

Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Meeting Agenda September 29, 2025 5:00-6:30pm 401 Physical Sciences Building I [Zoom](#)

- I. Call to Order
 - II. Roll Call
 - III. Approval of the September 29, 2025 Meeting Minutes
 - IV. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates
 - a. Executive Committee
 - b. Operations and Staffing Committee
 - c. Appropriations Committee
 - d. Communications Committee
 - e. Finance Commission
 - f. Student Advocacy Committee
 - g. Programming Board
 - h. Faculty Teaching, Advising, and Mentorship Award Committee
 - i. Special Grants Committee
 - j. Graduate School
 - V. Presentation
 - a. **Presentation — Office of Graduate Student Life (OGSL)**
 - i. Janna Lamey, Associate Dean for Graduate Student Life
 - ii. Olivia Hopewell, Graduate Student Life Advisor
 - VI. Appointments and Nominations
 - a. Call for nominations for **Voting Member Vacancies**
 - i. Master of Engineering Representative (*one seat*)
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- ii. Master of Industrial and Labor Relations Representative (*one seat*)
 - iii. Physical Sciences Representative (*one seat*)
- VII. Resolutions
 - a. [Resolution 1](#): GPSA FY26 Internal Budget (*Vote scheduled for September 29*)
 - i. Sponsor:
 - 1. Siim Samuel Sepp, Vice President of Finance and Appropriations
- VIII. New Business
- IX. Open Forum
- X. Adjournment

The GPSA invites all members to gather at the Big Red Barn for drinks and conversation immediately following the meeting. First round on us!

If you are in need of special accommodations, contact the Office of the Assemblies at assembly@cornell.edu or Student Disability Services at (607) 254-4545 prior to the meeting.



Cornell Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Minutes of the September 8th, 2025 Meeting

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Room 401, Physical Sciences Building | Zoom

- I. Call to Order
 - a. N. Brennan called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.
 - i. *Members Present:* N. Brennan, B. Candelaria, A. Cardenas, P. Caruso, C. Chappel, J. Chobirko, I. Gatimi, M. James, C. King, A. Koyyada, Z. Liu, Z. Lynch, C. Meffert, T. Nguyen, K. Rohrbaugh, S. Sepp, A. Basquiat, S. Raimondi
 - ii. *Members Absent:* V. Baruah, A. Garcia-Ortiz, Y. Khaled, M. Ortiz
 - iii. *Also Present:* T.A. Lewis, J. Withers
- II. Announcement from N. Brennan
 - a. N. Brennan asked those attending as field representatives to email the Office of the Assemblies (assemblies@cornell.edu) to confirm attendance.
- III. Approval of the April 28th, Meeting Minutes
 - a. Z. Lynch moved to approve the minutes. The motion passed by unanimous consent.
- IV. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates
 - a. Executive Committee
 - i. None
 - b. Operations and Staffing Committee
 - i. Z. Lynch announced a goal for the term to review and update all internal GPSA document. Z. Lynch also encouraged members to consider joining the Operations committee and to contact the committee with any attendance or staffing questions
 - c. Appropriations Committee
 - i. S. Sepp noted that applications for funding for byline organizations are now open and that Appropriations is working with Finance on budget allocations.
 - d. Communications
 - i. None
 - e. Finance Commission
 - i. A. Koyyada announced that organizations received initial allocations by tier and can appeal funding decisions. The Commission also returned to field funding bonuses of \$70.
 - f. Student Advocacy Committee



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- i. I. Gatimi announced that the Committee is workshopping Resolution 1: Universal TCAT Access for Cornell Graduate and Professional Students, and is still seeking more student perspectives.
 - g. Programming Board
 - i. P. Caruso asked that the Programming Board is seeking volunteers for the annual Gala event.
 - h. Faculty Teaching, Advising, and Mentorship Award Committee
 - i. J. Chobirko announced that FATMAC is taking nominations for spring teaching awards.
 - i. Special Grants Committee
 - i. Interim Chair J. Chobirko presented on the new Special Grants Committee, its purpose, and its criteria for awarding grants, before encouraging members to get involved in the new committee.
 - j. Graduate School
 - i. New Graduate School Dean T.A. (Tal) Lewis introduced himself and praised the value of the GPSA and the Cornell graduate and professional student community—in particular, the Big Red Barn. Tal also acknowledged ongoing TCAT access issues and stated that the issue would be resolved quickly.
- V. Presentation by Katie King, Associate Vice President of the Cornell Office of Civil Rights
 - a. K. King presented on the renaming of the Office of Civil Rights, the office's scope, and different protected statuses and rights at Cornell and the office's reporting processes.
 - b. K. King fielded questions from members.
- VI. Appointments and Nominations
 - a. Arts and Humanities Representatives (1 vacancy): Z. Lynch nominated Ian Smith. Ian Smith was elected by unanimous consent.
 - b. Physical Sciences Representative (3 vacancies): Yuqing Wu and Malte Hassler were elected by unanimous consent. Note: after the third meeting of the fall semester, any graduate or professional student, regardless of division, can fill the remaining vacancy.
 - c. Social Sciences Representative (1 vacancy): C. Chappel nominated Emma Rose Gallant. Emma Rose Gallant was elected by unanimous consent.
 - d. Diversity and International Students Committee Chair: as last term's chair, Alicia George introduced the position and described its responsibilities. Z. Lynch nominated Alicia George, Alicia George was elected by unanimous consent.
 - e. Special Grants Committee Chair: A. Cardenas nominated Bhagvat Patel and Z. Lynch nominated J. Chobirko. Hearing two nominations, N. Brennan opened the floor to both candidates to speak, before again opening the floor to the GPSA to comment on both candidates.



