

Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

Cornell Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Minutes of the September 9th, 2024 Meeting

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Room 401, Physical Sciences Building | Zoom

I. Call to Order

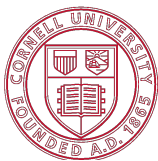
- a. O. Karim called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.
 - i. *Members Present:* F. Aclan, S. Bluhm, N. Brennan, C. Chappel, J. Chobirko, C. Douglas, Y. Wu, A. Garcia-Ortiz, I. Gatimi, A. George, D. Ghimire, S. Hampi, M. James, A. Kapoor, S.K. Karaikal, O. Karim, A. Koyyada, A. LaGressa, Z. Liu, Z. Lynch, S. Matan, C. Meffert, T. Nguyen, K. Patel, C. Wang
 - ii. *Members Absent:* D.A. Browne, E. Gatz, A. Puder, S. Sepp, I. Yaya
 - iii. *Also Present:* K. Boor, J. Withers

II. Approval of the August 26th, 2024 Meeting Minutes

- a. N. Brennan moved to approve the minutes. The motion **passed** by unanimous consent.
- b. N. Brennan moved to amend the minutes to correct misspellings of Y. Wu's name. The motion **passed** by unanimous consent.
- c. M. James moved to amend the minutes to correct misspellings of his name. The motion **passed** by unanimous consent.
- d. O. Karim 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 all committee chairs attended the Executive Committee's meeting, marking the first time the Executive Committee invited committee chairs to attend. He also stated that the Executive Committee plans to continue to invite committee chairs.
 - ii. N. Brennan stated that the GPSA will discuss the Interim Expressive Activity Policy during its October 7th meeting. He stated that the Executive Committee understands the significance of that date and wanted to give advance warning before the meeting. He also stated that a representative from the Graduate School will present on the policy during the meeting.
 - iii. N. Brennan stated that the Executive Committee wants to gauge interest for a crash course or retreat event to introduce the GPSA to newcomers.

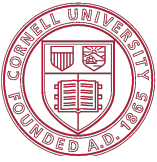


Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

- b. Operations and Staffing
 - i. Z. Lynch requested that new voting members complete a committee interest form to staff committees as soon as possible. He also stated that J. Withers would post external position appointment opportunities soon.
 - ii. Z. Lynch stated that members might be staffed on their less-preferred but under-staffed committees. However, members can still attend other committees' meetings.
- c. Appropriations
 - i. None.
- d. Communications
 - i. A. Garcia-Ortiz stated that she recently received pictures from last semester's gala. She also stated that weekly communiques with a new look will go out soon, pending finalization from the registrar.
- e. Finance
 - i. A. Koyyada stated that the Finance Committee is in the appeal stage for clubs seeking more funding and that applications for second semester funding are open.
- 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 stated that DISC is recruiting new members.
- h. Programming
 - i. A. LaGressa stated that she sent last semester's gala photos to A. Garcia-Ortiz and that she is in the process of booking Barton Hall for this year's gala. The Programming Committee is also recruiting.
- i. Faculty Teaching, Advising, and Mentorship Award
 - i. J. Chobirko stated that the committee is also recruiting.
- j. Graduate School
 - i. K. Boor urged members to get involved in committees to make a difference for graduate and professional students. K. Boor also gave updates on renovations and accessibility improvements to the Big Red Barn.

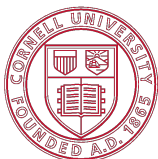
IV. Business

- a. O. Karim relinquished the chair to N. Brennan to present on Resolution 1: Joint Committee on Cornell University's Corporate Social Responsibility and ESG Policies, a resolution he sponsored.



Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

- b. O. Karim introduced the joint committee and gave context on last term's ad hoc committee to ask questions about the university's investments and divestment. He stated that the GPSA sent representatives to the ad hoc committee in the past.
- c. Z. Lynch moved to extend the presentation time by two minutes. The motion **passed** by unanimous consent.
- d. O. Karim stated that the GPSA's role would be to send a representative to a similar, new joint committee. O. Karim stated that although the university's previous president was unreceptive to last term's committee's demands, there is hope that the university's interim president might be. He stated that the Student Assembly plans to introduce a resolution to restart last term's committee and that Resolution 1 would create a GPSA representative to that new committee on standby.
- e. Y. Wu asked if the GPSA would take a stance on the issue. O. Karim stated that the GPSA and other assemblies never gave an official stance, but that the GPSA could do so if its members decide to.
- f. S. Hampi asked about the proposed committee's focus on corporate social responsibility and ESG, and if the name of the resolution should be changed to reflect its emphasis. O. Karim stated that the committee would also focus on those issues, but that his presentation focused the resolution's primary focus on on-campus tensions surrounding the War in Gaza. He also stated that last term's ad hoc committee only gave representation to undergraduate students and that the need arose for a joint committee including all of the assemblies.
- g. M. James asked about the amount of GPSA representation on the committee relative to the other assemblies. O. Karim stated that the focus of the resolution and the makeup of the new committee would be less on *even* representation between the assemblies and more on representation of the entire university.
- h. S. Hampi asked about the likelihood that a resolution passes, given that last year's resolution did not. O. Karim stated that although he is uncertain, there is optimism among members of the Student Assembly that the university's interim president will be more receptive.
- i. C. Meffert asked about the selection process for the GPSA's representative to a new committee. O. Karim stated that last year, the sponsor of the GPSA's resolution to send a representative became the GPSA's representative to committee meetings, but that this year the process would be similar to the process by which the GPSA appoints members to other committees.
- j. N. Brennan asked for con speeches against Resolution 1. There were no con speeches.
- k. N. Brennan moved on to voting procedure. Resolution 1 **passed**, 19-0-2.
- l. O. Karim resumed the chair position.



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

V. General Announcements

- a. Graduate representative openings on university committees
 - i. Committee on Music
 1. O. Karim introduced the university's Committee on Music and asked interested members to reach out to him.

VI. Open Forum

- a. None.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anthony Wang
Clerk of the Assembly