

Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Minutes of the November 1, 2021 Meeting

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

398 Statler Hall

- I. Call to Order
 - a. P. Hanley called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.
- II. Roll Call
 - a. *Present* [18]: B. Carver, K. Carter-Cram, C. Duell, R. Epstein, A. Inayatali, D. Kent, G. Li, C. Liu, P. Mehta, M. Minelli, C. O'Connor, C. Ohenewah, A. Presher, D. Sharp, G. Smits, C. Steingard, W. Wang, J. Washington
 - b. *Absent* [13]: C. Anklin, M. Balch, S. Bright-Thonney, C. Day, J. Dotzel, N. Gonzalez, B. Hayes, A. Khlyustova, D. Lanes, J. Levin, S. Lopez, M. Welch, A. Wunsch
 - c. *Guests/Non-Voting Members* [3]: J. Forbes, P. Hanley, W. Treat
- III. Late Additions to the Agenda
 - a. K. Carter-Cram moved to add “GPSA R9: Amending the Charter of the GPSA to Fill Vacant Voting Member Seats” to the Agenda.
 - b. K. Carter-Cram also informed the assembly of a vacant seat in the Social Sciences Division, that was now open to all GPSA members.
- IV. Approval of the Meeting Minutes
 - a. October 18, 2021
 - i. The meeting minutes were **approved** unanimously.
- V. Presentations
 - a. Jennifer Forbes, Director of Big Red Barn – Refer to “Big Red Barn Presentation to the GPSA” PowerPoint on OA Website
 - i. A member of the assembly asked how far in advance J. Forbes would recommend setting a reservation to use the Big Red Barn.
 1. J. Forbes stated that there was a minimum requirement of 2-weeks before the event to ensure staff availability for the event. Depending on the length of the event and the extent of involvement, the space could be booked up to a year in advance. J. Forbes recommended reserving the space early with the current event details and providing further details as the event was planned.
 - ii. A member of the assembly asked if events hosted in the Big Red Barn had to be open to all Graduate Students or a specific group.
 1. J. Forbes stated that organizers could choose either. J. Forbes added that if the event was open to all Graduate Students, then advertisement in the Big Red Barn Newsletter would be free. Events that were for a specific group or had a fee for entry would not receive free advertising in the Big Red Barn Newsletter.



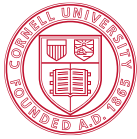
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- iii. An assembly member asked if an event organizer was planning an event to be held at the Big Red Barn and wanted popcorn as a snack, should they contact the Big Red Barn with information on the number of people the event would need popcorn for.
 1. J. Forbes stated that the Big Red Barn staff would already know the number of people the event was expecting since it would have been included in the online request. If the event organizer needed more popcorn during the event, they could inform the Big Red Barn staff to make more.
 - iv. J. Washington asked what would happen if a student were to lose a Gift Card.
 1. J. Forbes noted that the Big Red Barn staff would not be able to replace lost Gift Cards since they function like cash.
 2. J. Washington asked if there would be a way to search for the purchasing record.
 - a. J. Forbes stated that she would look into it.
 - v. C. Duell asked if there has been a struggle with getting students to engage with the Big Red Barn recently.
 1. J. Forbes stated that there was not a struggle for engagement at TGIF and there were also plenty of people at the programs. J. Forbes stated that she did want to see more students come into the Big Red Barn in general. J. Forbes noted that bookings were down in general because of the restriction on food serving as a hindrance.
- VI. Breakout Session by Division
- VII. New Business
- a. Elections
 - i. Arts & Humanities Student Voting Member (2 Vacancies)
 1. *There were no nominations.*
 - ii. Social Sciences Student Voting Member (1 Vacancy)
 1. *There were no nominations.*
 - b. Resolution 6: Paperless Agendas for GPSA Meetings
 - i. Abstract: This resolution ends the printing and distribution of paper agendas, resolutions, and minutes for regular GPSA meetings and establishes a means by which members may request such printing if it is necessary or helpful in order to enable meeting participation.
 - ii. B. Carver expressed his support of the resolution noting that a majority of members generally had their computers in front of them regularly, so printing frequently was an unnecessary waste of paper. He noted that a potential drawback would be the possibility of distractions on devices, but



