



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Minutes of the April 23rd, 2018 Meeting

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Bache Auditorium, Malott Hall

- I. Call to Order
 - a. *Members Present:* K. Angierski, C. Cannarozzo, S. Durvasula, A. Gagnon, J. Goldberg, R. Harrison, S. Hesse, M. Jodlowski, M. Kalaji, G. Kanter, C. Little, A. Loiben, T. McCann, E. Michel, A. Schofield, C. Stambuk, A. Viarruel, W. Zhang.
 - b. *Members Absent:* none.
- II. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. A motion was made to approve the minutes from the April 9th, 2018, meeting. The minutes were approved with unanimous consent.
- III. Presentations
 - a. Judith Appleton and Ted O'Donoghue of the Committee on Organizational Structures in the Social Sciences then made their presentation.
 - i. The committee was given wide latitude in formulating any ideas “positioning Cornell for excellence in 10-15 years: outstanding research programs, an extensive funding pool, outstanding educational programs, successes in recruiting and retaining faculty and graduate students, diversity in faculty staff and student bodies.” It operated under the idea of maintaining existing funding and of having no obstacles.
 - ii. M. Battaglia asked the presenters to help dispel the notion that the idea of merging ILR and Human Ecology is more than an idea. If this is just an idea, he asked them to clarify this.
 - iii. M. Munasinghe: there are 8 ideas in the report, who will make the decision?
 1. The Provost and the President will decide, the committee is actually dissolved at this point.
 - iv. It was asked if the presenters will write a recommendation to the Provost and the President based on community feedback.
 1. The provost is reading the feedback as it comes in.
 - v. S. Durvasula asked what considerations were made for undergraduate and graduate experience.



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1. T. O'Donoghue: from the undergraduate point of view we were looking at opportunity. For graduate students it was a discussion of graduate fields and clearly articulating what fields are.
2. J. Appleton: the proposal for a Social Sciences Center has a lot of relevance to graduate education.
- vi. It was asked if they could go over ideas for restructuring graduate education.
 1. Main ideas were: making more of a community, creating clarity between fields, and if there isn't clarity between fields maybe consolidating them.
- vii. A. Loiben asked what is the timeline of this.
 1. J. Appleton: right now they're in the listening phase, this will go until people stop talking to them. There's no time limit on this part. Then they will discuss all the input that's been received. If certain ideas are popular they'll go into further development.
 2. A. Loiben asked if they'll come back to the GPSA then.
 3. J. Appleton: Yes.
- viii. An audience member asked how would the ILR and Human Ecology merger serve the goal of recruiting and retaining faculty and graduate students.
 1. T. O'Donoghue: the idea is that forging new connections will improve research.
- ix. An audience member asked what problem is the merger designed to solve.
 1. They weren't trying to solve problems. They were trying to think of ways so that Cornell, fifteen years from now, would be strong in the social sciences. The observations going back fifty years are that there are a lot of social sciences here, but they are very dispersed. The idea is to aggregate social sciences. When you bring people together it's an opportunity for people to interact in ways they hadn't had before.
- x. J. Goldberg asked what might consolidation look like on the ground. Could it be loss of job opportunities?
 1. It wouldn't eliminate jobs, it would just bring people together.



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- xi. An audience member asked what kind of guarantees can they give us that the community feedback will be heard by the Provost, the President, and the Board of Trustees.
 - 1. J. Appleton: this process is very different from the process that created the College of Business. There are 8 ideas on a piece of paper right now, and we're listening to anyone who wants to talk about them. It's clear that this process has been informed by the College of Business process, but it's different. She couldn't put herself in the mind of the Provost/President, but she thinks they will listen or she and T. O'Donoghue wouldn't be doing this.
- xii. The presenters can be reached at the following email: ssreview@cornell.edu

