



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

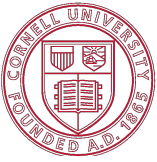
Cornell Graduate and Professional Student University Assembly

Minutes of the May 6th, 2024 Meeting

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

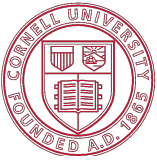
Room 401, Physical Sciences Building | Zoom

- I. Call to Order
 - a. M. Matthews called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.
 - i. *Members Present:* F. Aclan, N. Brennan, E. Forcier, A. Garcia-Ortiz, B. Hayes, M. Heeney, K. Jaffry, S. Karaikal, O. Karim, A. Koyyada, A. Lagressa, Z. Lynch, S. Matan, A. McGraw, S. Sepp, M. Matthews
 - ii. *Members Absent:* S. Bluhm, D. Browne, T. Dixon, K. Farrell, E. Gatz, D. Ghimire, K. Glinski, J. Lopez, D. Parekh, B. Patel, B. Sarmah, G. Smits, R. Thakore, V. Yeh
 - iii. *Also Present:* K. Boor, J. Withers
- II. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda
 - a. Addition of G. Dunn-Hindle’s Resolution 8, “ESG recommendations on discussion of divestment from companies engaged in weapons manufacturing.”
 - b. There will be nominations for two more open spots for GPSA constituents on the University Assembly.
- III. Approval of the April 22nd, 2024 Meeting Minutes
 - a. A. McGraw moved to approve the minutes by unanimous consent; N. Brennan seconded.
- IV. Introduction of the Business of the Day
 - a. M. Matthews announced that the updates to Appendix B were not made, and so the issue will be tabled for the Fall. She then asked G. Dunn-Hindle to introduce Resolution 8.
 - b. G. Dunn-Hindle introduced Resolution 8, requesting the University to respond to requests for information on the University’s investments and that the University enter divestment discussions with the ESG Committee.
- V. Breakout Session by Field
 - a. The GPSA divided into random breakout sessions and discussed the business of the day
- VI. Business of the Day



Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

- a. Approval of the Academic Year 2024-2025 meeting dates
 - i. M. Matthews entertained a motion to adopt by unanimous consent. N. Brennan moved and received a second.
 - ii. O. Karim asked about the number of meetings.
 - iii. One member asked about whether the percentage of meetings attended for organizations' representatives rounds up or down. It will round up.
- b. Filling roles left open from Spring 2024 elections
 - i. M. Matthews opened the floor for nominations to be Student Advocacy Committee Chair. No nominations.
 - ii. M. Matthews opened the floor for nominations to be Programming Board Chair. O. Karim nominated A. Lagressa. A. Lagressa accepted the nomination. Seeing no other nominations, M. Matthews entertained a motion to approve A. Lagressa being voted in as Programming Board Chair. N. Brennan moved and received a second.
 - iii. M. Matthews opened the floor for nominations to be a Humanities, Social Science, or Physical Science Voting Member. S. Matan nominated himself to be a Physical Science Voting Member. O. Karim moved to approve with unanimous consent; N. Brennan seconded.
- c. Appendix B Update (D. Browne)
 - i. M. Heeney moved to table Appendix B for Academic Year 2024-2025. N. Brennan seconded.
- d. Open University Assembly Positions
 - i. Of the five positions allocated to the GPSA in the University Assembly, two are available. M. Matthews opened the floor for nominations to be a University Assembly Member. A. Lagressa and S. Matan nominated themselves. Seeing no more nominations, M. Matthews entertained a motion to approve their candidacies. N. Brennan moved to confirm by unanimous consent; O. Karim seconded.
- e. Resolution 8, "ESG recommendations on discussion of divestment from companies engaged in weapons manufacturing."
 - i. M. Matthews asked the sponsor to substitute out the phrase "weapons manufacturers" in the resolution's language. G. Dunn-Hindle and M. Heeney discussed the procedure to change the description of the companies in the resolution. O. Karim pointed out that "weapons manufacturers" is more consistent with the Student Assembly's language.
 - ii. The GPSA discussed the resolution; several members asked for more information on the specific purpose of the resolution and what is already known about Cornell's investments.



Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

- iii. M. Matthews entertained a motion for the previous question. One member proposed an amendment to change the resolution's language from "weapons manufacturerers" to "companies engaged in weapons manufacturing." G. Dunn-Hindle viewed the change as friendly.
- iv. A. Lagressa raised a point of inquiry on potentially ambiguous language in the resolution. To clarify the language, G. Dunn-Hindle moved to amend the resolution to read "Whereas there is clear interest from the Graduate and Professional student body centered on divestment from ...". Citing the fact that the referendum on divestment did not include graduate and professional students, O. Karim moved to amend the line to read "Whereas there is reason to believe there is clear interest ...". G. Dunn-Hindle accepted the amendment but expressed concern about the "softening" of the language. G. Dunn-Hindle seconded O. Karim's motion. G. Dunn-Hindle also moved to amend the resolution's second resolved clause to include the date of the CSR and ESG Committee's information request and "and future requests." O. Karim seconded.
- v. M Matthews entertained a motion to close debate. N. Brennan moved for the previous question and A. McGraw seconded.
- vi. Resolution 8 passed 13-0-2.

VII. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates

- a. Executive Committee
 - i. M. Heeney recommended GPSA members to get more involved next year.
- b. Operations
 - i. A. McGraw expressed gratitude for the year and excitement for more progress on the Bylaw and Charter Revision Project next year.
- c. Appropriations
 - i. None
- d. Communications
 - i. A. Garcia-Ortiz expressed excitement for a second term as Committee Chair
- e. Finance
 - i. A. Koyyada congratulated the winners of the election.
- f. Student Advocacy
 - i. None
- g. Diversity and International Students
 - i. The Committee recently met with the Office of Global Learning, which is committed to extending its partnership with DISC next year.
- h. Programming



Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

- i. This year's gala was a success!
- i. Graduate School
 - i. First, Dean Boor announced that the Graduate School hosted representatives from the graduate schools of Cornell's peer institutions and shared best practices in a successful, positive meeting. Second, planning for Commencement is ongoing.

VIII. Open Forum

- a. M. Matthews announced an end-of-year brunch at the Statler Hotel on May 18th.
- b. J. Withers announced that there are appreciation certificates and graduation cords for members.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anthony Wang
Clerk of the Assembly