



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 \$750.
 - 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 Advising, Teaching, 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