IV. Division Breakout

- a. A special information session was held on the GPCI. Members could go to any of the five policy areas that interested them: Family Services, sense of community, Graduate Student Center, Housing, Diversity & International students.
- b. Voting Member elections (minus the professional schools and masters seats) were then held. The Voting Members for 2018-2019 are:
 - i. Arts and Humanities: Kristen Angierski (Division Chief), Becca Harrison, Andy Barrientos-Gomez.
 - ii. Social Sciences: Motasem Kalaji (Division Chief), Margaret Jodlowski, Ekarina Winarto, Wendy Zhang.
 - iii. Physical Sciences and Engineering: Daksh Arora (Division Chief), J. Kent-Dobias, Dietrich Geisler, Nathan London.
 - iv. Life Sciences: Alexa Cohn (Division Chief), Cinnamon Mittan, Kavya Krishnan.

V. Committee Updates

- a. Executive: a sense of the body vote on the consensual relationship policies A & B was held through qualtrics after the discussion below.
 - i. CRP-A prohibits sexual and romantic relationships between faculty and graduate/professional students if both are affiliated with the same graduate field or degree program. CRP-B allows for such relationships provided there is disclosure and an appropriate recusal plan.



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- ii. The Faculty Senate is meeting on Wednesday (4/25) to vote on it. 3:30-5pm in ILR.
- iii. President Pollack is making a policy by the end of the year.
- iv. M. Battaglia noted that this assembly is not representative of masters and professional students. This unrepresentativeness will be in this vote.
- v. C. Cannarozzo: Professional schools draw from a lot of different graduate field and degree programs especially with the faculty they use, so as it stands this disproportionately affects professional students.
- vi. S. Durvasula asked how would this affect masters students in engineering because they're not in a field or a school.
 - 1. There was not a conclusive answer.
- b. Operations and Staffing: the committee is working on the misconduct protocol over the summer so it can be part of the bylaws update.
- c. Appropriations: their next meeting is Friday, 6pm, 132 Morrison, working on ideas to get more members.
- d. Finance: the committee extended the deadline for summer funding requests and last funding requests for this academic year. They close on Monday, April 30th.
- e. Student Advocacy: their last meeting is on next Monday (4/30), 2pm, G01 Fernow Hall. In conjunction with CGSU they will be hosting an event called Let's Talk About Bad Advising, 4:30-6pm, room TBD. Email B. Kisselstein (bmk76) with questions.
- f. Diversity and International Students: they are holding one more event, What's Your Story, with Dean Pendakur, April 25th, noon, in the Willard Straight International Lounge. More information is on the DISC facebook page. They are also co-sponsoring a recognition banquet for graduate and professional students over the last year.
- g. Programming: Grad Ball is May 5th, 7-11pm, at the Museum of the Earth. Please forward an email to your constituencies. There will be transportation between the Museum and Cornell. They are looking for a new chair for next year. Email C. Cannarozzo (cjc365) with questions.
- h. General Committee: they are looking for someone to fill A. Natarajan's seat.



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- i. Faculty Awards: they got 82 nominations and could use help reading through them. Please talk to A. Schofield if you want to get involved. Reading the nominations is a very happy process (1-week commitment).
- j. Graduate School: on Friday, May 4th, 4pm, they will be holding a special event recognizing all members of the GPSA in the BRB.

VI. New Business

- a. Introduction (and then discussion) of **Resolution 16**
 - i. A motion was made to extend the meeting by 10 minutes, there was no dissent.
 - ii. J. Goldberg: 89 faculty members signed a letter opposing the lessening of the language requirement in Arts & Sciences (almost every member of Romance Studies). This reduction would mean a decrease in teaching and funding opportunities in these fields. He stated our duty is to show we are in solidarity with our constituencies. The resolved clauses point out that we are signaling our discontent with a specific part of this proposal, and that we do support ASL counting for the language requirement.
 - iii. E. Cecchetti asked what the committee's rationale was.
 - 1. J. Goldberg: the committee believes undergraduates are being dissuaded from joining the College of Arts and Sciences because of the language requirement. They also want to recommend the language requirement for study abroad be changed.
 - iv. A. Loiben asked if J. Goldberg had any information on peer institution language requirements.
 - 1. A. Barrientos-Gomez: our standards would be lower.
 - v. C. Little asked did the committee have any data on students not coming to A&S because of the language requirement.
 - 1. J. Goldberg: just by talking with some students, not through a survey.
 - vi. B. Kisselstein asked if this Resolution is saying that in the future ASL should count if classes are offered in it, or that there should be ASL classes now.
 - 1. J. Goldberg: the committee's recommendation is to have those classes offered at Cornell and have them count for the language requirement.



