

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

**Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly**

Minutes of the September 24th, 2018 Meeting

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

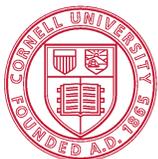
Bache Auditorium, Malott Hall

I. Call to Order

- a. E. Winarto called the meeting to order at 5:29 pm.
- b. Members present: A. Cohn, A. Barrientos-Gomez, C. Pratt, D. Geisler, E. Lavin, E. Winarto, K. Krishnan, K. Angierski, K. Palumbo, M. Kalaji, N. London, W. Zhang, J. Kent-Dobias.
- c. Members Absent: R. Harrison, C. Mittan, D. Arora, A. Viarruel, M. Jodlowski.

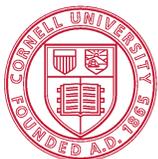
II. Presentations

- a. President Pollack then presented some updates and took questions.
- b. M. Pollack: Last year there were three presidential task forces, and the provost had one as well. All of them submitted their recommendations at the end of May. There were 100+ recommendations. We spent the summer analyzing and organizing them. A number of them covered things we're already doing, so we realized we have to communicate those better. We focused on what are the things we can do now, the ones we can do in a year, and those that are aspirational.
- c. M. Pollack listed some actions that have happened recently:
  - i. There is a new webpage, please take a look at it. We are committed to acting on these recommendations, but this is a community of thousands of people and we need everyone involved.
  - ii. First-Years participated in the Intergroup Dialogue Project at orientation.
    1. A 3-hour mini version of the semester long class.
  - iii. The Center for Teaching Innovation has created a new online course on teaching in a diverse classroom.
  - iv. The Provost has tripled financial support for bringing in diverse faculty, which is on par with peer institutions for bringing in faculty from underrepresented backgrounds.
  - v. The Campus Code of Conduct: the UA has to initiate changes, and then she'll bring those to the Trustees.



## Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

- vi. A Values Statement: she is working on creating one values statement for Cornell.
- vii. Student Mental Health: It's the biggest thing on the agenda for colleges. The number of counselors has increased from 32 to 43. They are adding a new approach to night time calls. Cornell has contracted with a company called Protocol. VP Lombardi is leading these initiatives. He is working toward a comprehensive review on mental health.
- viii. The Students with Families grant has increased by \$100,000, up to \$350,000 annually.
- ix. She is very pleased to hear about the GPCI work.
- x. The Consensual Relationship Policy was adopted in May.
- xi. There are new Deans of Arts and Sciences and Art, Architecture and Planning. They are very close to hiring a business school Dean.
- xii. M. Pollack: You all know about the issues with the Social Sciences initiative. Cornell has very strong social sciences and they don't get the recognition they deserve, mostly because they're dispersed. She likes that the Provost stood behind the faculty committee, and let everyone have conversations about the proposals. The idea of a merger between Human Ecology and ILR was not supported, so it was dropped, but we had the conversation.
- xiii. Coalition for Next Generation Life Sciences: in the life sciences, there has really been a shift in job prospects for graduate students, this coalition is seeking to address new job opportunities.
- xiv. Questions:**
- xv. M. Battaglia: Cornell's decentralization is part of what makes us so unique. With the idea of one Cornell, how can we get the graduate and professional student body engaged? Can we help with any initiatives?
  1. M. Pollack: Cornell is very decentralized. Its decentralization is one of its great strengths. The Deans are incentivized to be entrepreneurial. It's also our greatest weakness, because sometimes we don't talk to each other. She's been thinking about One Cornell in the sense of teaching and research. On what the GPSA can do, she said: Let's talk about what we can do together. More often than



## Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

- not we have the same goal in mind. If we talk more rather than just having resolutions thrown back and forth we can get more done.
- xvi. A. Barrientos-Gomez: what would you suggest for approaching the creation of the new GPCI?
1. M. Pollack: distinguish between things we can do right now, versus things we can do in the next two to three years. When thinking about how to measure success, think about what would constitute moderate success and what would constitute wild success.
- xvii. A. Loiben: there are lots of great resources for careers outside of academia, but sometimes faculty don't like to think about them, what's Cornell doing to change that mindset?
1. M. Pollack: That's a great question and sometimes she has to remind herself of that. In her field, Computer Science, it was always the case most people didn't go into academia, and she appreciates that that isn't the case for most fields. We do have the BEST program, we've institutionalized it and made it more broad. As the number of students and faculty involved with the program grows, the message will be forced out. The market will also force this change. We need to make that part of our messaging.
- xviii. D. Geisler: what would you like to see the GPSA do in terms of the GPCI and mental health?
1. R. Lombardi: we're trying to gather information about the specific elements we should look at when we do a comprehensive mental health reform.
- xix. M. Munasinghe: asked what is R. Lombardi's email address.
- a. [vpscl@cornell.edu](mailto:vpscl@cornell.edu)
- xx. J. Kent-Dobias: multiple student groups have called for an independent group to do a study of mental health services. Is this being considered?
1. R. Lombardi: we haven't gotten to the point of conducting the review, we want to figure out what we want to review first. We don't want it to be just Cornell folks.



## Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

2. M. Pollack: she understands the concerns that the administration wouldn't put this information out if it was damaging, but she stated they will put out the results.
  - xxi. S. Bosco stated there's no mention about American Indian studies on the website, he wanted to bring that to her attention, and asked if she had a plan to fix that.
    1. M. Pollack: we're working towards acknowledgements, but she doesn't have a particular plan in mind at this point to do that.
  - xxii. J. Kent-Dobias: the new Maplewood is pseudo Cornell affiliated. International Students can't take jobs there, has the university looked at this?
    1. M. Pollack: When the plan was done, the overwhelming concern was to produce housing in as low a cost way as possible. The lowest way was to do a public-private partnership. We're taking a pretty significant look at if we want to do more public-private partnerships given the other issues that have come up with Maplewood. However, we can't do anything about Maplewood now, the contracts are already signed.
- III. Approval of the Minutes from the August 27th and September 10th meetings.
- a. C. Stambuk motioned to **amend** by striking her name from Members Present (she is not a voting member) in both sets of Minutes, there was no dissent. The amendments were approved with unanimous consent.
  - b. Minutes from August 27th.
    - i. E. Law motioned to **amend** the DISC updates via the audio recording, there was no dissent.
    - ii. M. Battaglia motioned to postpone approval of the August 27th Minutes until the next meeting, there was no dissent. The Minutes were **postponed** by unanimous consent.
  - c. Minutes from September 10
    - i. M. Battaglia made a motion to call the question on the Minutes from September 10th, there was no dissent. The Minutes from September 10th were **approved** by unanimous consent.
- IV. Presentations continued



## Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

- a. D. Geisler presented on the GPSA's Slack channel, which can be accessed at [cornellgpsa.slack.com](http://cornellgpsa.slack.com)
  - b. Members are able to login with their NetIDs.
  - c. The Homepage is the #general channel, and you can join or create channels.
  - d. Feel free to message D. Geisler about it if you have questions.
  - e. The #live channel has notes of the meeting. They are not as comprehensive or as official as the Minutes, but they are faster.
  - f. A. Barrientos-Gomez: what is the advantage of using Slack as opposed to Facebook messenger or Google hangouts?
    - i. D. Geisler: Slack is really good for seeing the history of messages. Slack is a little better with privacy, so everyone in the group can see what's going on but it's still private to the world. It's designed specifically for a workplace environment.
  - g. K. Palumbo: who is intended to use slack?
    - i. D. Geisler: everyone in the GPSA is welcome to use Slack. It's meant to sort of facilitate messages between field representatives and voting members.
- V. Division Breakout
- VI. Committee Updates
- a. Committee updates were presented in the meeting packet.
  - b. A. Loiben had a Student Advocacy Committee update: if you're passionate about mental health, it will be SAC's biggest focus this fall. They will work on Mental Health in the GPCI. Their next meeting is Friday, October 12th, 9:30-10:30, Plant Science 336. There will also be a zoom link. Please follow the SAC facebook page and Slack channel.
  - c. E. Law: everyone is invited to attend the Diversity & Inclusion Renaissance Ball, tickets are on sale.
  - d. A. Barrientos-Gomez: if you didn't get a name tent let him know.
- VII. Open Forum
- a. No comments were offered.
- VIII. Old Business
- a. **Resolution 1**

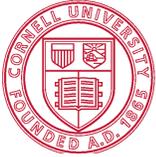


## Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

- i. C. Stambuk: this Resolution describes our relationship with Anabel's Grocery, so everyone can figure out what the relationship is and has been in the past.
- ii. D. Geisler: point of order, can we ask more questions?
  1. E. Winarto: you can ask a quick question.
- iii. D. Geisler: Has the GPCI been added to the budget?
- iv. C. Stambuk: no, most likely it will come in after the budget is approved. It can dip into the reserve fund.
- v. M. Battaglia made a motion to vote (call the question) on the Resolution, there was no dissent to calling the question. By a vote of 13-0-5, the Resolution was approved.

### b. Resolution 2

- i. A. Loiben motioned to amend lines 152-158, on behalf of C. Stambuk, by adding language requesting liaisons to the different byline organizations, so that the GPSA has someone to communicate between these groups and the GPSA.
  1. M. Battaglia motioned to amend the amendment by changing the format, not the content of A. Loiben's amendment. The amendment to the amendment would read as follows (A. Loiben wrote the amendment into the document on the screen):
    - a. "u. Liaisons to the byline organizations funded by the Graduate and Professional Student Activity Fee;
      - i. Two graduate or professional students to the Cornell Cinema Student Advisory Board,
      - ii. Three graduate or professional students to the Big Red Barn Advisory Board,
      - iii. Two graduate or professional students as liaison to the Cornell University Programming Board,
      - iv. Two graduate or professional students as liaison to the Cornell University Emergency Medical Service,
      - v. Two graduate or professional students as liaison to the International Students Union,



Cornell University  
Graduate and Professional  
Student Assembly

- vi. Two graduate or professional students as liaison to the Physical Education Department,"
- b. K. Krishnan: are we looking at these people to come from field representatives or where are we getting these liaisons?
  - i. C. Stambuk: they can be any graduate and professional student. But they have to be in contact with the Appropriations Committee. They don't have to come to GPSA meetings.
- c. K. Krishnan how many of these positions are filled?
  - i. A. Loiben: almost all of them are open. We have one person for Cinema and the BRB, but everything else is open.
- d. E. Winarto: the reason we're amending the Bylaws to put this list here is so when we're gone the future GPSA will know these positions exist.
- e. K. Palumbo: what happens when these aren't filled and how do we let the general graduate and professional student body know these roles exist?
  - i. A. Loiben: if they go unfilled we don't know what these organizations are doing with the money the GPSA allocated them.
  - ii. M. Battaglia: these liaisons occupy voting seats on these organizations' executive boards, we will have a strong voice on them.
  - iii. C. Stambuk we could put it in an announcement.
- f. M. Kalaji: the Big Red Barn said if we can't find people they will find other graduate/professional students.
  - i. E. Winarto: that's not a bad idea, but then we tend to not get any information.
- g. An audience member asked when the next Operations meeting is?
- h. A. Loiben: the next meeting for Operations and Staffing will be next week, not exactly sure what time yet.

