

Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

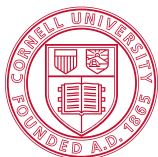
Cornell Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Agenda of the December 7th, 2020 Meeting

5:30 PM – 7 PM (motioned to be extended to 7:30PM)

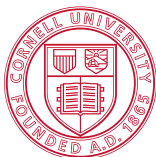
- I. Call to Order (2 mins)
- II. Roll Call (3 mins)
- III. Motion to Extend Meeting to 120 minutes (2 mins)
- IV. Announcements (10 mins)
 - a. GPSA Appointment Vacancies
 - i. Faculty Senate
 - ii. Employee Assembly
 - iii. Public Safety Advisory Committee
 - iv. University Assembly Campus Infrastructure Committee
 - v. University Assembly Campus Welfare Committee
 - b. M. Eng. Voting Member
 - c. Johnson Voting Member
 - d. Masters-At-Large Voting Member
- V. Approval of the Meeting Minutes (3 mins)
 - a. Monday, November 23rd, 2020
- VI. Presentations (10 mins)
 - a. Nikola Danev – International Teaching Assistant Program Survey Findings
- VII. Elections (10 mins)
 - a. Student Advocacy Committee Chair
 - b. Finance Commission Chair
- VIII. Breakout Session by Division (10 mins) **(contingent on motion to extend)**
- IX. Old Business (10 mins)
 - a. Resolution 5: Internal Budget
 - i. Sponsored by: Aakarsha Pandey
- X. New Business (35 mins) **(contingent on motion to extend)**
 - a. Resolution 7: Teaching Modality
 - i. Sponsored by: Martik Chatterjee
 - b. Resolution 8: Maintaining the University Assembly's Jurisdiction Over the Code of Conduct
 - i. Sponsored by: Logan Kenney, Jeff Pea and Nikola Danev
 - c. Resolution 9: Extending Voting Membership to Standing Committee Chairpersons

If you are in need of special accommodations, contact Office of the Assemblies at (607) 255-3715 or Student Disability Services at (607) 254-4545 prior to the meeting.



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- i. Sponsored by: David Dunham
- XI. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates (10 mins)
 - a. Executive Committee – Nikola Danev
 - b. Communications – Kavya Krishnan
 - c. Operations – Martik Chatterjee
 - d. Finance – Arielle Johnson
 - e. Appropriations – Aakarsha Pandey
 - f. DISC – Yu-Yu Shih
 - g. Faculty Teaching – Cody Duell
 - h. Programming – Kasey Laurent
 - i. Student Advocacy – *Pending election*
- XII. Open Forum (15 mins) **(contingent on motion to extend)**
- XIII. Adjournment



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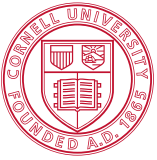
Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Minutes of the November 23, 2020 Meeting

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

- I. Call to Order
 - a. D. Dunham called the meeting to order at 5:30pm
- II. Roll Call
 - i. *Present At Roll Call:* R. Barankevich, H. Bidigare-Curtis, M. Chatterjee, A. Cirillo, H. Cole, J. Dotzel, C. Duell, M. Keefe, S. López, T. Luttermoser, R. Maloney, K. Masters, C. Ohenewah, E. Schoenly, M. Sturgeon
 - ii. *Not Present At Roll Call:* M. Balch, K. Beras, A. Bidjarano, M. Cantar, P. Cole, K. Laurent, M. Schoeffler, P. Vinhage, M. Welch
- III. Approval of the Meeting Minutes
 - a. Monday, November 9th, 2020
 - i. N. Danev moved to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded by T. Luttermoser. The minutes were **approved** with no objections or amendments.
- IV. Presentations
 - a. L. Rugless – Associate Vice President for Institutional Equity and Title IX (Refer to Meeting Materials Packet for Presentation PowerPoint)
 - i. L. Rugless introduced herself and thanked the assembly members for giving her the time to present. She noted that Policy 6.4 was the Universities policy for prohibited bias, discrimination, harassment, sexual and related misconduct which would include Title IX matters. She noted that the policy was currently undergoing reviews and specifically, reviews of changes that were made in the summer by the Federal Government. She noted that the Office of Institutional Equity and Title IX had heard that the policy was important to Graduate students and that she would be asking the assembly members for their feedback.
 - ii. L. Rugless noted that Title IX was a federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in educational programs and this past summer, it had undergone changes by the Federal Government, specifically to sexual harassment as the regulations defined it. The changes at the Federal level prompted Cornell to make policy and procedural changes.
 - iii. L. Rugless reviewed the definition of sexual harassment in the new Title IX regulations. The definitions included quid pro quo by an employee, stalking, sexual assault, etc. Along with one of the definitions being met, all the



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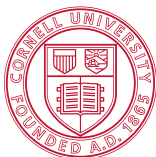
jurisdictional conditions also had to be met for the Title IX regulations to apply.

