

Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Agenda of the November 29, 2021 Meeting

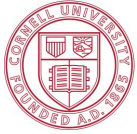
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

398 Statler Hall

Business/Business Casual Attire Suggested at Request of the President's Office

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Late Additions to the Agenda
- IV. Approval of the Meeting Minutes
 - a. [November 15, 2021](#)
- V. Presentations
 - a. President Martha Pollack and Dean of the Graduate School Kathryn Boor
- VI. Breakout Session by Division
- VII. New Business
 - a. Elections
 - i. Vacancies – Arts & Humanities Division Voting Member (2 vacancies)
Master of Industrial and Labor Relations Representative (1 vacancy)
 - b. Discussion on hybrid meetings
 - c. Resolution 11 – [Amend COVID-Related GPSAFC Budget Restrictions](#)
- VIII. Business of the Day
 - a. Resolution 8: [Proposed Charter Amendment for the 2022-2024 Byline Funding Cycle](#)
 - b. Resolution 9: [Amending the Charter of the GPSA to Fill Vacant Voting Member Seats](#)
 - c. Resolution 10: [Creation of Vice President of Finance Position & Renaming of Finance Chair Position](#)
- IX. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates
 - a. Executive Committee
 - b. Operations
 - c. Appropriations
 - d. Communications
 - e. Finance
 - f. Student Advocacy
 - g. Diversity and International Students
 - h. Programming
 - i. Faculty Awards

If you are in need of special accommodations in order to fully participate, please contact Student Disability Services at (607) 254-4545 or the Office of the Assemblies at (607) 255-3715 or assembly@cornell.edu prior to the meeting.

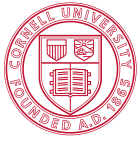


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- j. General Committee
- k. Graduate School
- X. Open Forum
- XI. Adjournment

The GPSA invites all members to gather at the Big Red Barn for drinks and conversation immediately following the meeting. First round on us!

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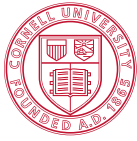
Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Minutes of the November 15, 2021 Meeting

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

398 Statler Hall

- I. Call to Order
 - a. P. Hanley called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM.
- II. Roll Call – *Did Not Meet Quorum*
 - a. *Present* [14]: S. Bright-Thonney, K. Carter-Cram, R. Epstein, D. Kent, G. Li, P. Mehta, M. Minelli, C. O'Connor, C. Ohenewah, D. Sharp, G. Smits, J. Washington, M. Welch, A. Wunsch
 - b. *Absent* [16]: C. Anklin, B. Carver, C. Day, J. Dotzel, C. Duell, N. Gonzalez, B. Hayes, A. Inayatali, A. Khlyustova, D. Lanes, J. Levin, C. Liu, S. Lopez, A. Presher, C. Steingard, W. Wang
 - c. *Guests/Non-Voting Members* [4]: J. Allen, Dean Boor, P. Hanley, W. Treat
- III. Breakout Session by Division
 - a. P. Hanley informed members of the Arts & Humanities Division about their 2 vacancies.
 - b. A member of the assembly asked about what members should be discussing in their Division Breakout Session.
 - i. P. Hanley stated that members should discuss on GPSA R10 which will be presented by D. Sharp later on in the meeting. Although the resolution would not be voted on at the current meeting because it was a Charter amendment, members should think about possible amendments they may want to make.
- IV. Roll Call – *Met Quorum*
 - a. D. Sharp motioned to recall the Roll; the motion was seconded.
 - b. *Present* [16]: S. Bright-Thonney, K. Carter-Cram, R. Epstein, B. Hayes, D. Kent, G. Li, C. Liu, P. Mehta, M. Minelli, C. O'Connor, C. Ohenewah, D. Sharp, G. Smits, J. Washington, M. Welch, A. Wunsch
 - c. *Absent* [14]: C. Anklin, B. Carver, C. Day, J. Dotzel, C. Duell, N. Gonzalez, A. Inayatali, A. Khlyustova, D. Lanes, J. Levin, S. Lopez, A. Presher, C. Steingard, W. Wang
 - d. *Guests/Non-Voting Members* [4]: J. Allen, Dean Boor, P. Hanley, W. Treat
- V. Late Additions to the Agenda
 - a. There were no late additions to the Agenda.
- VI. Approval of the Meeting Minutes
 - a. November 1, 2021
 - i. The meeting minutes were **approved** unanimously.



