation from family and support networks, leading to significant mental and emotional stresses; and

**Whereas**, these arduous experiences are further exacerbated by cultural norms that disincentivize reaching out for help and rampant imposter syndrome that impedes their ability to reach out to students who do not have a shared experience for assistance; and

**Whereas**, international students, therefore, are generally more comfortable seeking support from other international student leaders in their community who may have a similar experience; and

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



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**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 community leaders at Maplewood, even if it would be in a different form; and

**Whereas**, GPS leaders suggested that Cornell University engage Residence Community Leaders as Fellows paid and appointed through Cornell's Off-Campus Housing Office (a branch of Student and Campus Life administered by Dean Vijay Pendakur), where their appointments would be made by Cornell University, thus allowing international students to apply and potentially serve as Community Leaders; and

**Whereas**, despite repeated attempts to find a solution, it was made clear that the University will not be investing resources to create alternative opportunities for international students to serve as community leaders in Maplewood and receive compensation for their services; and

**Whereas**, EDR may encourage international students to volunteer their time and effort to assist their endeavors, as yet another form of unpaid labor imposed GPS and a burden on a minority group; and

**Whereas**, it was callously suggested that domestic students can be trained to understand and support the unique challenges of international students, and that international students can be "on-boarded" through presentations and workshops; and

**Whereas**, the GPS leadership was shocked by the proposed idea that a homogenous group of students can be "trained" to empathize and support populations of different identities, or that students of different identities can be "on-boarded" to adapt to a new environment through presentations and meetings – ideas that undermine the value of diversity in leadership roles and trivialize the experience of being a minority; and

**Whereas**, we are distraught by this in this proposal and 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 community leaders 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 an existing on-campus graduate housing with this new funding model;



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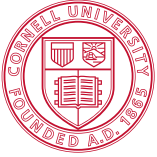
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**Be it therefore resolved,** that the GPSA reiterates its commitment to international students and their right to apply and serve as community leaders in graduate and professional student housing complexes; and

**Be it further resolved,** that we urge Cornell University to find a solution that allows international students to serve as community leaders 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 community leaders in off-campus housing complexes under the P3 model with Cornell University, we ask that the University

- 1) Retain the remaining on-campus housing options for graduate and professional students on-campus and away from the P3 model so that international students can continue to serve as community leaders and resources to peers.
- 2) Stop providing Maplewood exclusive marketing opportunities that selectively present it over other off-campus housing options.
- 3) Introspect its commitment to creating an inclusive welcoming space for international students where leadership positions for this community are diminished



## 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

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**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.



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**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; Gabrielle Kanter, Law School Voting Member, GPSA; Cheyenne Cannarozzo, College of Veterinary Medicine Voting Member, GPSA; Samir Durvasula, Master's of Engineering Voting Member**

**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



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

**Whereas,** the GPSA has historically had difficulty in maintaining representation from students in master's programs in the graduate and professional schools; and

**Whereas,** incoming master's students sometimes do not have enough time before spring elections to consider running for the GPSA position;

**Whereas,** more than 50% of the graduate student population identifies as minority including international, underrepresented minorities, and other minorities; and

**Whereas,** the GPSA also strives to be a diverse and inclusive body that gives all constituents a fair voice and representation regardless of race, country of origin, and other protected status; and

**Whereas,** the GPSA has a chronic problem with staffing its internal committees causing strain and overburden on the increasingly shrinking group of active, older students and negatively affecting the body's ability to effectively advocate for graduate and professional students; and

**Whereas,** voting members are expected to be the most informed and active members of the GPSA; and

**Whereas,** voting members are counted on to vote for resolutions on behalf of their respective divisions and to serve as leaders and points of contact for Field Representatives in their division; therefore

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

**A. Voting members shall have the following responsibilities:**

- i. Remain sufficiently informed about issues brought before the GPSA to cast informed votes on resolutions, formation of committees, and other matters;
- ii. Elect GPSA Voting members;
- iii. Elect GPSA Officers and standing committee chairs
- iv. Each Division shall internally appoint one (1) Diversity and International students (D&I) Representative; this Representative shall attend all Diversity & International Student Committee (DISC) or its successor committee's meetings within the academic year and serve as a contact point and voice for D&I students and relevant concerns;
- v. All voting members must serve as either the Chair or member of at least one



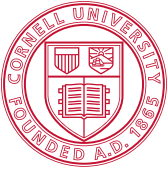
## Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

- 75 GPSA internal committee and shall attend all regularly scheduled meetings of  
76 those respective committees;  
77 vi. In the years that the Graduate and Professional Community Initiative (GPCI)  
78 documents are to be revised, all voting members are required to attend the GPCI  
79 revision committee meetings and contribute to drafting the strategic plan;  
80 attending meetings of the GPCI revision committee will fulfill the requirement to  
81 serve as a member of an Internal Committee.  
82

83 **Be it Further Resolved**, that the GPSA Charter § 4.04 §§ B be amended to read:  
84

