



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Minutes of the February 11, 2019 Meeting

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Bache Auditorium, Malott Hall

I. Call to Order

- a. E. Winarto called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm
- b. Members Present: E. Winarto, W. Anderson, K. Angierski, A. Barrientos-Gómez, A. Ruival, J. Bogdanowicz, R. Harrison, M. Jodlowski, V. Kasonde, E. Lavin (Substitute), C. Mittan, K. Palumbo, D. Parker, W. Zhang, , N. London, D. Geisler, D. Arora, A. Cohn, M. Kalaji, K. Krishnan
- c. Members Absent: S. Chin, S. Theobald, N. Carre, J. Kent-Dobias, A. Woods, K. Esannason (Substitute: E. Lavin)

II. Approval of the Minutes

- a. Minutes from January 28, 2018 **Passes** with no dissent

III. Presentations

- a. Kasey Schalich, PhD Candidate in Animal Science and Maddy Keefe, PhD Student in Animal Science, CALS Compost Petition:
 - i. M. Keefe: We have a composting program that was inspired by the movie wasted by Anthony Bourdain. CALS does not have a universal program but they have started their own. There are many other campus organizations that compost. Calling for a universal campus wide composting program. They have debunked some of the obstacles. They have a rough draft of a draft that proposes for CALS to start a composting program. The program would align with CALS sustainability goals and it is fiscally sustainable. They have petition sign-up sheet and would like the support.
 - ii. A. Barrientos-Gomez: do you have a platform online?

- iii. M. Keefe: No but that it is a good idea
 - iv. M. Battaglia: You guys should consider West Campus locations, and reach out to Cornell dining to why they do not compost anymore
 - v. M. Keefe: good Idea
 - vi. L. Louis: Where does the compost go to?
 - vii. M. Keefe: Everyone has their own companies, for us we have volunteers drop it off at a dump sight.
 - viii. L. Louis: I live downtown and would like to compost, what can I do? Can there be bins in the commons
 - ix. M. Keefe: We would like to do that but we would need volunteers, the only option now would be private companies.
 - x. A. Loiben: The compost posters can be confusing, how can you make what can be composted more clear
 - xi. M. Keefe: we are working on trying to enlighten people, we currently have a poster similar to mandibles
 - xii. S. Bosco: Come find me or mail me if you want to know more or sign the petition.
- b. Janna Lamey, Assistant Dean of Graduate Student Life and Catherine Thrasher-Carroll, Director of the Mental Health Promotion Program, Mental Health Framework:
- i. J. Lamey: Mental health is physiological, social, and emotional well-being. It can flourish and be poor, and it can be improved. Mental health requires a campus wide support and community response.
 - ii. C. Thrasher-Carroll: We need clinical services, but there is also a role for everyone as part of the campus community.
 - iii. J. Lamey: What the Graduate School has great data about safety, health, and well-being through services, and we used that information to better our services. We are also now starting to focus on Student Disability Services.
 - iv. C. Thrasher-Carroll: What Cornell Health does we have worked hard to

make medical and mental services accessible. We have worked with other leaders to show that it is ok to get help it is a strength and not weakness. We support mental health wellbeing as part of being a successful student. WISE is a program working with faculty to help communicate and find ways faculty can help support student mental health.

- v. J. Lamey: We have GPS Mental Health Advisor Student Council. We have met twice and have talk about DGS best practices and are Piloting programs to help build graduate student resilience. We also have a friend to friend bystander intervention video
- vi. C. Thrasher-Carroll: We talk about the differences between graduate and undergraduate student differences in mental health. We have also spread the Let's Mediate program.
- vii. J. Lamey: My Voice and My Story is meant to spark conversation about different lived stories and acceptance. Inter dialogue project. GPS DC are also a source of support.
- viii. C. Thrasher-Carroll: Positive social connection is extremely important that can get lost, having fun, taking breaks are ways to building resilience from challenging situations. It is ok to prioritize and focus on meaning and purpose. "Growth Mindset" all aspects of our lives can grow and improved.
- ix. J. Lamey: Some programs we have are Perspective, Transition, Weekly Walk, Spark, Big Red Barn along with the Gratitude program, and book clubs. We also have NextGen Professor Program and Path way to success.
- x. C. Mittan: You mention you were training faculty about mental health we have been talking about that in my department
- xi. C. Thrasher-Carroll: Yes, they came in talked to us and we are working with them about relativity and other topics
- xii. M. Battaglia: Is there anything we can do to help
- xiii. J. Lamey: The more student engagement or ideas the better, we would love more communication it would be very helpful
- xiv. C. Thrasher-Carroll: If you have ideas please send it to us
- xv. P. Vinhage: Are they any mechanism being thought to police faculty on causing mental health? Can leave of absence student serve on the mental health council?

- xvi. J. Lamey: Yes, they can serve on the council.
- xvii. C. Thrasher-Carroll: Even faculty want to hold their peers accountable.
- xviii. A representative: For the review Cornell's state of mental health how much of that will be held accountable for?
- xix. C. Thrasher-Carroll: We would
- xx. K. Palumbo: What is your opinion on the reach of these program and the GPS community
- xxi. J. Lamey: We are not reaching saturation, we want to do more and reach more people
- xxii. A representative: Is there a response about how the university is treating some of its students, and the health leave of absence.
- xxiii. C. Thrasher-Carroll: We have made small changes but we are ready to help make changes once the review comes out.
- xxiv. A representative: when will the review be complete
- xxv. C. Thrasher-Carroll: It depends on the availability of external reviewers. It will be a process and we cannot say definitively when it will come out.
- c. Breanne Kisselstein, Chair of the Student Advocacy Committee and Mental Health Section of the GPCI, Mental Health Initiatives:
 - i. B. Kisselstein: GPCI and the GPSA Student Advocacy committee has combined efforts: The GPCI has been trying layout short term achievable goals. The focusing being on are student-advisor relationship, reducing mental health service demand, and over all wellbeing. Other groups also working on the same goals are Cornell Heath, Coalition on Mental Health, Student Health Benefits Committee and more. We also have a retreat coming up on December 14th, and on May 3rd we have a Bad Advising talk. Data from Cornell Health shows there is increased utilization of student groups, and the misconception that grad students are more often referred because we are not a priority is not true. There will also be more advertising for outdoor recreation. The big event coming up is the Dine and Discuss is meant to talk about our ideas about mental health please RSVP. Feel free to email me (bmk76@cornell.edu)

IV. Division Breakout (20 Minutes)

- a. Motion: to do committee updates then division break out
- b. No dissent, **Passes**

V. Committee Q&A (10 Minutes)

- a. Exec: if you do have a placard let me know
- b. Operations: Focus groups on housing coming up
- c. Communications: none
- d. Appropriations: none
- e. Finance: none
- f. Student: none
- g. Diversity: DISC will be having an event in response to the incident at Duke and multi linguisticism. Let me know if you want to be added to list-serve or come to our meetings. The transfer to canvas has been going well, let us know if you have any question about the transitions
- h. Programming: There is a grad school mixer Feb 21st from 6-8pm at Big Red Barn
- i. Faculty awards If you would like to join let me know.
- j. General: none
- k. Grad: none
- l. GPCI: There is area chair meeting on Thursday at 12pm.

VI. Division Breakout

- a. Committee updates

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashlynn Lee

Clerk of the Assembly