- iv. L. Rugless noted that the University had to make some changes to its procedure to comply with the regulations and one of the big changes under the revised regulation was that when the regulations applied, certain aspects of the procedures had to be completed. The main change included holding a hearing with real-time cross examination conducted by a party's advisor. Although, all student cases under Policy 6.4 already had hearing panels, they did not have the real-time cross examination aspect. In addition, the decision had been made by the University that with students, any cases that the Title IX regulations applied to as well as any cases where the Title IX regulations would not apply but the student might face suspension or dismissal, would go through the same process. The purpose of this decision was to treat like cases the same with the same type of process regardless of whether or not the Title IX regulations applied to the case. For employees accused under 6.4, the hearing panels with real-time cross examination would apply only when the Title IX regulations applied to the case. For all other non-Title IX cases against employees, the process would still be fair and thorough but there would not be a hearing panel.
- v. L. Rugless stated that when the changes were made to University policies, the pandemic was underway, there were only 100 days to make those complex changes, and people were away from campus so there was not an opportunity to communicate and gather input from the University community. The changes were reviewed by an Executive Policy review group and were made on an interim basis so that the opportunity would arise to hear from the University community about the changes.
- vi. One of the main discussion items from the Executive Policy Review group was the evidentiary standard. L. Rugless state that the current standard in the interim policy was the preponderance of evidence standard meaning that if the evidence demonstrated by more than 50%, then something occurred (more likely than not). Under the regulations, the standard could be changed to a clear and convincing standard. A change that was made in the interim policy was changing from an all employee mandatory system to Designated Reporters (DRs) with the research demonstrating that it was the best type of system to have.
- vii. N. Danev asked L. Rugless to confirm that the preponderance of evidence can be kept for Policy 6.4 while keeping the higher evidentiary standard, clear and convincing, for all cases not related to Policy 6.4 and Title IX.



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1. L. Rugless confirmed N. Danev's statement noting that different evidentiary standards could be used under the Code vs. Policy 6.4.
- viii. M. O'Leary asked L. Rugless to clarify with regards to the policy as it interacts with Title IX and the incoming administration. Specifically, M. O'Leary asked if the University anticipated changes in terms of their shift in designated reporting standards.
 1. L. Rugless noted that the change in reporting was made through the changes in response to the Title IX regulations and the University was not required to make that change as a matter of law. The regulation changes clarified and provided background on how an all employee system came into existence which prompted the University leadership to look at the reporting system more closely and what benefits could be achieved from changing to a smaller group of employees being DRs. In addition, L. Rugless noted that the University had been told that the Title IX Regulation changes would likely be changed as a result of the changes at the Federal level, but those regulation changes would take time and in the meantime, the current regulation changes were the law.
 2. M. O' Leary asked if the DRs changes also applied to Graduate instructors who are instructors of record.
 - a. L. Rugless stated that the policy had a list attached to it that named all positions that were designated reporters. However, the list was not a closed list and continued to be revised and refined. She noted that the group M. O' Leary was referring to was necessarily identified as a designated reporter. In addition, L. Rugless stated that under NY State law, managers and supervisors were required to address workplace harassment and that legal requirement was also reflected in Policy 6.4. L. Rugless added that DRs were not people that others had to report to but people that had to report. However, they were not a barrier, and anyone could report but DRs had to report.
- ix. A. Johnson asked what efforts were being made to publicize the changes among faculty.
 1. L. Rugless stated that all University employees at the faculty and staff levels were required to complete a training which communicated the information. The training deadline had recently passed and there was almost 90% completion. In addition, a series of faculty facing



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workshops had been held and the changes were reviewed in great detail with attendants. The changes were also a topic of discussion at the Faculty Senate a few weeks prior.

V. Elections

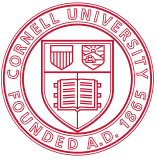
- a. Student Advocacy Committee Chair – *no nominations*
- b. M.Eng. Voting Member - *no nominations*
 - i. D. Dunham stated that according to the Bylaws, the M.Eng voting member position is elected from the general members of the assembly.
 - ii. D. Dunham noted that since there were not any nominations, the Bylaws also stipulated that if the position remained vacant after three meetings, it would be open to all Masters students, regardless of whether or not they were engineering students.

VI. Breakout Session by Division

- a. D. Dunham noted that the Physical Sciences Division and Johnson school had one vacant voting member positions that they could use the Division Breakout to fill.

