Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Graduate and Professional Student Assembly of Cornell University
Minutes of the October 5, 2026 Meeting
5:00 PM – 6:30 PM
Physical Science Building 401 & Zoom

I. Call to Order
   A. E. Snell II called the meeting to order at 5:06pm
   B. *Members Present:* M. Abraham-Aggarwal, A. Aftab, Y. Alay, N. Brennan, C. Chappel, A. Coogan, K. Dahal, J. Deskins, D. Freeman, A. Garcia-Ortiz, D. Ghimire, D. Hwang, L. Kim, C. King, I. Kosar, Z. Liu, Z. Lynch, M. Mitri, M. Pabla, R. Prude, A. Runnels, E. Snell II, S. Van Rossem, Y. Wu
   C. *Members Absent:* L. Alshameh, A. Burquez, A. Cortez, C. Cox, J. Wilson
   D. Also Present: T. Lewis, M. Kotlikoff, R. Lombardi

II. Approval of the September 14, 2026 Meeting Minutes
   A. A. Garcia-Ortiz motioned to approve the meeting minutes with friendly amendments.
   B. The minutes were **passed** by unanimous consent

III. Call for late additions to the agenda
   A. There were no late additions to the agenda

IV. Entering Executive Session
   A. C. King motioned to have a pro/con conversation about entering executive session
   B. The motion was seconded and the assembly discussed entering executive session.

V. Presentations and Speakers
   A. Cornell University President Dr. Michael Kotlikoff, joined by Vice President for Student and Campus life Dr. Ryan Lombardi and Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate Education Thomas A. Lewis gave a presentation by zoom to the assembly. They took questions and comments.

VI. Meeting Extension
   A. A. Garcia-Ortiz motioned to extend the meeting by 30 minutes
   B. The motion **passed** by unanimous consent

VII. Committee Reports
   A. President

1. N. Brennan reported they are working on two initiatives: working on student code of conduct and a statement for the city council meeting.

B. Executive Vice President
    1. Nothing to report

C. Operations and Staffing Committee
    1. Z. Lynch reported they will be sending out a survey for internal committees interest. They have assigned assembly members to committees and if anyone needs anything to reach out.

D. Appropriations Committee
    1. A. Aftab reported that she is getting settled and will share soon.

E. Communications Committee
    1. Nothing to report

F. Finance Commission
    1. C. King reported the committee will be presenting soon.

G. Student Advocacy Committee
    1. Nothing to report

H. Diversity and International Students Committee
    1. K. Dahal coffee hours and an event for spring semester.

I. Programming Board
    1. I. Kosar reported he is finalizing gala locations.

J. Faculty Advising, Teaching, and Mentorship Award Committee(FATMAC)
    1. A. Garcia-Ortiz reported they are working on an awards ceremony

K. Graduate School
    1. T. Lewis reported there is a lot of tension on campus and that there is planning to help the graduate school with their needs.

VIII. Business of the day

A. GPSA Representative Vacancies
    1. Arts and Humanities, Physical Sciences, Social Sciences, SC Johnson School of Business and Cornell Law School have open positions on the GPSA. The Assembly asked for nominations for the positions available.
    2. The assembly motioned to approve V. Clise for the social science position.

B. University Assembly Nominations
    1. J. Deskins read through a description of the committees, then the assembly took nominations, questions and voted
    2. Campus Codes Committee
        a) No nominations at this time
    3. Campus Welfare Committee
        a) No nominations at this time

4. Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology, and the Environment
    a) L. Meammen nominated himself for the committee.
5. Campus Planning Committee
    a) Y. Alay nominated himself for the committee.
6. Transportation Hearing and Appeals Board
    a) No nominations at this time
7. General Committee
    a) Z. Lynch shared they are looking for an arts and humanities representative for the general committee.
8. L. Meammen and Z. Lynch were added to the committees.

IX. Adjournment

A. C. King motioned to adjourn the meeting
B. The motion **passed** by unanimous consent

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09pm.

Respectfully Committed,
Erin Kenefick-Coppersmith