

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

**Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly**

Minutes of the February 6, 2017 Meeting

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Bache Auditorium, Malott Hall

- I. Call to Order
  - a. N. Rogers called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.
  - b. *Members Present:* J. Bensus, T. Bollu, E. Case, C. Franklin, J. Goldberg, S. Hesse, M. Jodlowski, A. Loiben, J. Maynard, E. Michel, M. Milano, M. Munasinghe, I. Smythe, T. Snider, A. Waymack, E. Winarto.
  - c. *Members Absent:* L. Munguia, Y. Tang.
  - d. *Also Present:* J. Shortall, S. Solouki.
  - e. A motion was made to hold a provisional election for two GPSA representatives to the University Assembly under “Business of the Day.” There was no dissent.
- II. Approval of the Minutes
  - a. A motion was made to approve the minutes from the November 28, 2016 meeting, there was no dissent, the minutes were **approved** unanimously.
- III. Presentations
  - a. Janet Shortall, Associate Dean of Students: EARS Program Expansion
    - i. J. Shortall made her presentation about the EARS program, specifically reaching out to graduate and professional students who may want to get involved, or who may like to use the service.
  - b. Sabrina Solouki, President ASAP: March for Science
    - i. S. Solouki discussed Advancing Science and Policy’s (ASAP) trip to the March for Science in Washington D.C. on April 22, 2017.
    - ii. S. Solouki wanted to publicize the event, and asked interested people to answer the group’s survey. S. Solouki also asked if the GPSA could help fund the cost of travel. It is being looked into by the Appropriations Committee.
    - iii. A. Waymack made a motion to forward information regarding ASAP’s trip through M. Munasinghe to divisions, there was no dissent.
- IV. Breakout Session by Division



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V. New Business

**a. Resolution 8: On Responses to the Recent Executive Order “Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States” by Cornell and Peers**

- i. A. Loiben stated that Resolution 8 more or less supports the statement President Rawlings made and the statement the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students made regarding the aforementioned executive order.
- ii. A. Waymack stated that the GPSA should get used to acting with a certain degree of timeliness.
- iii. J. Goldberg also stated that he thinks it is really important for the GPSA to respond quickly and responsively to situations.
- iv. M. Munasinghe thanked the Graduate School and ISSO, particularly Dean Knuth for their previous actions.
- v. N. Stetson noted that there are procedural mechanisms to amend resolutions after they are submitted, so a certain degree of speed is ok.
- vi. I. Smythe stated that ISSO is the principal contact for international students. The vast majority of Cornell students who are affected by this order are graduate students.
- vii. A. Waymack motioned to close discussion after the last speaker and vote on the resolution, a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority was required to limit debate and the motioned **passed** 12-0-6.
- viii. R. Walroth asked for longer than 24 hours to read it and think about it.
- ix. A. Molitoris asked to include Democrats in the language concerning political parties.
- x. N. Stetson motioned to remove the limit on the speakers’ list, the motion **passed** by 14-0-4.
- xi. M. Munasinghe **motioned to amend** line 97 to say “Democrat,” before “Republican,”
  1. E. Case **motioned to amend the amendment** to replace "Democrats, Republicans and third-party" with "Political". The amendment to the amendment **passed** 14-0-4.



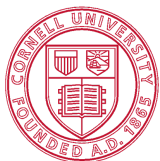
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2. I. Smythe stated that the sponsors did not mean to be partisan like that.
  3. J. Maynard offered a friendly amendment to place “all” in front of “relevant political representatives.”
  4. N. Stetson motioned to **call the question** on the amendment, there was no dissent, the amendment **passed** 15-0-3
- xii. A. Waymack motioned to call the question, there were no seconds, the motion failed.
  - xiii. E. Case motioned for a straw poll of voting members on whether to include Rep. Reed in the resolution language. The straw poll results were: 5 for including, 3 for excluding, 10 abstentions.
  - xiv. T. Snider noted that Rep. Reed has a statement on his website where he voices strong support for the executive order.
  - xv. M. Munasinghe noted that there is no whereas clause mentioning his statement. That makes it unclear why the resolution mentions him.
  - xvi. A. Waymack stated that she would prefer to keep the language about Rep. Reed in, rather than striking it maybe they could add a whereas clause about reaching out to Sens. Schumer and Gillibrand, and that Rep. Reed has his statement in support of the executive order.
  - xvii. J. Goldberg stated that he would keep Rep. Reed in, because of the three federal officials representing Ithaca, he’s the one Cornell hasn’t contacted. He said the GPSA should add a clause saying he’s the third of the three.
  - xviii. N. Stetson **motioned to amend** by adding a whereas clause to read “Whereas Cornell University has announced that it has contacted two out of the three federal legislators representing Ithaca, but has yet to announce formal contact with Representative Tom Reed; and” The amendment **passed** 15-0-3
  - xix. R. Walroth motioned to table the vote on Resolution 8 until after the discussion of Resolution 9. There were no votes for the motion.
  - xx. E. Case **motioned to amend** by adding “, who has released a statement in support of the Executive Order” in line 47, and a footnote link to the statement.