VII. New Business

- a. D. Dunham clarified on the Rules of Procedure going forward and noted that he had incorrectly excluded certain individuals from debate on the premise of Robert's Rules of Order, but after speaking with several members of the assembly, it was clear that his judgment was inaccurate given the norms and expectations of discussion in past years of the GPSA. In addition, D. Dunham stated that going forward, all discussions on resolutions would remain open to the public in attendance at the meeting.
- b. Resolution 5: Internal Budget
 - i. A. Pandey introduced the resolution to the assembly and noted that most of the suggestions in the resolution were based on last year's budget. Several new points that were in the resolution included the extension of supporting Anabel's Grocery. The GPSA had originally planned to support the grocery for a maximum of four years but that had been extended. The Finance Commission had also requested an increase in their budget so that was increased as well. A. Pandey also noted that based on suggestions from many individuals, the resolution would also set up a \$2,000 access fund to support graduate students in their remote activities.
 - ii. N. Danev seconded the consideration of the resolution.
 - iii. M. Chatterjee conveyed concerns with some of the allocations given that a lot of activities were remote. For example, M. Chatterjee stated that their was no chair for the Student Advocacy Committee and they would not be meeting in-person until the latter half of spring so organizations like that



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could have their budget cut in half with the rest of the money given to cover the access fund.

1. D. Dunham asked M. Chatterjee if he was proposing an amendment or expressing his opinion.
2. M. Chatterjee confirmed that he was proposing an amendment.
- iv. M. Chatterjee motioned to amend the resolution by cutting the budget to the Student Advocacy Committee from \$1,300 to \$650 and having the remaining \$650 to go towards the access fund.
 1. The amendment was seconded by a member of the assembly.
 2. K. Krishnan conveyed her reservations about cutting the budget now and stated that the GPSA did not know if the position would be filled in the later half of the semester in which there could be a great deal of need for the money. She noted that she was inclined to have a separate resolution that would give leftover money to the access fund.
 3. C. Duell stated that he had the same reservations as M. Chatterjee about the Faculty Awards budget since it was not concrete yet whether or not any of the events would be held in person. C. Duell noted that it would make the most sense to have a budget that would allow for a small amount of in-person activities and do a second round again in the spring, but it would make sense to reduce the budget to some extent. C. Duell added that for the Faculty Awards, he was going to suggest a partially reduced budget from the normal budget but a slightly higher budget than what was listed on the resolution.
 4. M. Chatterjee responded to K. Krishnan noting that the reason why he had made the amendment cutting the budget to the SAC in half was assuming that the \$1300 was equally distributed over two semesters and the given one semester was already over.
 5. T. Luttermoser asked what the SAC budget had been used for in the past, whether it was primarily food for meetings or was it used for other things as well.
 - a. K. Krishan stated that from her recollection, it was often used for things like food for the town halls, but she could not say exactly.
 6. M. Chatterjee noted that he was curious about how to access the access fund. M. Chatterjee stated that the moment, there was a deadline on the access fund and asked if the money that the GPSA



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was giving to the access fund could be used only for teaching and technical needs for Graduate students.

- a. D. Dunham noted that he would be happy to talk to the people running the access fund to see what the needs were and whether that could be accomplished. D. Dunham added that an alternative to giving money to the access fund would be to put the money aside for a particular purpose and by resolution, have the money from that GPSA fund used for a particular purpose.
7. N. Danev moved to call the question on the amendment; the motion was seconded by H. Bidigare-Curtis. The resolution was amended 8-0-7.
- v. N. Danev moved to call the question on the resolution.
- vi. D. Dunham stated that in order to call the question, the rules would need to be suspended first to allow for a vote during the meeting.
- vii. N. Danev retracted his previous motion.
- viii. D. Dunham stated that the assembly could either move to postpone the vote until the next meeting or if there were concerns about the resolution, it could be referred back to the Appropriations Committee.
- ix. C. Duell stated that it might be more efficient to send it back to the committee for further assessment. C. Duell asked if he were to make a motion to amend, would the assembly still be able to vote on it next time.
- x. D. Dunham noted that if an amendment was made without a vote on it, then the amendment would also go to the committee.
- xi. C. Duell moved change the funding for the Faculty Awards committee. By increasing the budget from \$300 to \$725 and reduce the access fund by the \$425 difference. The motion was seconded by H. Bidigare-Curtis.
 1. N. Danev motioned to call the question; the motion was seconded by C. Duell.
 2. The resolution was amended 9-1-5.
- xii. H. Bidigare-Curtis noted that Anabel's Grocery was not functioning this semester and would be functioning next semester so the \$20,000 did not make sense and the GPSA would have \$20,000 to spend in a different way.
 1. N. Danev stated that Anabel's Grocery was just the phrasing that was being used in the resolution, but the money would still go to help students with food accessibility issues. The money would be given to the Executive Committee of Anabel's Grocery who still



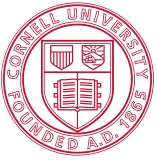
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work with organizations around campus and in Ithaca to help students access food.