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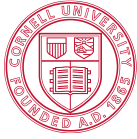
- stated that he believed all members were mature enough to handle using digital devices at the meetings.
- iii. B. Carver moved to **Call the Question** and the motion was seconded.
 - iv. The resolution was **approved** 17-0-0.
- c. Resolution 7: GPSA Internal Budget for the 2020-2021 Term
- i. Abstract: This resolution establishes the GPSA Internal Budget for the 2021-2022 term.
 - ii. J. Washington asked for clarification on the “fund” mentioned in Line 29.
 1. B. Carver stated that the “fund” was referring to the \$35,000 fund serving as the emergency fund established on Line 27.
 - iii. J. Washington also asked for clarification on Line 41 regarding the Ivy Summit and whether it was supposed to say \$15,000 or \$1,500.
 1. B. Carver stated that it should say \$1,500.
 - iv. J. Washington moved to amend Line 29; the amendment was seconded.
 1. C. Duell rose to a **Point of Clarification** and asked for J. Washington’s proposed language for Line 29.
 2. B. Carver stated that Line 29 would be amended to read “...that use of this needs-based support line shall be administered by...”
 3. The resolution was **amended** unanimously.
 - v. J. Washington moved to amend Line 41 by striking out “\$1,5000” and replacing it with “\$1,500”. The amendment was seconded by D. Sharp, and the resolution was **amended** unanimously.
 - vi. A member of the assembly asked about the Headroom the GPSA had with the creation of the \$35,000 needs-based support fund. As a follow-up, the assembly member asked if the budget was accounting for the cash leftover from the previous year.
 1. B. Carver stated that since the budget was based on the number of enrolled students, the same funding allocation was being maintained per student, but the overall budget lump sum would increase by \$15,000. The \$20,000 payment to Anabel’s Grocery was being replaced with a \$35,000 payment to the needs-based support fund. B. Carver stated that the budget was not taking into account the reserve funding, noting that there should be approximately \$70,000 in reserve after the \$20,000 to Anabel’s Grocery.
 - vii. B. Carver moved to **Call the Question** and the motion was seconded.
 - viii. The resolution was **approved** 18-0-0.
- d. Resolution 8: Proposed Charter Amendment for the 2022-2024 Byline Funding Cycle
- i. Abstract: This resolution amends the GPSA Charter Appendix A for the 2022-2024 Byline Funding Cycle. The change allows the Chair of the



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Appropriations Committee to act without a committee, in coordination with the Executive Committee. This is necessitated by unforeseen delays in the election of the Chair and no committee members as yet appointed.

- ii. B. Carver also noted that the resolution would extend the Byline Funding process so final recommendations could be made by the last meeting of the term rather than the last meeting in November.
 - iii. P. Hanley noted that the resolution was a Charter amendment and would thus not be able to be voted on until next semester since the Charter required two meetings from the date the Resolution was introduced to the Assembly for a vote to take place.
 - iv. W. Treat rose to a **Point of Information**, stating that with the scheduling of the semester, the final meeting would be November 29th so the assembly may need to call a special meeting for the resolution.
 - v. B. Carver stated that he planned to have the recommendations completed by November 29th so hopefully there would not need to be a special meeting if the resolution was approved on the same day as the recommendations were presented. B. Carver asked if the resolution would require a two-thirds majority vote of voting members at the meeting or of all voting members.
 1. P. Hanley stated that it would be a two-thirds majority vote of all voting members.
 2. C. Duell stated that there would need to be at least 21 voting members present and voting for the resolution if there were 31 voting members total.
 - vi. There was discussion on whether the resolution would need to be Tabled or not with D. Sharp concluding that per the guidelines of the Charter, the resolution would not need to be formally Tabled through a motion.
- e. Resolution 9: Amending the Charter of the GPSA to Fill Vacant Voting Member Seats
- i. Abstract: Reaching a quorum and being able to vote on GPSA resolutions is of the utmost importance. Different graduate and professional divisions have not been able to fill voting member vacancies within the GPSA. Currently there is not a mechanism to fill these specific vacancies with graduate and professional students who are willing to serve.
 - ii. K. Carter-Cram introduced the resolution noting that it would amend the Charter to open voting member vacancies after the fourth meeting, to all graduate and professional students.
 - iii. C. Duell asked about the mechanisms available for removing voting members that were not participating in the body.
 1. P. Hanley stated that he was not completely aware of the rules outlined by the Charter regarding that, but believed that voting



