



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

**Cornell Graduate and Professional Student University Assembly**

Minutes of the August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Meeting

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Room 701, Clark Hall | Zoom

- I. Call to Order
  - a. O. Karim called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.
    - i. *Members Present:* S. Bluhm, N. Brennan, D.A. Browne, J. Chobirko, A. Garcia-Ortiz, E. Gatz, D. Ghimire, A. Kapoor, S. Karaikal, O. Karim, A. Koyyada, A. LaGressa, Z. Lynch, S. Matan, S. Sepp, F. Aclan
    - ii. *Also Present:* K. Boor, J. Withers, M. Jones, I. Gatimi, K. Patel, C. Douglas, C. Wang, T. Nguyen, Z. Liu, A. George, Y. Fan, C. Meffert, A. Puder, I. Yaya, C. Chappel, S. Hampi
- II. Approval of the May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Meeting Minutes
  - a. N. Brennan moved to approve the minutes. The motion passed by unanimous consent.
- III. Business of the Day
  - a. O. Karim introduced himself, the GPSA, and ways to get involved in the GPSA. O. Karim also stated that he would use Robert’s Rules of Order for meetings.
  - b. Because of a meeting conflict, Dean Boor gave her report and introduced herself and asked students to reach out to her office in Day Hall for advocacy needs.
  - c. Call for nominations for Voting Member vacancies
    - i. O. Karim called for nominations for each Voting Member vacancy. Each nominee gave a brief speech before Voting Members conducted a vote.
    - ii. Masters of Public Administration Representative
      1. I. Gatimi was elected as Masters of Public Administration Representative.
    - iii. Masters of Engineering Representative
      1. K. Patel was elected as Masters of Engineering Representative.
    - iv. Masters of Industrial and Labor Relations Representative
      1. There were no nominations.
    - v. Masters At-Large Representative
      1. M. Jones was elected as Masters At-Large Representative.
    - vi. O. Karim asked J. Withers to clarify the rules on whether Representatives must be PhD students. J. Withers stated that one seat from each division is “preferentially reserved for a graduate or professional student enrolled in a



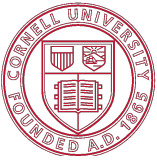
## Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

master's degree program." PhD students are not excluded. Should any of those seats not be filled after the third meeting of the fall semester, the vacancy shall then be open to any graduate or professional student within that division regardless of degree.

- vii. Arts and Humanities Representative
  - 1. C. Wang and T. Nguyen were elected as Arts and Humanities Representatives by unanimous consent.
- viii. Biological Sciences Representative
  - 1. Z. Liu was elected as Biological Sciences Representative.
- ix. Physical Sciences Representative
  - 1. A. George and Y. Fan were elected as Physical Sciences Representatives by unanimous consent.
- x. Social Sciences Representative
  - 1. C. Meffert, A. Puder, I. Yaya, and C. Chappel were elected as Social Sciences Representatives by unanimous consent.
- xi. O. Karim stated that the S.C. Johnson School of Business Representative and Cornell Law School Representative positions have separate election procedures.
- d. Call for nominations for Committee Chair vacancies
  - i. O. Karim asked Committee Chairs to introduce themselves, their positions, and to give their reports. Because D.A. Browne left the meeting and a vacant position, J. Withers read Finance and Student Advocacy Committee Chair position descriptions from the GPSA bylaws.
  - ii. Student Advocacy Committee Chairperson
    - 1. N. Brennan asked J. Withers if nominees need to be Voting Members. J. Withers stated that nominees need to be elected officers or "members appointed through an election by a majority of all members."
    - 2. S. Hampi was elected as Student Advocacy Committee Chair.
- e. Graduate representative openings on university committees
  - i. O. Karim introduced the Committee on Music and asked those interested to contact him.

#### IV. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates

- a. Executive Committee
  - i. N. Brennan stated that he plans to give more power to committees and invited committee chairs to participate in executive board meetings. He also plans to let committees docket legislation for consideration in meetings.



## Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

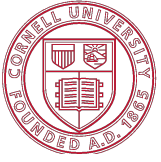
- b. Operations and Staffing
  - i. Z. Lynch stated that every Voting Member must be a part of a committee. He also stated that GPSA-external committees need GPSA members too.
- c. Appropriations
  - i. None.
- d. Communications
  - i. None.
- e. Finance
  - i. None.
- f. Student Advocacy
  - i. None.
- g. Diversity and International Students
  - i. A. Kapoor stated that she put on an international students' orientation, hosted a town hall, and plans to expand the committee's events this year.
- h. Programming
  - i. A. LaGressa stated that she will send out a feedback survey on last semester's Grad Student Gala and that she plans to book Barton Hall for this year's Gala. She also sent a budget to D.A. Browne and plans to hold cross-program events this year.
- i. Graduate School
  - i. See Business of the Day.
- j. Faculty Teaching, Advising, and Mentorship Award
  - i. J. Chobirko stated that in the spring semester he is holding an event to recognize faculty.

### V. Open Forum

- a. A. Kapoor asked about the status of a GPSA representative to the SA's ESG Committee. J. Withers stated that last term, the SA passed a resolution on ESG and that President Pollack acknowledged it. She also stated that ad-hoc committees do not transfer over terms.
- b. O. Karim entertained a motion to extend the meeting by five minutes. N. Brennan seconded and the motion passed by unanimous consent.
- c. O. Karim introduced the ESG Committee's purpose and stated that last term, the committee produced a general collective resolution approved by the GPSA.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Anthony Wang  
Clerk of the Assembly