- xiii. K. Krishnan moved to amend the resolution by striking out lines 37 to 42 given the possibility of the GPSA setting the money aside until having a better understanding of what the access fund would do with it.
1. N. Danev moved to second the amendment.
 2. T. Luttermoser moved to amend the amendment with the following change in language starting at line 37 “WHEREAS, in the light of the pandemic and shifting of all GPSA activities to a remote setting, graduate students have experienced additional financial stresses and changed home technology needs;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the GPSA will set aside \$2000 for a fund to help support graduate students’ home technology needs, the exact distribution of which will be determined in collaboration with the Graduate School and other relevant offices.”

- a. The amendment to the amendment was seconded by M. Chatterjee.
- b. K. Krishan expressed support for the language of the amendment.
- c. A. Johnson noted that \$2,000 seemed like a small amount of money and asked if it was worth putting in language making this new fund, as opposed to K. Krishnan’s original suggestion of deleting the lines and figuring out what to do with the money when there was more to spend.
 - i. D. Dunham noted that he believed the idea was to set the \$2,000 as a placeholder until the GPSA had decided how much money that should be.
 - ii. T. Luttermoser noted that he would like to see the \$2,000 figure be bigger but in terms of splitting \$2,000 up into new webcams so that 20-30 people that had been buying webcams out of pocket now being covered, \$2,000 was a significant amount.
- d. D. Dunham recommended that the assembly vote on the second order amendment followed by voting on the amendment. Then, the amended resolution could be referred back to the Appropriations Committee and everyone could discuss it and come back with a more updated resolution.



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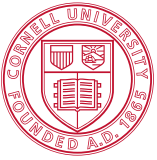
- e. N. Danev moved to call the question; the motion was seconded by K. Masters.
 - f. The resolution was amended.
- 3. D. Dunham noted that he would have to check on the rules, but he did not think the original amendment by K. Krishnan would need to be voted on again since the second order amendment overrides it. The discussion would then return to the original resolution
- xiv. N. Danev motioned to refer the resolution back to the Appropriations Committee. The motion was seconded and approved, and the resolution was referred back to the Appropriations Committee.
- c. Resolution 6: Petition to the GPSA on the Student Code of Conduct
 - i. J. Pinchak spoke on behalf of the petition and introduced it to the assembly. J. Pinchak noted that the University was almost at the end of the long process to reform and change the Code. He noted that the Code that the administration was looking to pass could be with students for many years and it would be important for those who the Code applies to who have to work within the Code have an obligation to think about how it could impact not only current students but students down the road. J. Pinchak stated that not all students who have faced charges under the code would be willing to express their experiences and JCC's who had interacted with those students had the role of giving a voice to those who have concerns with bringing their opinions to the Assembly.
 - ii. J. Pinchak addressed one of the main points of the petition which was the evidentiary standard. He noted that the current standard was the clear and convincing standard which was a middle ground and that was why it should not be changed because typically, the evidentiary standard was reflective of the type of punishment. With the Code, the punishment was not as bad as going to jail, which would require the standard of beyond a reasonable doubt, but it was worse than losing money, which would require the preponderance of evidence standard, since students could face expulsion from school. In addition, J. Pinchak stated that it would not make sense to have a lower evidentiary standard for Code violations, preponderance of evidence, than Academic Integrity violations that used the clear and convincing standard. J. Pinchak also noted that high evidentiary standards minimized the opportunity for unconscious biases to creep into decision making.
 - iii. Another main point that J. Pinchak discussed was speaking rights and noted that currently, JCC's had the ability to talk in hearings on behalf of the



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student but the proposed code would take away the student and JCC's ability to ask witnesses questions and questions would instead have to be submitted in writing for a vast majority of cases coming in front of the hearing panel. J. Pinchak also noted that it would raise questions of fairness. In closing, J. Pinchak stated that the Code largely effects undergraduates, but if Faculty, Professors, UA, and Trustees get to vote on the proposed changes, then Graduate Students should as well.

- iv. N. Danev seconded the resolution. N. Danev conveyed his support for the resolution and noted that he was on the CJC and confirmed that all the suggestions in the resolution were in line with what the CJC had signed and sent to the University Council. In addition, the resolution was also in line with the feedback from graduate and undergraduate students. N. Danev also expressed that it would be important for the GPSA to have a voice on the matter.
- v. N. Danev motioned to extend the meeting by 10 minutes; the motion was seconded and by general consent, the meeting was extended by 10 minutes.
- vi. N. Danev motioned to suspend Robert's Rules of Order so the assembly could vote on the resolution before the end of the meeting because it was extremely time sensitive for the assembly to convey the resolution to the President before December 10th.
 - 1. D. Geisler asked N. Danev to clarify on why the resolution was needed by December 10th.
 - 2. N. Danev stated that the Trustees were meeting on December 10th to approve the changes and if the resolution was conveyed before then, then the Trustees would be able to take into account the assemblies opinion.
 - 3. N. London rose to a point of order noting that it would be suspension of the Bylaws not Robert's Rule of Order.
 - 4. The motion was seconded and with a 2/3 majority vote, the rules were suspended.
- vii. N. Danev motioned for a roll call vote noting that there were many abstentions at the previous meeting and considering the issue was important to all 110 graduate students that signed it, the voting members should express their opinions publicly.
 - 1. D. Dunham explained that the motion would change the voting method and would require a simple majority of those present to approve it.



