

Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

Cornell Graduate and Professional Student University Assembly

Minutes of the March 20, 2023 Meeting

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

401 Physical Sciences Building

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Chair K. Cram called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.
 - b. *Members Present [14]*: A. Bruce, S. Carrillo, K. Chapman, Y. Cho, K. Cram, M. Dew, M. Heeney, Y. Kang, M. Matthews, K. Rajagopalan, G. Smits, J. Washington, T. Wolford, A. Wunsch
 - c. *Members Absent [11]*: S. Bright Thonney, D. Browne, N. Dorvil, G. Ewing, S. Graham, B. Hayes, A. Majumdar, A. McGraw, M. Minelli, O. Perkins, R. Yuan
 - d. *Also Present*: J. Withers, J. Zhang, Dean Boor
- II. Late Additions to the Agenda
 - a. There were no late additions to the agenda.
- III. Approval of the March 6th Meeting minutes.
 - a. The minutes were **approved** unanimously.
- IV. Presentation
 - a. Chief of Police Anthony Bellamy
 - i. A. Bellamy introduced himself as the Chief of Police and the subject of the presentation, the Cornell University Police Department.
 - ii. A. Bellamy gave an overview of the Police force structure, training, resources, services, and points of contact. A. Bellamy emphasized his desire to empathize with graduate student concerns.
 - iii. M. Heeney questioned if a partnership with the Center of Teaching Innovation had been considered, noting worries of TAs during previous lockdowns.
 1. A. Bellamy stated that these concerns had previously been received and would be addressed.



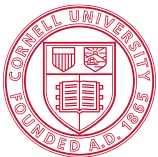
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- iv. S. Carrillo questioned how CUPD collaborates with external police forces to address incidents.
 - 1. A. Bellamy stated that the CUPD will assist if requested, but that there is direct jurisdiction over the Cornell Campus and nearby roads.
- v. J. Washington questioned if CUPD has jurisdiction over Cornell property outside of the immediate campus.
 - 1. A. Bellamy stated that they have jurisdiction over all Cornell buildings.
- vi. Dean Boor questioned jurisdiction for external campuses such as Cornell Tech.
 - 1. A. Bellamy stated that CUPD keeps contact with nearby departments in respective locations.
- vii. M. Matthews questioned the specific requirements for an on-campus event necessitating police presence.
 - 1. A. Bellamy stated that a formula was created to determine the need for police presence for events.
- b. Big Red Barn Director Jennifer Forbes
 - i. J. Forbes introduced herself and the subject of the presentation, the Big Red Barn renovation project.
 - ii. J. Forbes highlighted current and future Big Red Barn programming, major renovations, and future renovation proposals.
 - iii. J. Forbes discussed the possibilities of student involvement in making furniture choices for the Barn.
 - iv. M. Matthews questioned possibilities of converting outdoor space for use during winter weather.
 - 1. J. Forbes noted options such as tents.
- V. Introduction to Business of the Day
- VI. Breakout session by Division
- VII. New Business
 - a. No new business.
- VIII. Business of the Day



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- a. Spring 2023 Executive Board, Committee Chairs, and Voting Members Elections
 - i. K. Cram gave an overview on the Spring 2023 Elections plan and invited participation.
 - b. DISC Chair Nominations and Elections
- IX. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates
- a. Executive Committee
 - i. J. Washington noted an email on a call for agenda items.
 - b. Operations
 - i. No new updates.
 - c. Appropriations
 - i. No new updates.
 - d. Communications
 - i. M. Heeney stated that the newsletter would be released the next day.
 - e. Finance
 - i. No new updates.
 - f. Student Advocacy
 - i. No new updates.
 - g. Diversity and International Students
 - i. No new updates.
 - h. Programming
 - i. M. Matthews stated that ticket sales for the Spring Gala will begin next week.
 - i. Faculty Awards
 - i. No new updates.
 - j. General Committee
 - i. No new updates.
 - k. Graduate School
 - i. Dean Boor stated that written responses to questions from previous meetings were released by President Pollack. Dean Boor noted a recent email on changes to parking policy.
- X. Open Forum



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XI. Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 6:24pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer J. Zhang
Clerk of the Assembly

GPSA follow up points - From President Pollack visit 2/17/23

1. Agritech shuttle timing

- The AgriTech shuttle arrives in Ithaca at 9:30 am, allowing students to get to Cornell Health, receive care, and then get a shuttle back to Geneva in the afternoon (3:45 M-Th, 3:15 Fridays).
- For appointment needs later in the afternoon, Cornell Health offers telehealth services in the evenings until 7pm. (There's also an early morning shuttle back to Geneva if a student chooses to stay in Ithaca overnight.)
- There is not enough demand to support multiple daily shuttles from Agritech to Ithaca and back.

2. After-hours gym access

- The fitness centers offer hours from 6am-11pm weekdays and 10am-10pm on weekends—over 70 open hours each weekday. In the past, the fitness centers have experimented with longer evening hours and earlier weekend hours, but the timeslots were not utilized.
- It is not possible to grant un-staffed key card access for safety reasons:
 - Injury risk. People see fitness influencers on social media and try to copy them, leading to injury. Many of these videos are created by individuals with no fitness credentials or certifications. We currently see this trend frequently in the facilities during open hours.
 - Other health and safety concerns (risk of sudden illness, assault, etc.)
 - The ACSM (American College of Sports Medicine) guidelines call for a trained staff member on the floor at all times to supervise and provide emergency care if necessary. Guidelines also specify that “Facilities must have a system operation that monitors the entry to and usage of the facility by all individuals.”

- Cornell Health and Fitness Centers are open to feedback and continually work towards meeting the needs of the Cornell community to the best of our ability. We encourage individuals to connect directly if needed.

3. “No winter maintenance” decision making process

- As discussed, Facilities does not maintain all stairs/pathways throughout the winter.
- In general, Facilities selects for “no winter maintenance” the walkways that are the least traveled, and those where there are multiple routes to the same destination.
- Some barricades are placed where ice and snow fall unpredictably from roofs, and people might get injured (this is the case with the stairway referred to in the GPSA meeting).
- Some areas are blocked off because snow removal equipment does not fit in the width of the space (e.g. Weill Hall diagonal sidewalk).

4. Retirement plan for graduate students

- By prioritizing and maximizing stipends, we provide the greatest flexibility to all of our graduate students to allocate those resources in the ways that best fit their individual circumstances.
- Enhancing graduate compensation with benefits or other services provided across the board to all graduate students (such as retirement contributions, additional insurance, gym benefit, etc.) would divert resources otherwise available for stipends.
- Our graduate students are very diverse and their needs are as well; some of our students are supporting families in Ithaca, some travel great distances to visit families at home, some have other unique expenses.
- Graduate students who wish to allocate some of their stipends toward retirement savings are encouraged to do so through individual IRAs.

5. Better promotion of Access Fund

- The Access Fund is designed to help mitigate barriers to education; it is a limited solution for students experiencing specific types of financial stress, not a universal one.
- That said, Access Fund awareness can be promoted in the following additional ways:
 - Including information in orientation Canvas course
 - Offering a table to the Dean of Students at the Graduate/Professional Student resource fair expressly for promoting the Access Fund
 - Featuring it in the weekly newsletter midway through every semester