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- i. P. Caruso motioned to enter into two-minute questioning periods for both candidates by order of nomination. The motion passed by a vote of 18-2-0. The GPSA entered into question-and-answer periods for both candidates.
 - j. N. Brennan re-entered the commenting period.
 - k. N. Brennan moved the GPSA into a voting period. J. Chobirko was elected Special Grants Committee Chair.
 - f. Faculty Senate Representative: Z. Lynch nominated J. Chobirko. J. Chobirko was elected by unanimous consent.
 - g. Student Assembly Dining Committee Representative: no nominations; nominations to reopen during next meeting
 - h. Library Student Advisory Representative: J. Chobirko nominated Z. Lynch. Z. Lynch was elected by unanimous consent.
 - i. S. Sepp moved to extend the meeting by ten minutes, for a new end time of 6:40 p.m. The motion passed by unanimous consent.
- VII. Resolution 1: Universal TCAT Access for Cornell Graduate and Professional Students
- a. Tabled by sponsor T. Nguyen prior to meeting.
- VIII. Resolution 2: Proposed GPSA Internal Budget for FY2026
- a. Sponsor: S. Sepp introduced Resolution 2, noting the GPSA's revenue sources (Student Activity Fee), reserve amount, and Special Grants pool. S. Sepp also noted internal budget changes like increased committee allocations.
 - b. N. Brennan moved the GPSA onto discussion, with requests to the sponsor for greater detail on year-over-year changes and more clarification on certain line items, i.e. the Appropriations Initiative Fund.
 - c. M. James moved to extend the meeting by three minutes, for a new end time of 6:43 p.m. The motion passed by unanimous consent.
 - d. Motion to consider the resolution, with further discussion and a final vote saved for the next meeting, adopted 19-0-1.
- IX. Open Forum
- a. Z. Lynch announced that the committee assignment form will be sent out soon.
 - b. J. Withers asked that newly elected voting members see her after the meeting's adjournment to be added to the roster and granted Box access.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anthony Wang
Clerk of the Assembly

Resolution 1: GPSA FY26 Internal Budget

Abstract: This resolution approves the Internal GPSA Budget

Sponsored by: Siim S. Sepp, VP of Finance and Appropriations

Whereas: The GPSA Bylaws require that the Appropriations Committee recommend an internal budget in the form of a resolution (3.05(D)(vii)).

Whereas: GPSA's Activity Fee Income was estimated by the VP of Finance and Appropriations and additional information was collected by Johnathan Hart (JGH27). Activity Fee income is estimated at \$ 1 125 850.

Whereas: The amount of funds in the GPSA's reserve \$148 797.26, according to the Office of the Assemblies.

Whereas: The amount of funds in the GPSAFC's reserve is estimated at \$526 000, according to the information from Jonathan Hart.

Whereas: The recommended GPSA Internal budget is based on the historical use of funds. The last 11 years of internal budgets and expenses were used to estimate our expenses for this coming Academic Year.

Whereas: A complete spreadsheet will be attached to this resolution.

Be it therefore resolved: Actual Activity Fee income will be determined later in the Fall Term.

Respectfully Submitted,

Siim S. Sepp – VP of Finance and Appropriations

Table 1. GPSA internal budget FY26.

FY 2026

Expense Categories		2025-2026 Budget
10000	Administrative (food for meetings)	\$15,000.00
		\$20,000.00
10001	Executive (space rental, exec compensation)	
10002	Communications	\$3,000.00
10003	Operations & Staffing	\$3,000.00
10004	Appropriations	\$3,000.00
10005	Finance Commission	\$3,000.00
20001	Student Advocacy	\$4,000.00
30001	Ivy+ Summit	\$3,000.00
30003	Faculty Awards	\$3,000.00
30004	DISC	\$5,000.00
20004	Appropriations Initiative Fund	\$10,235.00
TOTAL Allocation		\$72,873.20
TOTAL Expenses		\$72,235.00

