



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

Cornell Graduate and Professional Student University Assembly

Minutes of the March 28th, 2024 Meeting

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Room 401, Physical Sciences Building | Zoom

- I. Call to Order
 - a. M. Heeney called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.
 - i. *Members Present:* F. Aclan, S. Bluhm, N. Brennan, D. Browne, T. Dixon, K. Farrell, A. Garcia-Ortiz, E. Gatz, D. Ghimire, M. Heeney, K. Jaffry, S. Karaikal, O. Karim, A. Koyyada, A. Lagressa, J. Lopez, Z. Lynch, S. Matan, B. Sarmah, S. Sepp, G. Smits, R. Thakore, M. Matthews
 - ii. *Members Absent:* T. Dixon, E. Forcier, K. Glinski, B. Hayes, A. McGraw, D. Parekh, B. Patel, V. Yeh
 - iii. *Also Present:* K. Boor, J. Withers
- II. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda
 - a. None.
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Approved minutes from the March 11th meeting by unanimous consent.
- IV. Introduction of the Business of the Day
 - a. Discussion of Resolution 6: GPSAFC Guidelines
 - b. M. Heeney Discussion on University Assembly response to the Interim Expressive Activity Policy. Heeney stated that the University Assembly plans to oppose the policy, and that she is collecting feedback and comments on the policy. Heeney also introduced the policy's connection to ongoing divestment efforts in university governance.
- V. Office of the University Ombuds Presentation by Bruce Lewenstein
 - a. University Ombuds Bruce Lewenstein presented to the GPSA on the Office of the University Ombuds, its principles, services, and role at Cornell.
- VI. Breakout Session by Field
 - a. The GPSA divided into randomized breakout sessions and discussed the business of the day.
- VII. Business of the Day



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- a. GPSAFC Exemption Guideline for Field Groups
 - i. Z. Lynch answered questions on funding for field groups in previous years and defining field groups.
 - ii. O. Karim, M. Heeney, N. Brennan, and other GPSA members discussed the merits of the amendment and equity among student organizations and the balance of funding between tier levels.
 - iii. Lynch pointed out that some departments, like his own, have small numbers of students to start out with, hurting funding for low-membership groups in the field.
 - iv. M. Heeney brought up the idea of capping the number of funding tiers a group could maintain or move up to one in a single academic year. After more discussion, G. Dunn-Hindle moved to amend the amendment to that effect. The sponsor took it as friendly, incorporating it immediately.
 - v. M. Matthews entertained a motion to the previous question, O. Karim moved and N. Brennan seconded.
 - vi. The resolution passed, 15 in favor, 2 opposed, with 3 abstentions.
- b. Discussion on University Assembly response to the Interim Expressive Activity Policy
 - i. M. Heeney introduced the UA's search for feedback on the policy.
 - ii. K. Boor described the introduction of the Interim Expressive Activity Policy from the University's perspective. Boor said that Cornell's new General Counsel and the University did not expect for the policy to be so controversial, and that the University plans to repair it. Boor talked about her belief in the importance of protest, and the importance of establishing clear boundaries of protest.
 - iii. O. Karim, M. Heeney, and other GPSA members talked about the timing of the policy, its limitations, and the need for clarifications to the policy.
 - iv. M. Matthews told members to email M. Heeney after the meeting to give more comments.

VIII. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates

- a. Executive Committee
 - i. M. Matthews talked about upcoming elections for GPSA positions and voting. Matthews encouraged members to talk to their departments and friends to increase voter turnout.
 - ii. M. Heeney and K. Jaffry are working on transit issues and speaking to transit authorities at TCAT and Parking Services.



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- iii. The Graduate School wants a GPSA member to join the search committee to review applicants to hire a new Graduate Student Life Advisor.
- b. Operations
 - i. N. Brennan and Z. Lynch talked about progress on the Bylaw Revisions Project and an upcoming meeting to set up amendments next semester.
- c. Appropriations
 - i. None
- d. Communications
 - i. A. Garcia-Ortiz talked about the communique and efforts to increase voter awareness of upcoming elections.
- e. Finance
 - i. None
- f. Student Advocacy
 - i. None
- g. Diversity and International Students
 - i. K. Ghodke spoke about upcoming DISC social events.
- h. Programming
 - i. More tickets to the upcoming gala are coming out soon.
- i. Graduate School
 - i. K. Boor said the Graduate School made a new hire in the Fellowships Office. She is also guest hosting Big Red Barn Trivia Night on March 26th and encouraged GPSA members to attend!

IX. Open Forum

- i. None

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anthony Wang
Clerk of the Assembly