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- members with three absences without prior notification could be removed. P. Hanley noted that he would check on the specifics.
- iv. P. Hanley stated that the purpose of the resolution was to allow graduate and professional students to participate as voting members even if their respective divisions and programs already had individuals in the role. He added that it did not make sense to have lots of vacancies along with interested individuals and not be able to fill the vacancies because of Division restrictions.
 - v. C. Duell stated that Section 4.06 in the GPSA Charter was nearly identical to the changes proposed by GPSA R9.
 1. P. Hanley stated that some of the current vacancies were never filled to begin with, so GPSA R9 would take that into consideration. For example, the newly vacated Social Sciences Voting Member position would stay on the Agenda because it was previously filled.
 - vi. There was further discussion on the resolution, with C. Duell suggesting to move the Charter change to Line 249 (Section 4.06) instead of adding on after Line 202.
 - vii. W. Treat rose to a **Point of Information** noting that amendments to the Charter and Bylaws would be voted on within two regularly scheduled meetings after presentation, so the assembly would not need to wait until November 29th to vote on the amending resolutions.
 - viii. K. Carter-Cram stated that the distinction should be made that Line 249 is speaking to seats that become vacant during the semester whereas Line 202 is speaking on seats that were never filled and the distinction should be kept. However, K. Carter-Cram expressed agreement with C. Duell noting that everything regarding filling vacant seats should be kept in one section.
 - ix. C. Duell moved to amend the Resolution by amending the **Be it therefore resolved** clause to say, “that line 249 to line 251 of the GPSA Charter shall be amended to say, ‘If one of the seats representing a Division of the Graduate School becomes vacant during the term of office or remains vacant after the fourth meeting of the term, that seat is thrown open as “at-large,” and a member may be elected from among the entire GPSA membership.’”
 1. The amendment was second and approved unanimously. The resolution was **amended**.

VIII. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates

a. Executive Committee – D. Sharp

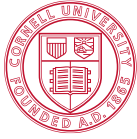
- i. D. Sharp informed the assembly of the Ivy+ Summit that happened over the past weekend. The Executive Committee went to UPenn and spoke with the other Ivy Leagues along with MIT and UChicago. D. Sharp stated that the



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committee received a lot of useful information and would be sharing a PowerPoint with members on some of the concerns the other universities had mentioned to see if they were concerns felt by the assembly. D. Sharp stated that one idea they heard about from other university delegates was holding group events after the meetings and stated that the Executive Committee would like to start doing the same. He stated that J. Forbes was willing to keep the Big Red Barn open after the next GPSA meeting and it would serve as a place for assembly members to get together and relax after the meeting.

- ii. D. Sharp also stated that President Pollack, VP Lombardi, Dean Boor, and Jan Allen would be in attendance at the next GPSA meeting on November 15th.
 1. P. Hanley informed members that if they had any questions for President Pollack, they would need to send them in by November 8th.
- b. Operations – K. Carter-Cram
 - i. K. Carter-Cram stated that all GPSA voting members were required to serve on a GPSA-specific committee and members had until midnight to send in their committee preference, or they would be assigned to a committee by the Operations Committee.
- c. Appropriations – B. Carver
 - i. No Updates
- d. Communications – G. Li
 - i. G. Li stated that she would put an advertisement on the GPSA social media sites about the happy hour being held after the next meeting. Secondly, G. Li informed the assembly that the committee was still accepting GPSA highlights for Instagram and informed members to send her their photo along with a short paragraph describing their role in the GPSA and on campus. Lastly, G. Li informed members to email her if they had anything they wanted to advertise.
 - ii. A member of the assembly moved to extend the meeting by 10 minutes; the motion was seconded, and the meeting was extended by 10 minutes.
- e. Finance – C. Steingard
 - i. No Updates
- f. Student Advocacy – D. Kent
 - i. D. Kent noted that the committee had been meeting weekly and inviting field representatives to their meetings. D. Kent re-iterated that the Student Advocacy Committee (SAC) meetings were small and opened to the entire student body. D. Kent noted that something that had been mentioned at the meetings included someone sharing that their graduate society had formed a



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DEI committee and the SAC was thinking of ways GPSA could be a point-of-contact for things like that happening in different graduate fields.

Another topic that had been mentioned at the SAC meeting was that of stipend issues and funded Graduate students failing to receive their stipend at the beginning of the semester. The committee was wondering how often the issues occurred among students and the difficulty associated with resolving it.

- g. Diversity and International Students – P. Mehta
 - i. P. Mehta stated that the Diversity and International Students Committee (DISC) was currently working on developing an orientation program for incoming students in the Spring semester so that they wouldn't feel overwhelmed and would have a point-of-contact at Cornell.
- h. Programming - *Vacant*
- i. Faculty Awards – C. Duell
 - i. No Updates
- j. General Committee & Graduate School – J. Allen
 - i. J. Allen stated that the General Committee would be meeting later on Friday during the current week.

IX. Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Auriole C. R. Fassinou
Clerk of the Assembly