

Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Minutes of the February 13, 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:* T. Bollu, E. Case, C. Franklin, J. Goldberg, M. Jodlowski, A. Loiben, J. Maynard, E. Michel, M. Milano, M. Munasinghe, L. Munguia, I. Smythe, T. Snider, Y. Tang, A. Waymack, E. Winarto.
- c. *Members Absent:* J. Bensus, R. Boylan, S. Hesse.
- d. *Also Present:* M. B. Grant, V. Pendakur.
- e. A motion was made to add Resolution 12 to New Business after Resolution 11, the motion was approved 13-0-6.
- f. A motion was made to move Resolution 11 before Resolution 9, the motion was approved unanimously.

II. Approval of the Minutes

- a. Minutes from the February 6, 2017 meeting
 - i. A motion was made to call the question on the minutes. The minutes were approved 13-0-6.

III. Presentations

- a. Mary Beth Grant, Associate Dean of Students: Student Child Care Grant Program
 - i. M. B. Grant then made her presentation on the Student Child Health Care Grant Program.
 - ii. M. Munasinghe asked how many people are rejected from this process and why.
 - iii. M. B. Grant responded that if they don't fit within the grant criteria they are rejected. About 4 or 5 applicants are rejected every year.
 - iv. J. Goldberg asked if M. B. Grant knew the grant as a percentage of income for a student vs. an employee.
 - v. M. B. Grant responded that the comparisons between students and employees are of like incomes.



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- b. Vijay Pendakur, Dean of Students
 - i. V. Pendakur then made his presentation. He stated that he sees his goal as Dean of Students as thinking about how to build a campus that is safe and healthy.
 - ii. N. Stetson asked if he could discuss specific initiatives he hopes to launch.
 - iii. V. Pendakur responded that we need to build some structure and coherence to bring together the many diversity efforts that are going on. Cornell is very decentralized, so from the top down, everyone needs to think of diversity. He is waiting a bit for President-designate Pollack to assume office.
 - iv. A. Waymack stated that the recent executive orders challenge diversity on campus, and asked what V. Pendakur sees as the role of Cornell in pushing for diversity and inclusion in this political climate.
 - v. V. Pendakur: Cornell's role in this broader political climate is on a tightrope. As a university that has a shaping presence in American higher education, this executive order complicates our goal to be a leader in research. He mentioned how Cornell has signed an amicus brief against the executive order in its pending appeal. Leadership has to be pensive in this climate. He thinks President Rawlings's letter was pretty bold.
 - vi. M. Munasinghe asked what else is the role for graduate and professional students in crafting his goals.
 - vii. V. Pendakur said he doesn't know yet. He wants to have a back and forth to see what our shared obligations are.
 - viii. I. Smythe stated that there is a lack of available data for health and wellness of graduate and professional students. He asked if V. Pendakur has any strategies about getting more data.
 - ix. V. Pendakur said they are looking at the issue. He said Cornell does a good job of data transparency for the data they do have, but he sees the need for more data.

IV. Breakout Session by Division

V. Old Business

a. Resolutions 11: Adopting Standing Rules (Nathaniel Stetson, EVP)



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- i. N. Stetson stated that the GPSA has two governing docs: the charter and the bylaws. Standing rules would enshrine how the GPSA does things a little differently from Robert's Rules. This would streamline the introduction of resolutions. During q&a, informational questions will be asked. In debate the sponsors will be able to amend by themselves. Also there can be friendly amendments.
 - ii. T. Snider stated that there's nothing in the resolution about expiration, and asked if the standing rules are intended for future GPSAs.
 - iii. N. Stetson responded yes, and the assembly can amend or rescind them.
 - iv. R. Walroth stated that the standing rules mention voting members and field representatives, but don't talk about ex-officio members and officers.
 - v. N. Stetson responded that the GPSA needs to amend the bylaws and the charter so ex-officio members and officers can speak. He clarified that everyone can do everything except vote; only voting members can vote.
 - vi. T. Bollu asked if it is a majority of those assembled or of seated members mentioned in the document. Quorum must be reached, but then it's a majority of those assembled.
 - vii. Quorum is two thirds of voting members.
 - viii. M. Munasinghe motioned to move into debate on Resolution 11, there was no dissent.
 - ix. I. Smythe noted that the standing rules require a supermajority to be amended or rescinded, but the bylaws don't need that. He then motioned to amend line 24 to delete "are the Field Representatives and Voting Members of the GPSA." The amendment was approved 16-0-3.
 - x. T. Snider motioned to call the question. Resolution 11 was approved 15-0-4.
- b. Resolution 9: A Call for Action Regarding Cornell Students Facing Uncertainties in Academic Access (SAC)**
- i. This resolution pertains to Cornell students in the case that they are barred from being on campus by executive orders. Under this, students will maintain their academic standing and Cornell will provide resources so that they can complete their degree.