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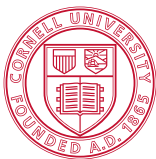
2. C. O'Connor noted that he would be the new voting member for Physical Sciences and was curious to whether or not he would be required to cast a vote or excluded from casting a vote in this context.
 - a. D. Dunham stated that C. O'Connor could vote.
3. The motion was seconded, and the simple majority requirement was met with 12 members in favor.
- viii. L. Kenney reiterated the importance of having a resolution from the GPSA noting that the UA had not heard from the GPSA outside of committee meetings. L. Kenney noted that she believed it was important for the UA to know where the GPSA stood on the proposed changes. Additionally, it was important for the assembly members to consider themselves under the Code as well.
- ix. D. Geisler asked where more information could be found on not just the resolution but the proposed Code changes as well.
 1. L. Kenney noted that members could contact her for more information and added that based on the agenda that was out for the upcoming UA meeting, all comments taken over the past several weeks were there.
- x. N. Danev motioned to call the question; the motion was seconded.
- xi. Roll Call Vote
 1. *In favor* [14]: K. Masters, H. Cole, S. López, M. Chatterjee, T. Luttermoser, M. Keefe, J. Dotzel, C. Duell, C. O'Connor, H. Bidigare-Curtis, R. Barankevich, C. Ohenewah, R. Maloney, A. Cirillo
 2. *Opposed* [0]:
 3. *Abstained* [11]: M. Cantar, M. Balch, P. Vinhage, K. Laurent, M. Welch, K. Beras, E. Schoenly, M. Schoeffler, M. Sturgeon, A. Bidjarano, P. Cole
- xii. The resolution was **approved** 14-0-11.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. D. Geisler motioned to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded and with no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Auriol C. R. Fassinou
Clerk of the Assembly



GPSA Resolution 5:

Resolution Approving the GPSA Internal Budget for the 2020-2021 term

Sponsored by: Aakarsha Ajit Pandey, on behalf of the GPSA Appropriations Committee.

WHEREAS, The GPSA Bylaws require that the Appropriations Committee recommend an internal budget in the form of a resolution (3.05(D)(vii)); and

WHEREAS, The total recommended budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year shall be a total of \$36,850.00; and

WHEREAS, The Administrative budget shall be 6,800.00, the Executive budget shall be \$150.00, the Communications budget shall be \$700.00, the Operations and Staffing budget shall be \$300.00, the Appropriations budget shall be \$800.00; and, the Finance Commission budget shall be \$1,600.00, the Student Advocacy budget shall be \$1,300.00, the NAGPS budget shall be \$800.00, the Faculty Awards budget shall be \$300.00, the Diversity Committee budget shall be \$1,800.00, and the travel budget shall be \$300.00; and

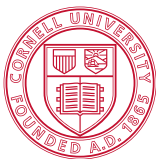
WHEREAS, The contribution to Anabel's Grocery shall be \$20,000.00; and

WHEREAS, The GPSA decided in 2015 to financially support the subsidized student-run and operated Anabel's Grocery through an annual contribution of \$20,000 for a maximum of four years (totaling \$80,000) in exchange for the ability of graduate and professional students to shop at the store; and

WHEREAS, This short-term contribution was decided at that time to come through the GPSA directly as a line item in the internal budget; and

WHEREAS, The chairs of the GPSA Finance Commission and chair of the GPSA Appropriations Committee met with the executive team of Anabel's Grocery in spring 2017 to formalize this relationship; and

WHEREAS, This discussion resulted in the formal agreement among all parties that 50% of the GPSA's contribution to Anabel's Grocery would be used for capital depreciation, and the remaining 50% be added to the subsidy fund; and



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28 **WHEREAS**, The subsidy fund is an account used by Anabel's Grocery to subsidize the cost of
29 food items to customers with demonstrated financial need; and

30 **WHEREAS**, The next \$20,000.00 contribution of the GPSA was agreed upon to come in the
31 Fall of 2019; and

32 **WHEREAS**, in 2019 Fall the GPSA decided via [Resolution 4: Recommendation for the](#)
33 [Graduate and Professional Student Activity Fee for 2020-2022](#) to support Anabel's Grocery for
34 two years or until the next Byline cycle; and

35 **WHEREAS**, in the light of the pandemic and shifting of all GPSA activities to a remote setting,
36 the GPSA has decided to generate an access fund supporting graduate and professional students;
37 and

38
39 **WHEREAS**, the budget for this access fund will be \$2000, and the GPSA will notify graduate
40 and professional students to apply to this fund to meet some of their financial concerns; and