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2. M. Munasinghe: there is a Resolution going through the SA about this, and the committee recommended ASL being counted.
- vii. A motion was made to move into discussion, there was no dissent.
- viii. A friendly amendment was made to add the “Be it finally resolved” clause:
 1. “Be it finally resolved, that in addition to the normal procedure of being sent to President Martha Pollack, this Resolution shall be sent to Gretchen Ritter, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, Barbara Knuth, Dean of the Graduate School, and Rachel Bean, Senior Associate, Dean for Undergraduate Education in the College of Arts & Sciences.”
 2. There was no dissent to taking the amendment as friendly.
- ix. A Motion was made to call the question on the Resolution, there was no dissent. By a vote of 17-0-1 the Resolution passed.

VII. Old Business

- a. Discussion of **Resolution 13**
 - i. A friendly amendment was made to put “at” before “Maplewood” in the title, there was no dissent.
 - ii. It was asked if there are any updates about this Resolution.
 1. The executive committee did get a communication from EDR about questions EDR will ask when hiring GCAs.
 - iii. M. Jodlowski motioned to amend line 112 by striking “are distraught by this in this proposal and”
 1. A motion was made to call the question on the amendment, there was no dissent. The amendment passed with unanimous consent.
 - iv. J. Goldberg motioned to amend line 128 by adding “paid” in front of “community leaders”.
 1. A motion was made to call the question, there was no dissent. The amendment passed with unanimous consent.
 - v. A motion was made to call the question on the Resolution, there was no dissent. The resolution passed by a vote of 17-0-1.
- b. Discussion of **Resolution 14** (line numbers make reference to the final copy of the Resolution, and the ORIGINAL appendices--which are attached under Resolution History--available at assembly.cornell.edu)



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- i. T. McCann motioned to amend the Resolution by adding (to line 30) “Be it further resolved, Appendix A and Appendix B will be immediately appended to the end of the GPSA Charter.”
 1. A motion was made to call the question, there was no dissent. The amendment passed with unanimous consent.
 - ii. T. McCann motioned to amend Appendix A, line 85, by striking “(with the caveat that the organization may not receive more than its initial request during that byline cycle)”
 1. A motion was made to call the question, there was no dissent. The amendment passed with unanimous consent.
 - iii. T. McCann motioned to amend Appendix B, line 148, to say “Initial recommendations for any level of funding to an organization” in front of “are passed...”.
 1. A motion was made to call the question, there was no dissent. The amendment passed with unanimous consent.
 - iv. T. McCann motioned to amend Appendix B, line 156, by adding a section e as follows (without the bulleted “a.”):
 1. “e. Initial recommendations to eliminate funding for an organization are passed by a 2/3 majority approval of seated voting members.
 - a. i. If the elimination of funding of an organization is rejected, the organization will be informed by the Appropriations Committee Chair and given the opportunity to revise its request.”
 2. A motion was made to call the question, there was no dissent. The amendment passed with unanimous consent.
 - v. T. McCann motioned to amend Appendix B, line 488, by adding “a. Travel includes lodging, transportation, meals, and registration fees.”
 1. A motion was made to call the question, there was no dissent. The amendment passed with unanimous consent.
 - vi. A motion was made to call the question on the Resolution. By a vote of 17-0-1 the resolution passed.
- c. Discussion of **Resolution 15**