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- ii. A. Natarajan asked if the sponsors have talked to the graduate school. He stated that lines 52-57 were maybe too broad.
- iii. J. Goldberg stated that the resolution is saying that they should do everything they can, not a specific set of things to do. Just do their best to address these issues.
- iv. A. Natarajan stated any future executive order is a lot to ask for.
- v. M. Munasinghe stated this is just limited to those who are restricted from moving.
- vi. It was asked that with the ramping up of deportations recently, does that fall under restriction of movement.
- vii. The sponsors replied yes.
- viii. N. Stetson stated DACA might be a separate but related issue because ICE doesn't need an executive order to do this.
- ix. I. Smythe stated it's not meant to exclude DACA.
- x. A. Natarajan asked about line 47, if they could ask the graduate school to do this, if it is reasonable.
- xi. J. Goldberg responded that it is reasonable.
- xii. I. Smythe stated that there are murmurs of a new executive order, that's why the sponsors are trying to be proactive.
- xiii. T. Snider motioned to **amend** line 4 to replace the word "amongst" with "within," and line 29, the word "will" with the word "may." This amendment was taken as friendly.
- xiv. J. Allen stated that the council of graduate schools is looking at a partnership with Canadian universities to address these issues.
- xv. A. Waymack stated McGill is already publicizing that they have extended their deadlines for student who may not want to go to the U.S. anymore.
- xvi. J. Goldberg motioned to **call the question**. Voting to vote on the resolution was approved 15-0-4.
- xvii. The resolution was then voted on. Resolution 9 was **approved** 15-0-4.

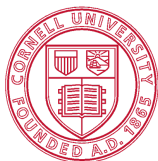
VI. New Business

a. **Resolution 10: (SAC)**



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- i. P. Berry introduced Resolution 10 and presented the history of similar workers' compensation resolutions attempted by the GPSA.
- ii. T. Snider stated that in line 43 the word "asserts" isn't a clarifying word, it's an asking word.
- iii. M. Munasinghe motioned to extend discussion on Resolution 10, there was no dissent.
- iv. A. Natarajan stated that line 52 is much more of an ask.
- v. P. Berry stated he's asking for a debate on the content of the resolution.
- vi. A. Loiben asked why P. Berry is doing this now.
- vii. P. Berry said he got news of the Dean spreading falsehoods, and he wanted to address this.
- viii. A. Waymack asked if the main sponsor withdrew sponsorship after Dean Knuth's email.
- ix. A. Loiben stated there was no formal sponsor, SAC formally sponsored this.
- x. P. Berry apologized to Alex, requesting that as an assembly they look into these issues.
- xi. R. Walroth motioned to extend the meeting by 15 minutes, there was no dissent.
- xii. T. Snider, about line 35, asked if it is clear that we're not covered. He asked if we should even ask for clarification if we know we're not covered.
- xiii. P. Berry stated the policy isn't listed publically, but it was in an email.
- xiv. A. Natarajan stated that if research for his thesis is considered work, he's in violation of his visa. They need to keep this in mind for international students.
- xv. P. Berry stated we should contact an actual lawyer before we pass this. There's a distinction between state and federal law on this issue.
- xvi. M. Munasinghe motioned to invite both a representative from the graduate school and a law faculty member to answer questions about this issue at the next meeting. The motion was approved 16-0-3.
- xvii. R. walroth motioned to table the resolution.
 1. A. loiben would like to recommit the resolution instead.
 2. The motion to table failed 0-14-5.



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- xviii. A. Waymack **motioned to recommit** the resolution to the SAC.
- xix. Resolution 10 was **recommitted** by a vote of 16-0-3.
- xx. A motion was made to extend the meeting to 7:20 PM, there was no dissent.

b. Resolution 12: In Support of the March for Science

- i. T. McCann introduced Resolution 12, which asks where ASAP is getting funding from. The appropriations committee is saying they'd like to fund two buses, and if ASAP gets more graduate students, then the GPSA will kick in funding for a third bus. The resolution asks that other funding ASAP gets will take precedence over GPSA funding.
- ii. I. Smythe asked if he knows anything preliminarily about their funding.
- iii. T. McCann stated that ASAP is going to the programming board, setting up a gofundme page, going to the graduate school, and looking at asking faculty to match donations, etc.
- iv. T. Snider asked if we know about comparison shopping (other bus companies).
- v. T. McCann said there was not comparison shopping, but the quote per bus will go down if they need more buses.
- vi. T. Snider asked when are signatories of the survey committed to attending.
- vii. T. McCann responded that there is a waiting list.
- viii. E. Case asked has ASAP asked students to contribute to this cost.
- ix. T. McCann stated ASAP's goal is to be 100% subsidized for students.
- x. R. Walroth **motioned to table** until the March 6 meeting, there was no dissent, the resolution was tabled.
- xi. Contact T. McCann with questions, concerns, etc.

VII. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates

- a. Executive: if you are not getting agenda emails, email Nate Stetson.
- b. Operations: trying to organize the first GPCI ad hoc committee, if you're not on dashboard email Manisha Munasinghe.
- c. Appropriations: requesting a person to serve on Anabel's executive board. T. Bolu volunteered.
- d. Communications: meet M. Munasinghe after meeting.
- e. Finance: has some money left over.



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- f. Student Advocacy: the next meeting was on February 23.
- g. Diversity and International Students: the next meeting was February 14.
- h. Programming: will email everyone with upcoming events.
- i. General Committee: the current system of how your advisor thinks you're doing is not very nuanced. Now you just give more information. We need feedback from graduate students to see what questions in the new system should be.
- j. Graduate School: we're the graduate school we're here to help.
- k. Faculty awards: plan is to do a professional award this year too.

VIII. Open Forum

- a. J. Goldberg had a survey from CGSU, trying to see what students care about, a preliminary data gathering thing. They are working on a google form.
- b. R. Walroth motion to adjourn, there was no dissent.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matthew Ferraro
Clerk of the Assembly