



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Minutes of the August 27, 2018 Meeting
5:30 – 7:00 PM

Bache Auditorium, Malott Hall

- I. Call to Order
 - a. E. Winarto called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.
 - b. **Members Present:** A. Loiben, A. Cohn, A. Barrientos-Gomez, C. Mittan, D. Arora, D. Giesler, E. Winarto, J. Kent-Dobias, K. Krishnan, K. Angierski, M. Kalaji, N. London, R. Harrison, W. Zhang.
 - c. **Members Absent:** A. Viarrael, M. Jodlowski
 - d. Introduction to Executive Officers
 - i. A. Barrientos-Gomez introduced himself as the Executive Vice President. He can answer any questions about roles in the GPSA.
 - ii. A. Loiben introduced himself as the VP of Operations. His work focuses on committee structures and functions, as well as appointments.
 - iii. A. Cohn as the VP for Communication maintains relationships between GPSA and graduate fields, as well as the larger Cornell community. Her work includes social media and disseminating messages.
 - iv. N. Rogers is the Counsel for the GPSA. He served as President during the 2016-2017 academic year and as Counsel last year. He is an ex-officio member and advises the executive committee.
 - e. Introduction to Voting Members
 - i. Voting members introduced themselves.
 - ii. E. Lavin replaced C. Cannarozzo as the Vet School Representative.
- II. Approval of the Minutes: Three Minutes
 - a. Minutes of the May 7th, 2018 Meeting
 - i. Minutes were not circulated in time so E. Winarto postponed the approval of the minutes of May 7th, 2018 to the next GPSA meeting on September 10, 2018.
- III. Breakout Sessions
 - a. Division-Specific Breakout: the GPSA members broke out into their divisions for 25 minutes.
 - i. Professional Schools
 1. A. Barrientos-Gomez served as chair for the meeting.
 - ii. Social Sciences
 1. M. Kalaji chairs the division.
 - iii. Humanities
 1. K. Angierski chairs the division.
 - iv. Physical Sciences
 1. D. Arora chairs the division.
 - v. Life Sciences
 1. A. Cohn chairs the division.
- IV. Presentations
 - a. Gina Giambattista, Director, Office of the Assemblies

- i. G. Giambattista gave a history of shared governance at Cornell.
 1. In 1955, the Board of Trustees transferred the responsibility for non-academic matters to the President of the University.
 2. The assemblies were created out of the takeover of Willard Straight Hall in 1969. The Administration wanted mechanisms for conversations between itself and constituent groups on campus. The GPSA was last to be created, after graduate and professional students were pulled out from the SA.
 3. The entire community has representation through the EA, GPSA, SA, Faculty Senate, and UA.
 4. The UA is unique to higher education, taking matters of interest to the entire campus with representation from all constituent groups.
- ii. G. Giambattista gave an overview of the administrative structure.
 1. Assemblies are chartered by the Board of Trustees and delegated authority by the president. Each assembly has a designated administrator to work with. President Martha Pollack takes resolutions very seriously and will respond to them. She is interested in what we think and how people are responding.
- iii. G. Giambattista introduced the Office of the Assemblies and the structure of shared governance.
 1. G. Giambattista introduced her colleague Pam Hampton. The office is located at 109 Day Hall. The door is always open.
 2. The GPSA represents the constituent interests of graduate and professional students of Geneva and Ithaca, with a liaison at Cornell Tech.
 3. Authority is delegated, not transferred. Assemblies have advisory authority, subject to approval by the President. There is no direct authority to make the changes.
 4. Fundamental Authorities
 - a. All assemblies have a mandate to represent constituent interests and bring issues of concern to university leadership.
 - b. Legislative authority to recommend changes to university policies that affect constituents are subject to approval by the President.
- iv. G. Giambattista gave an overview of the rules and governing documents.
 1. assembly.cornell.edu has resources about GPSA, as well as processes and procedures.
 2. The assembly charter lists permanent, basic rules. It needs to be approved by the president and is intentionally meant to be a little more difficult to change.
 3. The assembly bylaws lists permanent, detailed rules. It includes details of operations and committee structure. It requires an internal vote to change with a simple majority. It does not necessarily require the approval of the president.
 4. The standing rules are year-to-year procedures that must be renewed by each new assembly.
- v. G. Giambattista announced that they will go through motions and become more familiar with Robert's Rules at a later meeting.
- b. E. Winarto opened the floor to questions.
 - i. Field Representative asked for an elaboration on the 1969 event that led to the creation of the assembly.
 1. G. Giambattista said there are two history pages on the assemblies website about that event and its relation to shared governance. They have links to archives in the library. The outcomes of the event includes the University Ombudsman, the Campus Code of Conduct, and the assemblies. The modern assemblies are fundamental to making sure there is continued communication between constituent groups and the administration.
 - ii. A. Barrientos-Gomez asked about specific things they can come to the office about.
 1. G. Giambattista said the office oversees all the elections and has institutional memory as well as hard copy archives of assembly actions going back to the 1980s. These resources

are also online and may be useful for assembly members when researching for their initiatives or resolutions. The office is also open to thoughts about what might be useful for them, specifically for our website. P. Hampton was the chair of the UA and the EA ten years ago so she has her own perspective to the work they are doing supporting all the assemblies.