41 **BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, The current and remaining contributions of the original
42 \$80,000 decided on by the GPSA to Anabel's Grocery will be designated as line items in the
43 GPSA internal budget;

44 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Appropriations Committee will continue to stay in
45 communication with Anabel's leadership to evaluate their finances and progress towards
46 sustainability once funding ceases;

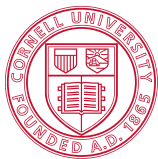
47 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the GPSA adopts these recommended allocations for the
48 budgets as proposed in this resolution;

49 Respectfully Submitted,

50 Aakarsha Ajit Pandey, GPSA Appropriations Chair

51 November 13, 2020

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Resolution 7: Urging for Graduate Teaching Assistants to Have the Right to Decide their Instruction Modality for Spring 2021

Abstract: In light of the global pandemic and Cornell University conducting instructions in a hybrid manner, graduate Teaching Assistants should be given the absolute autonomy to decide their mode of teaching instruction (online/in-person) without any form of coercion.

Sponsored by: Martik Chatterjee, Voting member for Life Sciences, VP-Operations GPSA

Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 12/04/2020

Whereas, when the University decided to have a hybrid semester in the Fall of 2020 with online and in person aspect to teaching, faculty and undergraduate students were given the choice to decide their mode of instruction- online, in-person, or hybrid; and

Whereas, there were no provisions made for granting absolute autonomy to graduate Teaching Assistants (TAs) to decide their mode of delivering teaching instructions; and

Whereas, graduate TAs were asked to make petitions to Student Disability Services (SDS) to ask for exemption from teaching in person in case of personal health concerns and

Whereas, this method of disclosure is invasive because individuals have to disclose health information that they probably feel uncomfortable disclosing to the SDS and their course instructor; and

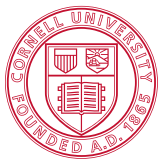
Whereas, this method burdens the already overworked SDS during a pandemic; and

Whereas, graduate TAs that feel uncomfortable about their own safety and the safety of their family or people they shared regular living spaces with must attempt to reach a common resolution with their supervisor. If a resolution cannot be reached the student must now choose to escalate the issue higher up at potential personal and academic cost; and

Whereas, this method puts the burden of resolving an uncomfortable situation on the graduate TAs, whereby a faculty/lecturer decides the mode of instruction for a graduate TA against their will, causing significant psychological pressure; and

Whereas, this method discriminates against individuals of the LGBTQIA+ community who are yet to come out; and

Whereas, realizing how this method is problematic, multiple departments across colleges like Science and Technology, Entomology, Molecular Biology and Genetics, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Information Science, Computer Science, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, etc., decided to



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32 give grad TAs the absolute authority in determining their mode of instruction for assigned classes;
33 and

34 **Whereas,** the Graduate School did not formally ask departments to have an “opt-in” policy where
35 graduate students opt-in to the mode of instruction (online or in-person) that they feel comfortable
36 with;

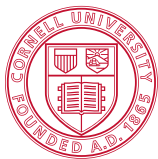
37 **Be it therefore resolved,** that in Spring 2020 graduate TAs be able to independently choose their
38 mode of teaching instruction in accordance with their wishes, with the option of changing that mode
39 in the course of the semester; and

40 **Be it further resolved,** that the Graduate School adopt this as a matter of policy and communicate
41 this policy to all the departments and faculty in charge of making teaching appointments.

42 Respectfully Submitted,

43 Martik Chatterjee

44 Vice President for Operations, GPSA



Resolution 8: Maintaining the University Assembly's Jurisdiction Over the Code of Conduct

Abstract: The GPSA re-affirms the University Assembly's (UA) jurisdiction over the Codes and Procedures with consultation with the Student Assembly (SA) and GPSA. The GPSA asserts that the Code and Procedures must remain independent documents reviewed by an independent body, the UA, that does not oversee any office that makes decisions on student responsibility. The GPSA echoes the sentiments expressed by the SA, unanimously, in Resolution 19 on 12/03/2020.

Sponsored by: Logan Kenney, Jeff Pea & Nikola Danev

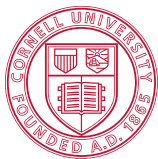
Whereas, prior to 1970, regulation of student conduct was vested in the Faculty through its Faculty Committee on Student Affairs, a committee that included two undergraduate students as voting members, and

Whereas, the Faculty has retained jurisdiction over Academic Integrity standards and adjudication, and

Whereas, since 1970, the Henderson Law (NY Education Law Section 6430) requires the Board of Trustees of each college in New York State to adopt Regulations for the Maintenance of Public Order "and provide a program for the enforcement thereof." "Such rules shall govern the conduct of students, faculty and other staff as well as visitors and other licensees and invitees on such campuses and property. The penalties for violations of such rules shall be clearly set forth therein." Ever since this law was enacted, the Cornell Board of Trustees has delegated this duty to the University Senate and later the University Assembly (UA) subject only to the Board performing the final enactment (as required by the statute,) and