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VII. New Business

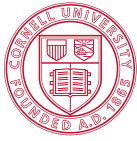
a. Elections

- i. Vacancies – Arts and Humanities Voting Member (2 vacancies); Master of Industrial and Labor Relations Representative (1 vacancy – Appointed Position); Social Sciences Voting Member (1 vacancy); Programming Board (1 vacancy)
- ii. Social Sciences Voting Member
 1. P. Hanley stated that the position had been vacated and would now be opened to all members of the assembly.
 2. D. Sharp nominated N. Perez; the motion was seconded by K. Carter-Cram.
 3. N. Perez introduced themselves to the assembly.
 4. N. Perez was **elected** to serve as a Voting Member with 22 votes in favor and 2 abstentions.
- iii. Chair of the Programming Board
 1. K. Karnuta self-nominated themselves for the position and the motion was seconded by G. Li.
 2. K. Karnuta introduced themselves to the assembly.
 3. K. Karnuta was **elected** to serve as the Chair of the Programming Board with 23 votes in favor and 2 abstentions.
- iv. Resolution 10: Resolution Establishing a Vice President of Finance on the Executive Committee & Renaming of Finance Chair Position
 1. D. Sharp introduced GPSA R10 noting that it would give the GPSA Executive Committee a financial arm. He stated that currently, the Executive Committee would meet without knowledge of the GPSA finances. The resolution would make the current Appropriations Committee Chair the Vice President of Finance, and would make the current Finance Committee Chair the Chair of Appropriations because the Bylaws already dictate that the Finance Committee appropriates the GPSA funds. The resolution at its core would allow the Executive Committee to have Vice President of Finance to inform the committee of the state of the GPSA and help in day-to-day operations.
 2. P. Hanley noted that the topic had also been discussed with the University's peer institutions and stated that the peer institutions had larger Executive Committees.
 3. M. Welch asked why it would not be possible to just add to the Executive Committee without switching the name of the Finance Commission Chair.



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- a. D. Sharp responded that in reading the Bylaws and Charter, it made more sense to change the name because the duties under the current Finance Commission are to appropriate the funds of the GPSA so it would be contrary to call the committee the Finance Committee even though they appropriate the funds of the GPSA. In order to free up the finance name for VP of Finance, the name of the Finance Committee needed to be changed.
4. D. Kent asked for an example of a problem the Executive Committee had encountered that could not be communicated easily with the Appropriations Committee Chair.
 - a. D. Sharp stated that the Executive Committee could not book the current room for the meetings without first emailing B. Carver and having him approve each expenditure of the \$300 paid to use the space. Adding a Vice President of Finance to the Executive Committee would prevent the committee from having to go through that obstacle each time.
 - b. D. Kent asked if a budget could have been requested at the beginning of the term instead of having to email the Appropriations Committee Chair for each use of the room.
 - c. D. Sharp and P. Hanley stated that the Executive Committee did not have the budget to book the room until the budget was passed at the previous meeting. P. Hanley added that each position of the Executive Committee had a specific function, but none had to do with finance.
5. M. Welch expressed concern for possible confusions that might come up in student organizations with the name change since many Byline-funded organizations were familiar with the role and name of the GPSAFC. M. Welch asked if there was a way to rethink the resolution so that the name change would not be part of it while still adding a financial arm to the Executive Committee.
 - a. P. Hanley stated that when he first joined the GPSA, he was confused by the difference in the duties of the Finance Committee and the Appropriations Committee. P. Hanley echoed D. Sharp's statements about the Charter stating that the Finance Commission Chair appropriated Student Activity Fee funds to other peer organization with the



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Appropriations Committee Chair overseeing the direct finances within the GPSA.