- iii. N. Rogers recommended the book “Cornell ’69: Liberalism and the Crisis of the American University” that begins with the Willard Straight Hall Takeover and also dives into the Barton Hall Conference.
 - iv. G. Giambattista said the best way to contact the office is at assembly@cornell.edu. However, if members are following up on something specific, they can email her at ggc9@cornell.edu.
- V. Committee Introductions/Updates:
- a. Executive Committee
 - i. A. Barriento-Gomez (alb445) is the chair. He makes the agendas and sends out information. He is in charge of membership and assists E. Winarto.
 - ii. A. Barriento-Gomez announced that they have two vacant seats for the UA. In the next meeting, they will have other open voting spots. The College of Veterinary Medicine gets one additional member, the Law School gets two, and the Graduate School of Management gets three.
 - b. Operations
 - i. A. Loiben (aml372) is the chair. She oversees all the committees and sees that each is getting enough members. There are staff positions outside of the assembly that they can send people to if there are issues they care about.
 - c. Communications
 - i. A. Cohn (arc326) is chair. The committee maintains strong relationships between the GPSA and the greater Cornell community. They oversee social media as well as a monthly newsletter. Follow them at facebook.com/cornellgpsa or Twitter [@ComellGPSA](https://twitter.com/ComellGPSA) and Instagram [@cornellgpsa](https://www.instagram.com/cornellgpsa).
 - d. Appropriations
 - i. C. Stambuk (crs349) is the chair and her committee sets the GPSA budget. They also set the byline funded fee every two years, which they just finished. They are looking for liaisons to their byline-funded organizations:
 - 1. Big Red Barn
 - 2. Cornell EMS
 - 3. Cornell Cinema
 - 4. Cornell Concert Commission
 - 5. CU Programming Board
 - 6. International Students Union
 - 7. Grad School Orientation
 - e. Finance
 - i. B. Yarze (by243) is the chair. The committee allocates money to university registered groups on campus. They are looking for representatives, especially from Johnson, Law, and Vet. They hold monthly meetings to review budgets.
 - ii. N. Rogers added that those who join the committee can see how it works and also have a say in who gets money.
 - f. Student Advocacy
 - i. B. Kisselstein (bmk76) is the chair.
 - g. Diversity and International Students
 - i. E. Law (epl49) is the chair. GPSA members are invited to the Diversity and Inclusion Welcome Reception on September 4th from 5 to 7 pm in G10 Biotech. If anyone is interested in DISC, contact E. Law via email at EPL49@cornell.edu.
 - h. Programming
 - i. D. Arora (da476) is the chair.
 - i. Faculty Teaching, Advising, and Mentorship Award

- i. C. Rose-Little (crl223) is the chair.
- j. Graduate School
 - i. Dean Jan Allen (jan.allen@cornell.edu)
- k. University Assembly
 - i. M. Battaglia (mab622) is the chair. The UA addresses cross-cutting issues, such as transportation, parking, and health care. They are 20 members and are currently looking for two liaisons.

VI. Open Forum

- a. D. Gisler noted that the GPSA has a slack channel and he will be following up on this.
- b. Reimbursement forms are now going to be handled by Terry Ector (tle2).
- c. Field representative asked why there are voting members.
 - i. E. Winarto assured that everyone has equal rights in terms of speaking. However, the assembly does put out resolutions, which is one of the formal ways it takes action as a body. Voting members have the right to vote. They have wide fluctuations in the numbers of field representatives so it is hard to determine quorum for everyone.
- d. M. Battaglia made a motion to extend the meeting by two minutes – **extended**
- e. N. Rogers added that all field representatives and current members vote on the next voting members. There are some vacancies right now and there are some specific members who got elected because they only serve one year degree programs. This system is not supposed to make anyone feel like they cannot participate.
 - i. E. Winarto added that most of the work in the GPSA happens in the committees and outside the general body meetings.
- f. Assembly member announced an educational wine tasting event on August 30, with topics including wine etiquette. Reach out to jw2463 for more information.
- g. D. Gisler made a motion to extend the meeting by two minutes – **extended**

VII. Adjournment

- a. A. Loiben made a motion to adjourn – seconded.
- b. E. Winarto adjourned the meeting at 7:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Catherine Tran
Clerk of the Assembly