Whereas, in 1970, the Board of Trustees acted with strong community support to delegate to the University Senate (and later the UA, its successor) jurisdiction over a Campus Code of Conduct and the campus judicial system. Most recently, the UA charter specifies this as, (1) "The Assembly may examine, on its own initiative, ... common standards of conduct," and (2) "the Assembly shall be allowed a period of at least one calendar month to review and respond to proposed changes of the following policies: ... the Campus Code of Conduct," and

Whereas, the UA Bylaws established a Codes and Judicial Committee to consider changes to the Code and the process for selection of the University Hearing Board and University Review Board. The UA also participates in the selection of the Judicial Administrator to assure that office's independence from the central administration, and



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Whereas, the current draft of the Code removes jurisdiction from the UA and provides Code jurisdiction will be handled by the Vice President of Student & Campus Life (VP SCL) or their designee with consultation from other assemblies, and

Whereas, the current draft of the Code proposes that the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (OSCCS) reports to the VP SCL directly, and

Whereas, in the spirit of shared governance, the Code and Procedures should be reviewed and amended by an independent body that represents the diverse and valuable perspectives of all members of the University community to prevent bias and to ensure the Code has the full buy-in of all University stakeholders, and

Whereas, the SA unanimously approved a resolution (Resolution 19 on 12/03/2020) with the same contents as this resolution.

Be it therefore resolved, the Administration, also providing UA Resolution 6 (GPSA Resolution 8) to the Board of Trustees, re-affirms the UA's jurisdiction over the Codes and Procedures. The language in the proposed Code of Conduct changes should shift jurisdiction from the VP SCL to the UA, with consultation with the Student Assembly (SA) and Graduate & Professional Student Assembly (GPSA),

Be it further resolved, the VP SCL or its designee may still propose amendments to either the Codes or Procedures that shall be reviewed by the University Assembly,

Be it further resolved, any changes or amendments to the Code or Procedures will still be subject to approval by the President of Cornell University and the Board of Trustees,

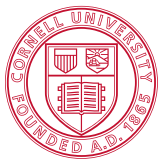
Be it finally resolved, the Code and Procedures remain independent documents reviewed by an independent body, the UA, that does not oversee any office that makes decisions on student responsibility.

Respectfully submitted,

Logan Kenney, GPSA Ex-Officio Member and UA Chair

Jeff Pea, GPSA Field Representative and UA Voting Member

Nikola Danev, GPSA Executive Vice President and UA CJC Member



Resolution 9: Extending Voting Membership to Standing Committee Chairpersons

Abstract: The GPSA grants voting rights only to a subset of its members, the composition of which is proportional to the Assembly constituent divisions. This resolution amends the GPSA Charter to grant *ex officio* Voting Membership to the chairpersons of the GPSA standing committees, provided that the Chairpersons are democratically elected, and that no future amendment allows Chairpersonship to be granted without a general election.

Sponsored by: David Dunham, President

Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 12/02/2020

Whereas, the GPSA Charter §4.04.B sets the number of Voting Members at 27 and states the composition thereof; and

Whereas, these Voting Members have the power to elect Officers and standing committee chairs, as well as the exclusive right to vote on the adoption of resolutions (§4.04.A.iii); and

Whereas, the concept of a limited Voting Membership is an unconventional construction that withholds a power rightfully reserved to all members, thereby creating a democratic deficit in the GPSA; and

Whereas, the current composition has led to undesirably low attendance due to the frequent vacating of Voting Member positions, and this tendency has led to difficulties in disposing of regular business; and

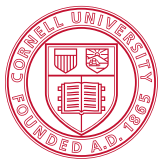
Whereas, the standing committee chairs have shown the most consistent attendance at our meetings, the most informed involvement in our affairs, and the highest level of professionalism; and

Whereas, the standing committee chairs are often unrewarded in their tireless efforts to support the mission of the GPSA; and

Whereas, GPSA members already elect the chairpersons of the standing committees;

Be it therefore resolved, that the GPSA Charter §4.04.B (line 187) be amended to be “There shall be thirty-six (36) Voting Members, composed as follows:”; and

Be it further resolved, that the GPSA Charter §4.04.B be amended to insert the following subsection §4.04.B.iv after §4.04.B.iii (line 204):



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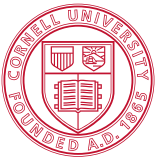
- iv. “*Ex officio* Voting Membership shall be granted to the Chairpersons of the following GPSA standing committees, provided that the committee chair is either an elected Officer or a member appointed through an election by a majority of all members:
1. Executive Committee (Bylaws §3.02)
 2. Operations and Staffing Committee (Bylaws §3.03)
 3. Appropriations Committee (Bylaws §3.05)
 4. Communications Committee (Bylaws §3.06)
 5. Finance Commission (Bylaws §3.07)
 6. Student Advocacy Committee (Bylaws §3.08)
 7. Graduate and Professional Student Programming Board (Bylaws §3.09)
 8. Faculty Teaching, Advising, and Mentorship Award Committee (Bylaws §3.10)
 9. Diversity & International Students Committee (Bylaws §3.11)

