

Cornell University

Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Cornell Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Minutes of the September 23rd, 2024 Meeting

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Room 401, Physical Sciences Building | Zoom

I. Call to Order

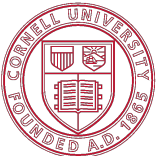
- a. O. Karim called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.
 - i. *Members Present (21)*: F. Aclan, N. Brennan, D.A. Browne, C. Chappel, J. Chobirko, C. Douglas, I. Gatimi, D. Ghimire, M. James, S.K. Karaikal, O. Karim, A. Koyyada, A. LaGressa, Z. Liu, Z. Lynch, S. Matan, T. Nguyen, K. Patel, A. Puder, C. Wang, Y. Wu
 - ii. *Members Absent (9)*: S. Bluhm, A. Garcia-Ortiz, E. Gatz, A. George, S. Hampi, A. Kapoor, C. Meffert, S. Sepp, I. Yaya
 - iii. *Also Present*: K. Boor, J. Withers, A. Lando

II. Approval of the September 9th Meeting Minutes

- a. N. Brennan moved to approve the minutes. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

III. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates

- a. Executive Committee
 - i. N. Brennan stated that the Appropriations Committee is looking for new members and a new vice chair.
 - ii. N. Brennan stated that Dean Colleen Barry will present at the GPSA's next meeting on the Expressive Activity Policy. He added that the committee reviewing the policy will take GPSA members' feedback into account and that the GPSA will formalize a response to the policy in a draft resolution.
 - iii. N. Brennan stated that the GPSA's internal budget will be presented at the next meeting.
 - iv. Y. Wu asked about the relationship between the policy and the associated report. N. Brennan and O. Karim stated that they do not yet have the entire policy or report, but that the report adds context to and describes the goals of the policy.
- b. Operations and Staffing
 - i. Z. Lynch stated that committee assignments are done, but that the external committees still need people.
 - ii. Z. Lynch stated that the Operations and Staffing Committee is in the process of revising its bylaws.



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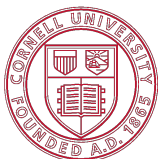
- c. Appropriations
 - i. None.
- d. Communications
 - i. None.
- e. Finance
 - i. A. Koyyada stated that the Finance Committee finished initial allocations and resolved appeals.
- f. Student Advocacy
 - i. S. Hampi asked members interested in organizing talks or participating in the committee to reach out to her.
- g. Diversity and International Students
 - i. A. Kapoor wrote that the committee plans to vote on a guiding document for the year. She added that the committee met with the Office of Global Learning to define a yearlong partnership.
- h. Programming
 - i. None.
- i. Faculty Teaching, Advising, and Mentorship Award
 - i. J. Chobirko stated that the committee is meeting soon.
- j. Graduate School
 - i. K. Boor first encouraged members to consider joining the General Committee. She then highlighted the Center for Teaching Innovation's programs to help students develop teaching portfolios.

IV. Voting Member Vacancies

- a. ILR Masters Representative
 - i. A. Lando was elected ILR Masters Representative by unanimous consent.

V. External Committee Vacancies

- a. General Committee
 - i. I. Gatimi was elected representative to the General Committee, 15-2-2.
- b. Coalition on Mental Health Committee
 - i. N. Brennan asked about the length of an external committee appointment. J. Withers stated that terms are one year long.
 - ii. No nominations.
- c. Student Health Benefits Advisory Committee
 - i. M. James was elected representative to the Student Health Benefits Advisory Committee by unanimous consent.
- d. Liaison to the Faculty Senate

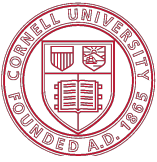


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- i. A. Puder was elected Liaison to the Faculty Senate by unanimous consent.

VI. New Business

- a. On Resolutions 2 and 3, not included in the meeting agenda, O. Karim stated that members could vote to decide on whether the GPSA would vote on the resolutions after an initial reading. Should this first vote fall short of two-thirds, the body would table voting on the resolutions for the next meeting.
- b. O. Karim gave D.A. Browne one minute to introduce the budget and Resolution 2. In a voice vote, the GPSA decided to consider Resolution 2, 19-0-1.
- c. O. Karim gave D.A. Browne five more minutes to further introduce Resolution 2.
- d. Z. Lynch asked about the resolutions under consideration. D.A. Browne stated that two resolutions, Resolutions 2 and 3, are under consideration. However, Resolution 3 was not uploaded to Box.
- e. In the question-and-answer period, N. Brennan asked about the Executive Committee's minimum budget allocation. D.A. Browne stated that he exceeded the members' requests.
- f. T. Nguyen asked about the difference between Resolutions 2 and 3. D.A. Browne stated that passing Resolution 2 adopts the budget and that Resolution 3 contains revised guidelines, including increased committee budgets. J. Withers clarified that Resolution 3 is unavailable and not up for a vote at this meeting, but that it is a set of funding guidelines for GPSAFC and Resolution 2 is the GPSA's internal budget.
- g. M. James asked if tabling the resolution might cause delays to funding. D.A. Browne stated that funding is already happening, but that the resolution updates the guidelines to reflect approved changes.
- h. O. Karim moved on to a brief discussion period.
- i. N. Brennan moved to close discussion. The motion passed by unanimous consent.
- j. With the sponsor's agreement, N. Brennan moved to amend Resolution 2 to add a clause after the first "resolved" clause, "Be it therefore resolved, the aforementioned budget be approved by the GPSA for the FY2025 fiscal year." The motion to amend passed by unanimous consent.
- k. N. Brennan moved to the previous question. Seeing dissent, O. Karim allowed N. Brennan to call for a division of house. In dissent, M. James stated that he still has questions about the budget and Resolution 2. N. Brennan retracted his motion.
- l. M. James moved to open a three-minute question-and-answer period. The motion passed by unanimous consent. M. James asked about constraints to the discretionary allocation. D.A. Browne stated that the discretionary account is meant mostly for byline organizations, but open to others. He also stated that GPSAFC draws from a separate budget, but that both budgets go into the same system.



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m. Z. Lynch moved to table Resolution 2. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

VII. General Announcements

a. Upcoming comment period on draft Expressive Activity Policy.

VIII. Open Forum

a. A. Lando reminded members to be aware of the significance of the GPSA discussing the draft Expressive Activity Policy at its October 7th meeting and to be very respectful of one another. O. Karim stated that the GPSA chose the October 7th meeting date for scheduling reasons and that the Executive Committee was sensitive to the issue. He reiterated A. Lando's calls for respectful and sensitive discussion at the meeting. N. Brennan stated that the Executive Committee made a difficult decision in planning the meeting, but that it took steps to avoid news of the policy breaking on the day.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anthony Wang
Clerk of the Assembly