- b. D. Sharp added that even the Student Assembly had a Vice President of Finance.

6. P. Hanley stated that since the resolution was amending the GPSA Charter, it would need to be tabled and voted on at the next meeting or a subsequent GPSA meeting.

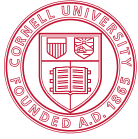
7. A member of the assembly motioned to Table the resolution. The motion was seconded, and the resolution was **Tabled**.

VIII. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates

- a. Executive Committee – D. Sharp
 - i. No Updates
- b. Operations – K. Carter-Cram
 - i. K. Carter-Cram noted that there were several Field Representative positions that were still open and informed members to tell anyone that they know that may be interested of serving on the GPSA.
- c. Appropriations – B. Carver
 - i. No Updates
- d. Communications – G. Li
 - i. G. Li gave a shoutout to her committee and also informed any Voting Members that had not been highlighted on the GPSA Instagram to reach out to her.
- e. Finance – C. Steingard
 - i. No Updates
- f. Student Advocacy – D. Kent
 - i. No Updates
- g. Diversity and International Students – P. Mehta
 - i. P. Mehta stated that the committee was currently working on the commuting problem for international students travelling between the Ithaca and Geneva Campuses.
- h. Programming – K. Karnuta
 - i. K. Karnuta encouraged members of their committee to reach out to them.
- i. Faculty Awards – C. Duell
 - i. No Updates
- j. General Committee & Graduate School – J. Allen/Dean Boor
 - i. No Updates

IX. Open Forum

- a. W. Lee expressed concerns about the University's guidelines regarding food at indoor events. He noted that his group was having a difficult time getting



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individuals to come to events because of the difficulty to provide food using GPSA funds.

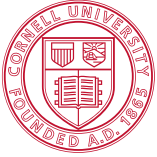
- i. P. Hanley stated that the Student Advocacy team could aid in bringing up the issues regarding food policies to leadership and D. Kent noted that he would reach out to W. Lee to work on the issue.
- ii. Dean Boor stated that she knew there were new guidelines regarding food currently under-development and encouraged W. Lee to raise his concerns.

X. Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Auriole C. R. Fassinou
Clerk of the Assembly



Resolution 8: Proposed Charter Amendment for the 2022-2024 Byline Funding Cycle

Abstract: This resolution amends the GPSA Charter Appendix A for the 2022-2024 Byline Funding Cycle. The change allows the Chair of the 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.

Sponsored by: Ben Carver, Appropriations Committee Chair

Whereas, Appendix A: The GPSA Byline Allocation Procedures of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Charter outlines the process for the allocation of the Student Activity Fee to Byline funded organizations;

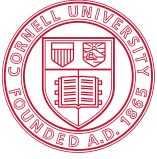
Whereas, due to delays caused by the ongoing Covid pandemic and a change in GPSA leadership early in the semester, the Byline funding process was stalled until the election of a Chair to the Appropriations Committee;

Whereas, the Chair of the Appropriations Committee was elected at the regular meeting of the GPSA on September 27, 2021;

Whereas, Section 4 of Appendix A describes the timeline for Byline funded organizations and other interested applicants;

Whereas, lines 143-153 under Section 4 of Appendix A read as follows:

1. Deadlines for the initial and final application materials will be determined in the Fall of non-fee-setting years by majority vote of Appropriations Committee.
2. Currently funded byline organizations shall attend a meeting of the Assembly or Appropriations Committee upon request to provide an update on their operations, usually conducted, but not required to be done, during the Fall of non-fee-setting years.
3. The Chair of Appropriations Committee will distribute application materials within 1 week of the final application deadline among the Appropriations Committee members for evaluation and summary reports.
4. The Appropriations Committee will schedule public hearings for each organization as described in Appendix B Item IV §4.03.
5. The Appropriations Committee shall present its initial recommendations, along with summary report and justification for each organization, no later than the fifth regular GPSA meeting of the Fall semester.



