

Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

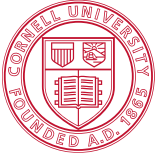
Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Agenda of the May 4, 2020 Meeting

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Online only, Zoom

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call (5 Minutes)
- III. New Business (45 Minutes)
 - a. Announcement of Election Results
 - b. Introduction to Resolution 18: *Postponing Spring 2020 Executive Board Elections and Extending Expiring Seats*
 - c. Introduction to Resolution 19: *In Appreciation and Recognition of Dean Barbara Knuth's Tenure as Dean of the Graduate School*
 - d. Adopting the GPSA Calendar for the 2020-2021 Academic Year
- IV. Old Business (30 Minutes)
 - a. Discussion on Resolution 8: *A Resolution to Adopt the Graduate and Professional Community Initiative*
- V. Open Forum (10 Minutes)
- VI. Adjournment



Resolution 18: Postponing Spring 2020 Executive Board Elections and Extending Expiring Seats

Abstract: This resolution postpones 2020 Executive Board elections and also extends the expiring seats of the GPSA Executive Board.

Sponsored by: GPSA Executive Board

Whereas, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has greatly impacted campus-wide operations and modified the timeline of priorities for the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly and other assemblies for the remaining of 2019-2020 academic calendar; and

Whereas, Section 5.02 of the GPSA Charter mandates that officers of the GPSA shall “be elected at the last regularly scheduled meeting of the current GPSA term”¹; and

Whereas, the Student Assembly², the Employee Assembly³, and the University Assembly⁴ voted to postpone and extend the seats of their leadership teams; and

Whereas, the administration has strongly recommended that the current GPSA Executive Board to extend their term until the fall 2020; and

Whereas, the second and last term of the Dean of the Graduate School will expire in the summer; and a new Dean of the Graduate School will start their term mid-summer; and

Whereas, a new GPSA leadership team would not have the resources and institutional knowledge to support the new Dean of the Graduate School and help them navigate the GPSA’s role in shared governance; and

Whereas, the GPSA has advertised elections since early April and has met a lack of interest and/or engagement from the greater student body.

Be it therefore resolved, the election of the GPSA Executive Board be postponed until the Fall of 2020.

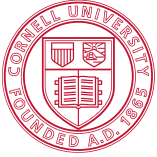
Be it further resolved, that graduating executive members are ineligible and unable to have their term extended and will not be replaced, until a new executive member is elected in the fall.

¹ https://assembly.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/gpsa_charter_2018.pdf

² <https://assembly.cornell.edu/resolutions/sa-r57-election-cancellation-and-fall-election-restructuring>

³ <https://assembly.cornell.edu/resolutions/ea-r6-postponing-spring-2020-elections-and-extending-expiring-seats>

⁴ <https://assembly.cornell.edu/resolutions/ua-r7-postponement-election-university-assembly-officers-academic-year-2020-2021>



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

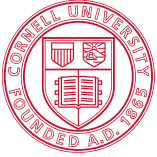
26 **Be it further resolved,** the election of the GPSA Executive Board must be conducted any time
27 between the first and third regularly scheduled meeting in the next session of the Assembly for the
28 2020-2021 Academic calendar, but not any later than the third scheduled meeting.

29 **Be it further resolved,** the current term of the 2019-2020 GPSA Executive Board be extended up
30 until, but not later than the third regularly scheduled meeting in the next session of the Assembly for
31 the 2020-2021 academic calendar.

32 **Be it finally resolved,** that the 2019-2020 GPSA Executive Board do not have an obligation to
33 serve in their respective roles after the third regularly scheduled meeting in the next session of the
34 Assembly for the 2020-2021 Academic Calendar.

35 Respectfully Submitted,

36 GPSA Executive Board



Resolution 19: In Appreciation and Recognition of Dean Barbara Knuth’s Tenure as Dean of the Graduate School

Abstract: This resolution publicly recognizes and thanks Dean Barbara Knuth for her outstanding leadership and dedication to graduate education during her two five-year term as Dean of the Graduate School at Cornell University.