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- i. A motion was made to extend the meeting another 5 minutes, there was no dissent.
- ii. A motion was made to add an omnibus amendment (in blue ink, can be seen at assembly.cornell.edu).¹
 1. M. Battaglia explained the whereas clauses. The rationales behind this amendment were to incorporate diversity and international student seats, to reallocate the masters seats, and to tweak how the professional seats are done.
 2. M. Munasinghe explained the “Be it Therefore Resolved” clause (lines 62-81). This clause establishes the Diversity and International students representatives (each division will elect one). D&I representatives will attend DISC meetings. All Voting Members must serve on an internal committee. All Voting Members are required to attend the GPCI revision committee (which can satisfy their membership in a committee).
 3. M. Battaglia explained the “Be it Further Resolved” clause (lines 83-105). This clause deals with the four distinct Masters Voting Member seats. Additionally, each division will reserve one Voting Member seat for a masters student in their division.
 - a. M. Battaglia stated that the Resolution presented on the screen was not the correct version of the Resolution.
 4. A. Loiben asked how do you enforce attendance of these representatives at DISC.
 - a. A chair of a committee reaches out to the EVP, and the Executive Committee can vote to unseat the member.
 5. A. Loiben asked when would this go into effect.
 - a. These changes would not affect next year’s voting members who were just elected. Next year no one will lose their seat, but new seats will be added.

¹ The omnibus amendment presented on April 23rd, 2018, which amended the Resolution itself as well some of the Charter language, was in blue ink. The original amendments to the Charter called for by this Resolution and presented on April 9th, 2018, were in red.



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6. S. Durvasula: we are leaving it open to field organizations to determine the term limits because masters students don't know a lot about the GPSA when we're coming into it at the beginning of the semester. That's part of the reason for having the seats stay reserved until the end of the Fall semester, before becoming an at-large seat if vacant.
 - a. This is for the four masters student Voting Members directly elected by their fields (MPA, MEng, MILR, one at-large).
7. M. Munasinghe: each division will have a Voting Member who serves as a D&I representative
8. M. Battaglia: this D&I representative will attend DISC meetings.
9. A motion was made to call the question on the omnibus amendment, there was no dissent. By a vote of 13-0-5 the amendment passed.
- iii. A motion was made to extend the meeting by two minutes, there was no dissent.
- iv. J. Goldberg stated he appreciates this omnibus amendment, but we must continue to think about this restructuring along with the GPCI. He likes this resolution but we need to continue this conversation next year.
- v. R. Carson asked how will the GPSA deal with the inexperience of masters students.
 1. M. Munasinghe: this really falls on the responsibility of the Executive committee and the Division Chiefs to educate their members and help them.
 2. A motion was made to extend the meeting by 3 minutes, there was no dissent.
 3. C. Cannarozzo: arguably everytime a new voting member joins the assembly, whether they're a one year masters student or in a long term program, they face the same learning curve.
 4. S. Durvasula: on the other hand [from R. Carson's question], under the current structure a lot of one year masters students don't have the opportunity to have their voices be heard, and the issues that matter to them slip through the cracks.



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- vi. C. Stambuk asked could the GPSA have a presence at orientation in the beginning of the year to explain the GPSA for new graduate students.
 - 1. M. Munasinghe responded that last year the President of the GPSA gave a talk, there was a booth, and members of the Executive Committee were on a panel.
 - 2. It was clarified that during C. Stambuk's orientation this did not take place.
 - 3. A motion was made to extend the meeting by ten minutes, there was no dissent.
- vii. C. Cannarozzo: the language is included in the resolution but because we're using proportional representation the number of Vet School Voting Members will likely increase to 3 because the program is growing.
- viii. J. Goldberg motioned to call the question on the Resolution, there was no dissent. By a vote of 15-0-3 the Resolution passed.
- ix. A motion was made to adjourn, there was no dissent.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matthew Ferraro
Clerk of the Assembly