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Whereas, to meet the deadline established as, “the last day of classes of the Fall semester” (line 154), the Chair of the Appropriations Committee began meeting with organizations immediately following his election,

Whereas, other than the chair of the committee, there are no other members of the GPSA Appropriations Committee, and adding members at this point in the process would cause undue delays risking missing the “last day of classes of the Fall semester” deadline;

Be it therefore resolved, the Chair of the GPSA Appropriations Committee be authorized to act as the committee, in coordination with the Executive Committee, in making a recommendation for the Student Activity Fee for the 2022-2024 Byline funding cycle;

Be it further resolved, the chair of the GPSA Appropriations Committee shall submit notes, records and minutes of any and all public hearings with organizations seeking funding through the Byline funding process to the Office of the Assemblies;

Be it further resolved, the deadline established in line 153 of Appendix A, “The Appropriations Committee shall present its initial recommendations, along with summary report and justification for each organization, no later than the fifth regular GPSA meeting of the Fall semester” be amended to read:

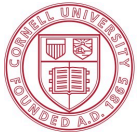
“The Appropriations Committee shall present its initial recommendations, along with summary report and justification for each organization, no later than the **final meeting of the GPSA** in the Fall semester”

Be it finally resolved, this Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Charter amendment is temporary and will only affect the 2022-2024 Byline Funding Cycle.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ben Carver

Appropriations Committee Chair



Resolution 9: Amending the Charter of the GPSA to Fill Vacant Voting Member Seats

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.

Sponsored by: Kate Carter-Cram

Reviewed by: Operations and Staffing Committee, 10/28/2021

Whereas, there are currently three voting member positions that have been unable to be filled after four full GPSA assembly meetings.

Whereas, the current GPSA charter allows GPSA members to fill vacant seats from a Division of the Graduate School during a special election as “at-large” members.

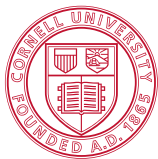
Whereas, the GPSA has been unable to fill these three positions despite interest from other graduate and professional students from other divisions and degree programs.

Be it therefore resolved, that line 249 to line 251 of the GPSA Charter shall be amended to say “If one seat 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.”

Respectfully Submitted,

Kate Carter-Cram

Vice President of Operations and Staffing



Resolution 10:

Resolution Establishing a Vice President of Finance on the Executive Committee & Renaming of Finance Commission and Finance Commission Chair

Abstract: The GPSA Charter (hereafter ‘the Charter’), Article V, Section 5.01 establishes four officers, including: (1) the President, (2) the Executive Vice President, (3) the Vice President for Operations, and (4) the Vice President for Communications. This resolution seeks to redefine the current Appropriations Commission and its Chairperson (referenced Article III, Section 3.05 of the GPSA Bylaws AMD 09/26/16) as the GPSA Finance Committee and, further, make its Chairperson the Vice President of Finance, providing said Chairperson with a seat on the Executive Committee (referenced in Article V, Section 5.01 of the Charter). Further, the resolution seeks to rename the current Finance Commission and its Chairperson (referenced in Article III, Section 3.07 of the GPSA Bylaws AMD 09/26/16) the Appropriations Committee and Appropriations Committee Chairperson, respectively, in order to accurately articulate the duties of the body. The resolution, generally, does not seek to alter the duties of either body.

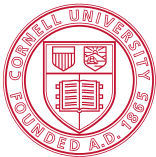
Sponsored by: Damien R. Sharp, Executive Vice President & Executive Committee Chair

Whereas, the Charter—as currently written—omits a financial hand on the Executive Committee, leaving the Executive Committee with little knowledge of the Assembly’s financial state during Committee meetings and when carrying out day-to-day operations for the Assembly.