Sponsored by: GPSA Executive Board

Whereas, Dean Barbara Knuth has served two consecutive, five-year terms as Dean of the Graduate School at Cornell University since 2010; and

Whereas, during her tenure as Dean of the Graduate School, Dean Knuth has been a strong advocate and ally for graduate student education; and

Whereas, as Dean of the Graduate School, she has demonstrated an unwavering leadership and has been a steady hand during times of crises, ensuring that the graduate student experience is successful regardless of any hardship or circumstance that arises; and

Whereas, as Dean of the Graduate School, has championed for Graduate student needs’ in conversations with the President, Provost, faculty, and directors of graduate study; and

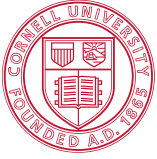
Whereas, in the words of Provost Kotlikoff, “[Dean Knuth] has been an extraordinary effective leader for the Graduate School, improving accountability for student outcomes and graduate programs, increasing diversity and improving inclusion, and tirelessly advocating on key issues of most concern to graduate education, including immigration reform, financial aid, research support and health care coverage¹.”

Whereas, in the fall of 2019, she won the Debra W. Stewart Award for Outstanding Leadership in Graduate Education, given by the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), an award that highlights her prowess as a strong leader of Graduate Education among 500 institutions of higher education in the United States and Canada; and

Whereas, Dean Knuth has actively nurtured a close relationship with the GPSA and its leaders and was always ready to meet, and address our specific concerns, requests and questions; and

Whereas, Dean Knuth’s second and last term as Dean of the Graduate School, comes to an end in July 2020.

¹ <https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2019/12/graduate-school-dean-wins-national-leadership-award>



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

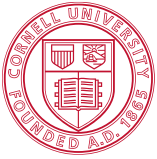
30 **Be it therefore resolved,** the GPSA publicly recognizes and thanks the hard work and outstanding
31 leadership that Dean Knuth has demonstrated during her tenure as Dean of the Graduate School;
32 and

33 **Be it further resolved,** the GPSA appreciates the relationship she cultivated with its graduate
34 student leaders; and

35 **Be it finally resolved,** the GPSA appreciates Dean Knuth's dedication and commitment to
36 graduate student education and being a strong advocate for the graduate students at Cornell
37 University.

38 Respectfully Submitted,

39 GPSA Executive Board



1 Resolution 8: A Resolution to Adopt the Graduate and 2 Professional Community Initiative

3 *Sponsored by:* Alexa Cohn, Executive Vice President & Chair of GPCI Committee

4 **Whereas**, the GPSA in 2006-2007 created the Graduate Community Initiative (2007 GCI) to elevate
5 discussion around graduate and professional students on campus; and

6 **Whereas**, the GPSA in 2012-2013 wrote a new 5-year strategic plan known as the Graduate and
7 Professional Community Initiative (2013 GPCI); and

8 **Whereas**, the GPCI Ad Hoc Committee has evaluated both the 2007 GCI and 2013 GPCI,
9 reviewed the progress made since 2013, identified eight major topic areas on which to focus, and
10 drafted a full document entitled “Graduate and Professional Community Initiative 2020: A Strategic
11 Plan for the Graduate and Professional Student Community”; and

12 **Whereas**, in order to understand the needs of graduate and professional students, the Ad Hoc
13 Committee reached out to the graduate and professional student community by organizing town
14 halls, meeting with various university administrators and community stakeholders, engaging in
15 discussions during GPSA meetings, and soliciting feedback via electronic forms sent to relevant
16 communities; and

17 **Whereas**, having a strategic plan for the graduate and professional student community that is
18 developed collaboratively and comprehensively addresses issues will help the GPSA better advocate
19 for the needs of our community; and

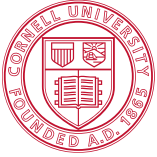
20 **Whereas**, the university administration and community stakeholders can use this document to
21 better understand the needs of all graduate and professional students and to adopt the
22 recommendations in collaboration with GPSA for a better campus community;

23 **Whereas**, the GPSA recommends that the Graduate School will release a progress report of
24 accomplished action items before 2024; therefore, be it

