



Cornell University

Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

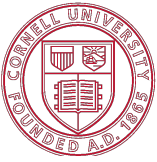
Cornell Graduate and Professional Student University Assembly

Minutes of the April 22nd, 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 5:07 p.m.
 - i. *Members Present:* F. Aclan, S. Bluhm, N. Brennan, D. Browne, K. Farrell, E. Forcier, A. Garcia-Ortiz, E. Gatz, D. Ghimire, B. Hayes, M. Heeney, K. Jaffry, S. Karaikal, O. Karim, A. Koyyada, A. Lagressa, J. Lopez, Z. Lynch, B. Sarmah, S. Sepp, G. Smits, R. Thakore, M. Matthews
 - ii. *Members Absent:* T. Dixon, K. Glinski, S. Matan, A. McGraw, D. Parekh, B. Patel, V. Yeh
 - iii. *Also Present:* K. Boor, J. Withers
- II. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda
 - a. M. Matthews added a presentation by Robert Weiss, new Senior Associate Dean of the Graduate School.
 - b. M. Matthews removed the approval of the April 8th meeting minutes because the GPSA did not have a quorum during that meeting, removing the need for minutes.
 - c. M. Matthews added Resolution 8, regarding updating Appendix B of the GPSA Charter, from D. Browne.
- III. Presentation by Robert Weiss, Senior Associate Dean of the Graduate School
 - a. Introduction of personal background and the Weiss Lab.
 - b. Snapshot of the Biomedical & Biological Sciences PhD Program Weiss oversees, description of Cornell's graduate fields in biology and life sciences.
 - c. Introduction of the Graduate School's training grant support efforts.
- IV. Introduction of the Business of the Day
- V. Breakout Session by Field
 - a. For the sake of time, there were no breakout sessions.
- VI. Business of the Day
 - a. O. Dunn-Hindle's Resolution 7: Joint Committee on Cornell University's Corporate Social Responsibility and ESG Policies



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- i. Seeing no comments from the GPSA, M. Matthews entertained a motion to move to the previous question and received a motion and a second.
 - ii. The motion passed unanimously, 20 to 0 to 0.
 - b. From D. Browne, Resolution 8: Updating Appendix B of the GPSA Charter.
 - i. While waiting for D. Browne to upload the resolution, the GPSA moved onto Reports of Officers and Committee Updates before returning to Resolution 8.
 - ii. D. Browne highlighted updates to language, removal of excess, and formatting changes. M. Matthews noted that the old appendix is available on the website for people to compare.
- VII. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates
 - a. Executive Committee
 - i. M. Matthews promoted the upcoming GPSA elections and encouraged meeting participants to nominate themselves for GPSA leadership and spread the word to increase participation. M Heeney also announced that there would be a University Assembly meeting on April 23rd on the Interim Expressive Activity Policy.
 - b. Operations
 - i. The GPSA Bylaw Update Project is meeting soon and making progress.
 - c. Appropriations
 - i. None
 - d. Communications
 - i. A. Garcia-Ortiz encouraged meeting participants to run for the Vice President of Communications position.
 - e. Finance
 - i. None
 - f. Student Advocacy
 - i. None
 - g. Diversity and International Students
 - i. None.
 - h. Programming
 - i. K. Farrell announced more information on the Gala and remaining volunteer positions.
 - i. Graduate School
 - i. Dean Boor announced that there was a pilot program on a faculty member offering counseling to graduate students and that the results are promising.



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The Graduate School is also close to bringing a new person aboard the Office of Student Life. Plus, happy hour!

VIII. Open Forum

- a. S. Sepp asked for more information on the undergraduate referendums on the War in Gaza and the GPSA's involvement and representation in the Joint Committee on Cornell University's Corporate Social Responsibility and ESG Policies.
 - i. M. Heeny introduced the issue and spoke about the process of divestment under Cornell rules.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anthony Wang
Clerk of the Assembly