

Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Minutes of the January 31, 2022 Meeting

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

398 Statler Hall

- I. Call to Order
 - a. P. Hanley called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM.
- II. Roll Call
 - a. *Present* [18]: S. Bright-Thonney, K. Cram, R. Epstein, S. Graham, K. Karnuta, D. Kent, A. Khlyustova, G. Li, P. Mehta, M. Minelli, C. O'Connor, A. Patel, D. Sharp, C. Steingard, J. Timmons, J. Washington, M. Welch, A. Wunsch
 - b. *Absent* [15]: A. Alsamari, C. Anklin, B. Carver, C. Day, J. Dotzel, C. Duell, N. Gonzalez, B. Hayes, A. Inayatali, C. Liu, S. Lopez, C. Ohenewah, N. Perez, G. Smits, W. Wang
 - c. *Guests/Non-Voting Members* [5]: J. Allen, Dean K. Boor, G. Giambattista, P. Hanley, W. Treat
- III. Late Additions to the Agenda
 - a. K. Cram moved that an election be conducted for the Social Sciences Representative seat that had been previously held by M. Welch.
- IV. Approval of the Meeting Minutes
 - a. November 29, 2021
 - i. The meeting minutes were **approved** by unanimous consent.
- V. New Business
 - a. Elections
 - i. Finance Committee Chair
 1. C. Steingard nominated A. Murtha for the position. The nomination was seconded by C. O'Connor.
 2. C. Steingard spoke about the role of the GPSA FC, noting that the Finance Commission was responsible for allocating a portion of the student activity fee to student organizations as they requested it. The chair oversees the allocation process and manages a committee of approximately 13 to 15 members. The committee would meet once a month to discuss the requests submitted by student organizations and maintain the GPSA FC guidelines.
 3. A. Murtha accepted the nomination and introduced themselves to the assembly.
 4. A. Murtha was **elected** as the GPSA Finance Committee Chair with 33 votes in favor and 2 abstentions.
 - ii. Appropriations Committee Chair



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1. P. Hanley and G. Giambattista presented on the role of the Appropriations Committee and the Appropriations Committee Chair.
 2. K. Karnuta nominated N. Moore for the position of Appropriations Committee Chair; the nomination was seconded by N. Danev.
 3. N. Moore introduced themselves to the assembly.
 4. N. Moore was **elected** as the Appropriations Committee Chair with 32 votes in favor and 1 abstention.
- iii. Social Sciences Representative
1. K. Cram nominated M. Matthews; the nomination was seconded by K. Karnuta.
 2. M. Matthews accepted the nomination and introduced themselves to the assembly.
 3. M. Matthews was **elected** with 30 votes in favor and 1 abstention.
- VI. Breakout Session by Division
- VII. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates
- a. Executive Committee
 - i. D. Sharp stated that the assembly would go back to in-person meetings following the University guidelines, but added that all the future meetings for the rest of the term would be hybrid. If the in-person attendance were to diminish substantially, the assembly would change rooms and meet in a new location.
 - ii. P. Hanley stated that there were several on-campus committees and offices looking for GPSA representatives including the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards and the Gorge Safety Committee.
 - iii. K. Cram and K. Karnuta also noted that a GPSA representative was needed for the University Assembly Welfare Committee.
 - b. Operations
 - i. K. Cram informed members to reach out to her or P. Hanley if they were interested in joining any of the committees previously mentioned.
 - ii. P. Hanley informed the assembly of the Ivy League Career Fair for Graduate and Professional students on March 29th. P. Hanley stated that each school was expected to invite two alumni speakers to speak about their careers and that the Cornell GPSA was in charge of inviting two speakers from the non-profit and academic sectors.
 - c. Appropriations
 - i. No updates were reported.
 - d. Communications

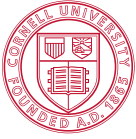


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- i. G. Li stated that she would be sending out an email to each committee chair to collect their input for the newsletter that would be sent out during the week of February 7th.
 - ii. P. Hanley informed the assembly about an upcoming presentation on a smart waste receptacle program.
 - iii. K. Karnuta gave an update on a resolution put forth by the Faculty Senate bringing attention to the lack of adequate infrastructure for pools on campus. The resolution was calling for a portion of the funds from the “to do the greatest good” campaign should be allocated to building an auditorium. K. Karnuta also encouraged members to share any issues they would like to see addressed by the Welfare Committee.
 - e. Finance
 - i. A. Murtha stated that the first meeting of the semester would be tomorrow night and the committee would be reviewing submitted budgets.
 - f. Student Advocacy
 - i. No updates were reported.
 - g. Diversity and International Students
 - i. P. Mehta stated that the first meeting was held on Saturday.
 - h. Programming
 - i. K. Karnuta informed members of the study kits nomination event that the Programming committee had conducted at the end of the last semester for Finals. K. Karnuta also informed members of a training run by the Student Activities Office that covers the financial side of running events. Lastly, K. Karnuta stated that the committee was still working on recruiting members.
 - i. Faculty Awards
 - i. No updates were reported.
 - j. General Committee & Graduate School
 - i. Dean Boor thanked the assembly members for their leadership and encouraged members to read the Monday night Graduate announcements for detailed information on available opportunities.

VIII. Open Forum

- a. D. Kent spoke on his experiences of the Graduate student relationship with the COVID-19 policies. He noted that concerning the COVID situation, resolutions were not an effective way to address GPSA concerns because of the rapidly changing environment. D. Kent asked about the possibility of setting up a system or ad hoc committee for Graduate student voices to be heard and policies to be implemented quicker regarding the University’s COVID response. Discussion ensued on the topic.



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- b. A. Wunsch asked G. Li about the procedure for having a survey link included in the next GPSA newsletter.
 - i. G. Li stated that the survey link and description could be emailed to her.
 - ii. P. Hanley added that members can reach out if there were any items they wanted to have advertised in the newsletter.
 - iii. G. Li reminded members to send her any information about newsletter content by the upcoming Friday.
 - iv. P. Hanley encouraged members to reach out to him if they had any speakers or presenters they wanted at a GPSA meeting for the semester.

IX. Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Auriole C. R. Fassinou
Clerk of the Assembly