Be it finally resolved, that the GPSA urges the President of the University to approve this amendment, pursuant to the President’s authority under Charter §10.04.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Dunham

President of the Graduate & Professional Student Assembly



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APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Amendments to Internal Budget resolution passed on
[November 23, 2020](#)

Amendment 1: Line 1; change “GPSA Resolution 6” to “GPSA Resolution 5”,

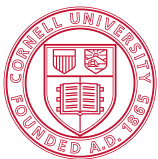
Amendment 2: Line 12; change the allotted budget to the Student Advocacy Committee to \$650.00 instead of \$1300.00,

Amendment 3: Line 13; change the allotted Faculty Awards budget to \$750.00 instead of \$300.00,

Amendment 4: Line 35-40; replace the text with the following wording:

“WHEREAS, in the light of the pandemic and shifting of all GPSA activities to a remote setting, graduate students have experienced additional financial stresses and changed home technology needs; and

WHEREAS, the GPSA will set aside \$2200 for a fund to help support graduate students’ home technology needs, the exact distribution of which will be determined in collaboration with the Graduate School and other relevant offices; and”



GPSA Resolution 6:

Resolution Approving the GPSA Internal Budget for the 2020-2021 term

Sponsored by: Aakarsha Ajit Pandey, on behalf of the GPSA Appropriations Committee.

WHEREAS, The GPSA Bylaws require that the Appropriations Committee recommend an internal budget in the form of a resolution (3.05(D)(vii)); and

WHEREAS, The total recommended budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year shall be a total of \$36,850.00; and

WHEREAS, The Administrative budget shall be 6,800.00, the Executive budget shall be \$150.00, the Communications budget shall be \$700.00, the Operations and Staffing budget shall be \$300.00, the Appropriations budget shall be \$800.00; and, the Finance Commission budget shall be \$1,600.00, the Student Advocacy budget shall be \$1,300.00, the NAGPS budget shall be \$800.00, the Faculty Awards budget shall be \$300.00, the Diversity Committee budget shall be \$1,800.00, and the travel budget shall be \$300.00; and

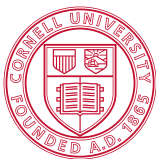
WHEREAS, The contribution to Anabel's Grocery shall be \$20,000.00; and

WHEREAS, The GPSA decided in 2015 to financially support the subsidized student-run and operated Anabel's Grocery through an annual contribution of \$20,000 for a maximum of four years (totaling \$80,000) in exchange for the ability of graduate and professional students to shop at the store; and

WHEREAS, This short-term contribution was decided at that time to come through the GPSA directly as a line item in the internal budget; and

WHEREAS, The chairs of the GPSA Finance Commission and chair of the GPSA Appropriations Committee met with the executive team of Anabel's Grocery in spring 2017 to formalize this relationship; and

WHEREAS, This discussion resulted in the formal agreement among all parties that 50% of the GPSA's contribution to Anabel's Grocery would be used for capital depreciation, and the remaining 50% be added to the subsidy fund; and



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28 **WHEREAS**, The subsidy fund is an account used by Anabel's Grocery to subsidize the cost of
29 food items to customers with demonstrated financial need; and

30 **WHEREAS**, The next \$20,000.00 contribution of the GPSA was agreed upon to come in the
31 Fall of 2019; and

32 **WHEREAS**, in 2019 Fall the GPSA decided via [Resolution 4: Recommendation for the](#)
33 [Graduate and Professional Student Activity Fee for 2020-2022](#) to support Anabel's Grocery for
34 two years or until the next Byline cycle; and

35 **WHEREAS**, in the light of the pandemic and shifting of all GPSA activities to a remote setting,
36 the GPSA has decided to generate an access fund supporting graduate and professional students;
37 and

38
39 **WHEREAS**, the budget for this access fund will be \$2000, and the GPSA will notify graduate
40 and professional students to apply to this fund to meet some of their financial concerns; and

41 **BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, The current and remaining contributions of the original
42 \$80,000 decided on by the GPSA to Anabel's Grocery will be designated as line items in the
43 GPSA internal budget;

44 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Appropriations Committee will continue to stay in
45 communication with Anabel's leadership to evaluate their finances and progress towards
46 sustainability once funding ceases;

47 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the GPSA adopts these recommended allocations for the
48 budgets as proposed in this resolution;

49 Respectfully Submitted,

50 Aakarsha Ajit Pandey, GPSA Appropriations Chair

51 November 13, 2020

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