25 **Resolved**, that the GPSA adopts the attached Graduate and Professional Community Initiative as
26 the five-year strategic plan for GPSA and the graduate and professional community; and

27 **Resolved**, that the GPCI Ad Hoc will write the Introduction and Supplementary Appendix to be
28 included in the final document; and

29 **Resolved**, that this document, whilst expressing GPSA's will on support of the creation of the
30 GPCI, although this document requires changes in formatting, grammar, and syntax, that those
31 changes in the future, will not in any way change the intent of this Resolution; and



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

32 **Resolved**, that this Resolution and the Graduate and Professional Community Initiative be sent to
33 *Martha Pollack*, President; *Robert Harrison*, Chair of Board of Trustees; *Vijay Pendakur*, Dean of
34 Students; *Ryan Lombardi*, Vice President for Student and Campus Life; *Michael Kotlikoff*, Provost;
35 *Barbara Knuth*, Dean of the Graduate School; *Jan Allen*, Associate Dean for Academic and Student
36 Affairs; *Janna Lamey*, Associate Dean for Graduate Student Life; *Jason Kababka*, Associate Dean for
37 Administration; *Sara Xayarath Hernandez*, Associate Dean for Inclusion and Student Engagement;
38 *Caleb Yu*, Graduate and International Career Advisor; *Jennifer Forbes*, Director of the Big Red Barn;
39 *Gina Giambattista*, Director of the Office of Assemblies; *Eduardo Peñalver* Dean, Cornell Law School;
40 *Lorin D. Warnick*, Austin O. Hooey Dean of Veterinary Medicine; *Mark W. Nelson*, Dean of the
41 Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management; *Charles Van Loan*, Dean of Faculty; *Kathryn*
42 *Boor*, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Science; *J. Meejin Joon*, Dean of the College of
43 Architecture, Art and Planning; *Ray Jayawardhana*, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; *Lance*
44 *Collins*, Dean of the College of Engineering; *Kate Walsh*, Dean of the School of Hotel
45 Administration; *Rachel Dunifon*, Dean of the College of Human Ecology; *Alexander Colvin*, Dean of
46 the School of Industrial and Labor Relations; *Brendan Lanners*, Executive Director of Office of
47 Global Learning; *Robin Hamlisch*, Director of Counseling and Psychological Services; *Avery August*,
48 Vice Provost for Academic Affairs; *Emmanuel P. Giannelis*, Vice Provost for Research; *Wendy Wolford*,
49 Vice Provost for International Affairs; *Gary Koretzky*, Vice Provost of Academic Integration; *J.*
50 *Gregorey Morrisett*, Vice Provost of Cornell Tech; *Keith Barton*, Associate Vice President for Facilities
51 and Campus Services; *Scot Vanderpool*, General Manager of TCAT; *Svante Myrick*, Mayor of Ithaca; all
52 DGS's; and staff in each listed office.

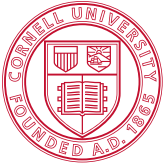
53 Respectfully Submitted,

54 Alexa Cohn

55 Executive Vice President & Chair of GPCI Committee

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Andy Leonel Barrientos-Gómez, President
Alexa Cohn, Executive Vice President
Victoria Kasonda, Vice President for Internal Operations
Taylor Tejada, Vice President for Communications
Alex Loiben, Counsel



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

**Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
Meeting Schedule
2020-2021**

Fall 2020 (7 meetings)

August 31, 2020

September 14, 2020

September 28, 2020

***Indigenous People's Day/
Fall Break October 12, 2020***

October 26, 2020

November 9, 2020

November 23, 2020

December 7, 2020

Spring 2021 (7 meetings)

February 1, 2021

February 15, 2021

March 1, 2021

March 15, 2021

March 29, 2021

April 12, 2021

April 26, 2021

Schedule follows GPSA By-Laws Section 4.03 Lined 649-652

Meetings are traditionally held in Bache Auditorium, Malott Hall (unless otherwise noted)
on Mondays during the academic year, from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Last Revised 5/5/20