- 85 B. There shall be **twenty-seven (27)** Voting members, composed as follows:  
86 i. **Four (4)** graduate or professional students enrolled in Master's degree programs  
87 as follows: **One (1) at-large, one (1) Master of Public Administration, one (1)**  
88 **Master of Engineering, and one (1) Masters of Industrial & Labor Relations.**  
89 i. Should any seat designated for a specific degree program remain empty  
90 after the conclusion of the fall semester, that seat shall become open to any  
91 masters or professional student pursuing a master's degree as an at-large  
92 seat.  
93 ii. Fourteen (14) from the divisions of the Graduate School as follows: three (3) from  
94 Humanities, three (3) from Biological Sciences, four (4) from Physical Sciences,  
95 and four (4) from Social Sciences.  
96 i. One seat from each of the divisions shall be preferentially reserved for a  
97 graduate or professional student enrolled in a master's degree program.  
98 Such preference shall result in the seating of a master's student ahead of  
99 all non-master's students. Should any of these seats not be filled after the  
100 third meeting of the fall semester, the vacancy shall then be open to any  
101 graduate or professional student within that division regardless of degree  
102 program.  
103 iii. **Nine (9)** professional students, **four (4)** from the Samuel Curtis Johnson School of  
104 Business, **three (3)** from Cornell Law School, and **two (2)** the College of  
105 Veterinary Medicine.  
106

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



**Cornell University**  
**Graduate and Professional**  
**Student Assembly**

**GPSA Resolution 16: In support of further discussion on proposed curricular changes to language requirements in the College of Arts & Sciences**

Sponsored by: Jesse Goldberg, GPSA Arts & Humanities Voting Member

**Whereas**, on March 20, 2018 the College of Arts & Sciences Curriculum Committee (“the committee”) released a final report of its recommendations for curricular changes; and

**Whereas**, as part of that report, the committee recommends “that we replace the current language requirement — completion of one course taught in any language at or above the non-introductory level or at least 11 credits in one language — with a requirement that students complete one course taught in any language at the non-introductory level or at least two courses of three credits each in one language;”<sup>1</sup> and

**Whereas**, on March 28, 2018, eighty-nine faculty members from departments and programs including nearly all of the faculty in Romance Studies, as well as faculty in English, Near Eastern Studies, Asian Studies, Food Sciences, Religious Studies, Sociology, German studies, Jewish studies, Music, Medieval Studies, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Linguistics, Comparative Literature, Science and Technology Studies, Classics, and Art signed a public Letter to the Editor in the *Cornell Daily Sun* asserting that “[t]hese changes are wide-ranging and, in our opinion, dramatically antithetical to the mission of the College. For this reason, we believe that further discussion must be held that include the opinions of the many members of the faculty who oppose the proposed changes;”<sup>2</sup> and

**Whereas**, the Letter to the Editor goes on to note, “we foresee a dramatic ripple effect from top to bottom with the language requirement as proposed — on graduate students, on undergraduates, on faculty;” and

**Whereas**, graduate students in Romance Studies have expressed concerns that one part of the “dramatic ripple effect” noted by faculty may likely be a reduction in funding opportunities via graduate teaching assistantships in language courses; and

**Whereas**, we believe that the March 28 Letter to the Editor evidences near unanimous agreement among Romance Studies faculty and overwhelming support from faculty across the College of Arts & Sciences for critical pushback on the committee’s recommendation; and

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<sup>1</sup> <http://as.cornell.edu/curriculum>

<sup>2</sup> <http://cornellsun.com/2018/03/28/letter-to-the-editor-on-proposed-curriculum-change-to-language-requirement/>



**Cornell University**  
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**Whereas,** while the members of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly understand that many factors influence curricular revisions, we generally believe that all possibilities should be exhausted before making curricular revisions which have the potential to negatively affect graduate or professional student funding; and

**Whereas,** while graduate teaching assistants are not recognized by Cornell University administration as “employees,” we believe that the labor that graduate TAs provide to language courses constitute treating those TAs with the same respect and procedural reverence as employees;

**Be it therefore resolved,** that the GPSA joins our constituent colleagues in Romance Studies as well as the eighty-nine faculty member signees of the March 28 letter in calling for further discussion of the committee’s proposal to reduce the language requirement; and

**Be it further resolved,** that the GPSA in no way dissents from, and in fact supports, the committee’s recommendation “that the College adopt a policy that, for the purpose of completing the language requirement, “language” means any living or extinct human language, including sign languages, offered at Cornell;” and

**Be it further resolved,** that the GPSA urges the College of Arts & Sciences to explicitly consider lost teaching assistantships as strongly as if they were employee layoffs; and

**Be it further resolved,** that the GPSA urges that should the College of Arts & Sciences finally decide to reduce the language requirement, then the College ought to provide concrete data demonstrating how a reduction in required courses that are heavily constituted by graduate student labor will result in no lost funding opportunities for graduate students; and

**Be it finally resolved,** that the GPSA ultimately urges the College of Arts & Sciences to revise its curriculum without cutting any courses that are heavily served by graduate student labor in the form of assistantships.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jesse Goldberg  
*GPSA Voting Member, Arts & Humanities*