



GPSA Resolution # 15

Ensuring Equal Representation for Professional Students in the GPSA

April 8, 2018

- 1 **Sponsored by: Manisha Munasinghe, Executive Vice President, GPSA; Matthew Battaglia,**
2 **Ex-Officio Member, GPSA**
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- 4 **Whereas,** the Preamble to the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GPSA) Charter
5 states: “The purpose of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly is to ensure a
6 direct focus for the continued involvement of graduate and professional school students
7 in the governance of non-academic affairs and in the life of the University, as well as to
8 foster an increased sense of community among all constituencies through shared
9 responsibilities.”; and
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- 11 **Whereas,** by its nature, the Assembly is charged with representing the unique and shared needs
12 of both graduate as well as professional students; and
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- 14 **Whereas,** professional students currently makeup approximately one third of the total graduate
15 and professional student body with an increasing overall enrollment; and
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- 17 **Whereas,** the three professional schools currently are allocated approximately 15% of the voting
18 seats on the GPSA and approximately 3-4% of the field representative seats; and
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- 20 **Whereas,** this incongruence is contrary to the purpose of the GPSA, underweights the needs of
21 the professional student body, and focuses the representation and composition of the
22 GPSA primarily around the graduate student community; and
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- 24 **Whereas,** with the GPSA undertaking extensive discussions about restructuring it is crucial to
25 ensure that professional students are well represented within the Assembly; and
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- 27 **Whereas,** while the discussion concerning restructuring is ongoing it is unjust to the professional
28 student community to continue to underweight their voice in the Assembly’s voting
29 membership; and
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- 31 **Whereas,** increasing the number of professional student seats proportionally retains the current
32 balance between the three professional schools and partly ameliorates the overall



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

33 representative imbalance; therefore

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35 **Be it Therefore Resolved**, that the GPSA Charter § 4.04 §§ B be amended to read:

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37 B. There shall be **twenty-seven (27)** Voting members, composed as follows:

38 i. **Four (4)** graduate **or professional** students enrolled in Master's degree programs as
39 follows: **One (1) at-large, one (1) Master of Public Administration, one (1) Master of**
40 **Engineering, and one (1) Masters of Industrial & Labor Relations.**

41 ii. Fourteen (14) from the divisions of the Graduate School as follows: three (3) from
42 Humanities, three (3) from Biological Sciences, four (4) from Physical Sciences, and four
43 (4) from Social Sciences.

44 iii. **Nine (9)** professional students, **three (3)** each from the Samuel Curtis Johnson School
45 of Business, Cornell Law School, and College of Veterinary Medicine.

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47 **Be It Finally Resolved**, the Assembly notes that the number of field representatives allocated for
48 professional schools is not adequate to represent the size of the professional student
49 community and instructs the Operations and Staffing Committee to ensure proposals on
50 restructuring consult professional students and include adequate provision for
51 professional student representation within the Assembly.