

Cornell University

Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

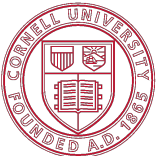
Cornell Graduate and Professional Student University Assembly

Minutes of the February 19th, 2024 Meeting

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Room 401, Physical Sciences Building | Zoom

- I. Call to Order
 - a. M. Matthews called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.
 - i. *Members Present:* F. Aclan, N. Brennan, D. Browne, T. Dixon, K. Farrell, E. Forcier, A. Garcia-Ortiz, E. Gatz, D. Ghimire, K. Glinski, B. Hayes, M. Heeney, K. Jaffry, S. Karaikal, O. Karim, A. Koyyada, A. Lagressa, Z. Lynch, S. Matan, A. McGraw, B. Sarmah, S. Sepp, R. Thakore, M. Matthews
 - ii. *Members Absent:* S. Bluhm, J. Lopez, D. Parekh, B. Patel, G. Smits, V. Yeh
 - iii. *Also Present:* K. Boor, E. Kalweit, J. Withers
- II. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda
- III. Introduction of the Business of the Day
- IV. Presentation by Derina Samuel on the Center for Teaching Innovation (CTI)
 - a. D. Samuel introduced opportunities for graduate students to teach and also the CTT's resources for graduate students, including CTT courses, the International Teaching Assistant Program (meant to support international students' teaching under Cornell's English language requirements), and the Teaching Portfolio Program.
 - b. D. Samuel answered eligibility questions on the CTT's early career and CTT Fellows programs, similar Cornell programs, and other resources the CTT offers (drop-in hours, Canvas workshops).
- V. Breakout Session by Field
 - a. The GPSA divided into breakout sessions by field and discussed the business of the day and the Robert's Rules of Order document.
- VI. Business of the Day
 - a. Presentation by the Operations Committee on Robert's Rules of Order
 - i. A. McGraw and N. Brennan introduced Robert's Rules of Order and the importance of the foundation of parliamentary procedure on the Operations Committee's Bylaw Revision process.



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- ii. A. McGraw and N. Brennan covered the reasons to use Robert's Rules, guiding principles and the goals of parliamentary procedure, an example of the motion-and-voting process and tips on using motions and points.
 - iii. M. Matthews entertained a motion to move on to Resolution 5, N. Brennan moved and received a second. The GPSA agreed unanimously to move on.
 - b. Resolution 5: GPSAFC Guidelines Amendment
 - i. D. Browne introduced the resolution to add a default funding tier and to exempt Affinity groups from CampusGroups membership requirements in funding guidelines. D. Browne pointed out that the exemption applies only to a few groups and would make a small difference to GPSA finances.
 - ii. M. Matthews entertained a motion to table the vote on Resolution 5.
 - iii. O. Karim moved to the previous question, but members continued to ask questions about the resolution and existing Appropriations Committee Initiative Fund (AIF) funding guidelines for groups that "actively promote diversity and inclusion."
 - iv. M. Matthews entertained a motion to move to the previous question. O. Karim moved; N. Brennan seconded.
 - v. The resolution passed 20-1-2.
 - vi. N. Brennan moved to move on to discussion on Cornell Cinema funding; O. Karim seconded.
 - c. Discussion on Funding of Cornell Cinema
 - i. The Cornell Cinema's itemized budget came out to be \$7K more than the expected \$10K.
 - ii. M. Matthews entertained a motion to refer the issue to a committee, potentially the Student Advocacy Committee, to put a survey in the GPSA communique to find other organizations seeking Reserve Fund funding for large expenditures.
 - iii. M. Heeney proposed opening the issue to both the Finance Committee and the Student Advocacy Committee. M. Matthews moved to refer the issue to both committees. O. Karim seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
 - d. Discussion on Divestment Motions and the Student Assembly Committee
 - i. A. McGraw moved to extend the meeting by ten minutes. N. Brennan seconded. Motion passed with unanimous consent.
 - ii. M. Matthews introduced the Student Assembly's ESG Committee and the GPSA's plan to introduce a resolution creating a small committee in coordination with the Student Assembly on ESG.

VII. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates



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- a. Executive Committee
 - i. M. Heeney is working with a small group on writing a resolution on divestment, as inspired by the Student Assembly and the two new policies on Anti-Doxing and the Interim Expressive Activity policy. M. Heeney is seeking feedback on that resolution.
- b. Operations
 - i. A. McGraw updated the GPSA on Bylaw and Charter Revisions and sought feedback on the revisions process.
- c. Appropriations
 - i. D. Browne reminded the body that the AIF funding request deadline is February 20th.
 - ii. The GPSA was also mistakenly listed as subject to the CampusGroups funding guidelines. GPSA funding is not subject to the same rules and organizations should instead reference the specific GPSAFC guidelines.
- d. Communications
 - i. A. Garcia-Ortiz stated that anyone wishing to add announcements to GPSA communications should send them to her before Fridays. A. Garcia-Ortiz also promoted the GPSA's social media accounts.
- e. Finance
 - i. None
- f. Student Advocacy
 - i. Transportation updates coming soon.
- g. Diversity and International Students
 - i. None.
- h. Programming
 - i. The Committee is seeking suggestions on a non-Barton Hall gala venue.
- i. Graduate School
 - i. None

VIII. Open Forum

- a. None

The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anthony Wang
Clerk of the Assembly