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1. C. Franklin motioned to close the speakers' list and vote on the amendment. There was not a two thirds majority in favor so the motion failed.
  2. M. Munasinghe offered a friendly amendment to line 43 “, who have released statements in opposition to the Executive Order.”
  3. E. Case’s amendment **passed** 15-0-3.
- xxi. T. Bollu motioned to **call the question** on the resolution.
- xxii. **Resolution 8 passed 15-0-3.**
- b. **Resolution 9: A Call for Action Regarding Cornell Students Facing Uncertainties in Academic Access**
- i. A. Loiben: this resolution is laying out what we want Cornell to do to help students affected by this executive order. Cornell should maintain their academic standing, and provide resources for them to continue with their degree.
  - ii. R. Walroth asked if the the Graduate School had seen this.
  - iii. I. Smythe stated that this resolution is talking about preemptive action in the face of future executive orders, but asked how can Cornell predict those actions.
  - iv. A. Loiben stated that this resolution raises the question of how prepared the Cornell administration is.
  - v. M. Munasinghe said that this is a commitment to students, less than specific actions.
  - vi. A. Waymack: we are in admissions season, some of the people applying are international students. A commitment like this from Cornell might make or break whether or not someone chooses to come here.
  - vii. T. Bollu stated that support from the Graduate School is appreciated. He thinks this resolution is essential because it talks about what Cornell can do.
  - viii. R. Walroth motioned to close the current speakers' list and table Resolution 9 until the next meeting. The vote was 9-4-5. Since there was not a majority in favor of closing the speakers' list, debate did not end.
  - ix. N. Stetson motioned to extend the meeting by 5 minutes, there was no dissent.



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- x. M. Munasinghe **motioned** to close the speakers' list and recommit Resolution 9 to the Student Advocacy Committee so it can be sent to the Graduate School for further consideration. The GPSA will reconsider it at its next meeting. The motion **passed** 11-3-4.

### VI. Business of the Day

- a. Provisional Election of GPSA Representatives to the University Assembly
  - i. A. Loiben and A. Waymack were nominated. Both were approved by unanimous consent.
  - ii. A motion was made to extend the meeting to 7:10 PM.

### VII. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates

- a. Executive: thanked all those who came to the leadership summit.
- b. Operations: nothing to report.
- c. Appropriations: asked for more people to join the committee.
- d. Communications: if you have anything you want shared on facebook talk to M. Munasinghe.
- e. Finance: the committee is reviewing budgets.
- f. Student Advocacy: the committee is working on two resolutions (8&9), and another resolution is in the works. The committee meets every other Thursday at 6:30 PM, email [aml372@cornell.edu](mailto:aml372@cornell.edu) if you're interested.
- g. Diversity and International Students: the committee will release a statement regarding a response to the recent executive order. The committee is compiling resources and gathering data about faculty recruitment as well.
- h. Programming: on March 3, there will be a Mardi Gras party with the Big Red Barn. Mixers are a bit different this term. Professional schools are going to have a mixer, and there will be a separate graduate school mixer. Grad Ball will be May 6.
- i. Graduate School: nothing to report.
- j. Faculty Awards: first meeting is Wednesday (2/08).
- k. General Committee of the Graduate School
  - i. About: the GC approves changes to the code of legislation, approves appointments of new faculty and makes recommendations for new advanced degrees. The GC is headed by Dean Knuth. Few graduate students



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know about the code of legislation or about the GC, urged GPSA members to google code of legislation.

- ii. Updates: Dean Knuth proposed an amendment to mandate a timely response for communication between the provost and affected parties in grievance cases. The Graduate School wants to create a review form for fields.

VIII. Open Forum

- a. A workers' compensation resolution was mentioned by an audience member.
- b. A motion was made to extend the meeting by 5 minutes, there was no dissent.
- c. A. Molitoris: Programming is looking to cosponsor a few more events. Email A. Molitoris if your group would be interested.
- d. R. Walroth **motioned** to formally request that the Appropriations Committee inform the GPSA whether it will help fund ASAP's trip to D.C. no later than the first meeting in March. There was no dissent and the motion **passed**.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Matthew Ferraro  
Clerk of the Assembly