Whereas, Article III, Section 3.05 of the GPSA Bylaws as amended September 26, 2016 provides the Appropriations Committee and its Chairperson authority over all aspects of the Graduate and Professional Student Activity Fee, including review of the GPSA Byline Allocation Procedures, the GPSA Eligibility Criteria and Obligations for Byline Funded Organizations, the GPSAFC Funding Guidelines, and the GPSA Internal Budget.

Whereas, the Charter affords the Appropriations Committee and its Chairperson the aforementioned authorities but does not afford said Committee Chairperson an Executive Committee Position.

Whereas, Article III, Section 3.07 of the GPSA Bylaws as amended September 26, 2016 establishes the GPSA Finance Commission and its Chairperson for the purpose of *allocating* funds to registered graduate and professional student organizations on the Ithaca and Geneva campuses of Cornell University.



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Be it therefore resolved, that it being essential to the operations of the Executive Committee and by extension the Assembly itself, the current Appropriations Committee (ref. Article III, Section 3.05 of the GPSA Bylaws AMD 09/26/16) shall become the GPSA Finance Committee.

Be it further resolved, that the Chairperson of the new Finance Committee also serve as the Vice President of Finance (VPF), be provided a seat on the Executive Committee as such, and the VPF position be written into the GPSA Charter under Article V, Section 5.01.

Be it further resolved, that the duties and authorities of the new GPSA Finance Committee be found under Article III, Section 3.05 of the GPSA Bylaws, as amended September 26, 2016.

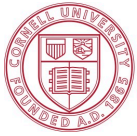
Be it further resolved, that the current GPSA Finance Commission (referenced in, Article III, Section 3.07 of the GPSA Bylaws AMD 09/26/16) be renamed the Appropriations Committee to better articulate its duties and authorities.

Be it further resolved, that the duties and authorities of the new GPSA Appropriations Committee be found under Article III, Section 3.07 of the GPSA Bylaws, as amended September 26, 2016.

Be it finally resolved, that the outlined changes of this resolution take effect immediately following the Assembly's passage of it.

Respectfully Submitted,

Damien R. Sharp
Executive Vice President & Executive Committee Chairperson



Resolution 11: Amend COVID-Related GPSAFC Budget Restrictions

Abstract: Under current university guidelines, the GPSA Finance Committee is restricted from permitting student organizations to budget money for food, except for all-day, outdoor, or virtual events. Under this regulation, student organizations are struggling to host successful, well-attended events. However, given that large numbers of students eat in dining halls without masks every day, these rules seem unnecessary. We ask that these restrictions be relaxed so that student organizations can return to providing food at indoor events.

Sponsored by: David Kent

Reviewed by: Student Advocacy Committee, 11/18/2021

Whereas, under the “Green” COVID Alert level, Cornell’s guidance is that food and drink should not be served at events unless the event is all-day, outdoor, or virtual. As such, the GPSA Finance Committee (henceforth “GPSAFC”) has been directed by the university not to permit student organizations (henceforth “SO’s”) to include food and drink for indoor events in their budget requests.

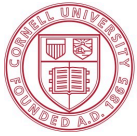
Whereas, without the ability to provide food and drink at indoor events, SO’s are struggling to plan and host successful events. As the weather has gotten colder, SO’s must choose between hosting indoor events with no food and drink, or outdoor events in the cold weather. As a result, SO’s find it increasingly difficult to maintain event attendance, and this has a substantial negative impact on student morale and sense of community.

Whereas, students eat without masks indoors every day at campus dining halls. As of 11/15/21, according to the Cornell COVID Dashboard website, the on-campus COVID vaccination rate is 97%, the positivity rate by week is 0.26%, and the number of active student cases is 10. The Cornell COVID Alert Level has been “Green” since 9/24/21, a period of nearly two months. As such the evidence suggests it is not necessary to prohibit graduate students to consume indoor food and drink at student events to limit the spread of COVID.

Be it therefore resolved, the GPSA request that the university administration relax their restrictions and permit the GPSAFC to approve budget requests for food and drink at indoor events, effective as soon as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

Walker Lee



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- 32 David Kent
- 33 Student Advocacy Committee Chair