

Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

Cornell Graduate and Professional Student University Assembly

Minutes of the November 14, 2022 Meeting

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

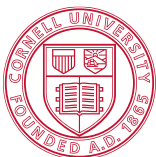
401 Physical Sciences Building

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Chair P. Hanley called the meeting to order at 5:00pm
 - b. *Members Present:* K. Boardman, A. Bruce, S. Carrillo, Y. Cho, K. Cram, N. Dorvil, G. Ewing, M. Heeney, Y. Kang, A. Majumdar, A. Masand, M. Matthews, A. McGraw, A. Murtha, C. Ohenewah, A. Patel, G. Smits, D. Stanic, J. Washington, T. Wolford, A. Wunsch, S. Yang, P. Hanley
 - c. *Members Absent:* K. Chapman, M. Dew, S. Graham, B. Hayes, K. Karnuta, M. Minelli, N. Moore
 - d. *Also Present:* E. Kalweit, J. Withers, J. Zhang
- II. Late Additions to the Agenda
 - a. There were no late additions to the agenda.
- III. Approval of the Meeting minutes
 - a. The October 31st minutes were **approved** unanimously.
- IV. President Pollack's State of the University (Fall 2022) Address + Q and A
 - a. Presentation
 - i. M. Pollack noted Cornell's high law placement, emphasizing that Cornell has the highest number of academic medicine placement compared to any other institution.
 - ii. M. Pollack discussed sustainability impact and noted that the campus has had a platinum rating for 3 years in a row.
 - iii. M. Pollack discussed finances, stating that the endowment last year lost 1.3%, while the previous year experienced was 41.9% gain so that this year ended with 9.8 billion in endowment. M. Pollack stated that Cornell has the smallest endowment per student in the Ivy League which has forced the need to raise fees and decrease costs. Most endowment donors give donations with specific use in mind. M. Pollack noted that for graduate students, hourly wages cannot provide for full cost of attendance.



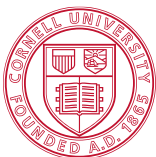
Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

- iv. M. Pollack discussed public transportation, stating that TCAT is in sold financial footing, with disruptions in service not due to money but rather a labor shortage in drivers and mechanics.
- v. M. Pollack discussed mental wellness, noting the Student Well Being Council, a new CAPS director, as well as heavy investment in counselor staffing for a low ratio with wait times reduced to 1-3 days in nonpeak times. M. Pollack emphasized how essential it is that basic needs are met and the necessity to prioritize communication on resources and availability of such.
- vi. J. Washington questioned if there was consideration to pay full services for TCAT. M. Pollack stated that this could be considered but would be costly.
- vii. M. Matthews questioned if there would be an opt in for the bus pass, as not all 1st years use it, while some upper year students actively do look for this service.
- viii. R. Lombardi stated there is a position called International Student Liaison currently vacant to support foreign students.
- ix. K. Boardman questioned what the options to reserve rooms for telehealth appointments are. R. Lombardi stated a small pilot for privacy booths were in progress where meetings could be taken privately.
- x. K. Boardman noted that Sober House was shut down and questioned if there were any programs. R. Lombardi stated that there is currently a great counselor working to address A and D to hopefully adopt a collegiate recovery program.
- xi. M. Heeney questioned if there were plans to implement programs for loneliness. M. Pollack stated that in terms of preventative measures, the Graduate School has focused strongly on improving onboarding, publishing clear handbooks, creating a mechanism for graduate students to provide feedback on advisor performance to help improve communication. R. Lombardi noted group therapy options as well as.



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

- xii. M. Matthews noted changes parking permits and questioned what the priorities were with making those changes. M. Pollack noted that an entire lot was lost, as well as the Daily Decision lot, and stated that she does not have a specific solution, but that long-term plans with TCAT would be a campus circulator that would ensure a 10-minute turnaround.
- V. Breakout session by division
- VI. New Business
- VII. Business of the Day
 - a. Resolution 3: Amendments to Appendix B of the GPSA Charter
 - i. P. Hanley re-introduced Resolution 3.
 - ii. M. Heeney called a motion to bring Resolution 3 to the floor. M. Matthews seconded the motion. Resolution 3 was not approved due to lack of members in attendance.
 - b. Election of a new Diversity and International Students chair
 - i. D. Stanic and S. Yang introduced themselves for nomination to the position. D. Stanic was elected.
 - c. Buddy Pilot Program with the Big Red Barn (Spring 2023)
 - i. The ITAP
 - 1. M. Matthews noted that should any events be possibly subsidized, attendance could be greatly encouraged.
 - 2. A. McGraw stated that this could increase socializing and noted that besides drinking other types of events not contingent on alcohol could be encouraging. D. Stanic noted the possibility of having multiple people gather rather than as just a 2-person duo to increase the rate of meeting up.
 - 3. P. Hanley questioned if there would be anyone interested in working with Big Red Barn on this pilot project.
 - a. J. Washington noted their interest and willingness.
 - d. Committee Appointments
 - i. Privacy Pod Working Group committee (1 Representative)
 - 1. A. McGraw noted their interest.



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

ii. ITAP Committee (1 Representative)

VIII. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates

a. Executive Committee

- i. K. Cram stated that elections for President and Vice President of Finance are being worked on for publishing. K. Cram noted work on preparation for a Spring transition and onboarding new members.

b. Operations

- i. J. Washington noted that any newly elected members should reach out through email to prepare. J. Washington noted that all committee chairs should place their prior committee meeting minutes inside the appropriate Box folder.

c. Appropriations

- i. No new updates.

d. Communications

- i. K. Boardman stated that the newsletter would be published earlier to be inclusive of finals. K. Boardman noted the survey in the newsletter which has yielded lots of community engagement.

e. Finance

- i. No new updates.

f. Student Advocacy

- i. A. McGraw stated that minutes from the most recent meeting were put in Box. A. McGraw noted new ideas the Committee had discussed such as a Campus Climate Survey, physical comments box in the Big Red Barn, etc. A. McGraw noted that the 2nd Student Health Plan Advisory Committee meeting occurred.

g. Diversity and International Students

- i. No new updates.

h. Programming

- i. M. Matthews stated that the final cross-campus networking event of the semester will occur at the Big Red Barn.

i. Faculty Awards



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

- i. A. Patel stated that the ceremony would be foregone due to a lack of funds.
 - j. General Committee
 - i. G. Smits stated no new updates.
 - k. Graduate School
 - i. D. Boor stated that many ideas mentioned by A. McGraw could be implemented. D. Boor stated that, in the goal of achieving diversity in graduate students, there was a past event with around 100 students with the potential of pursuing a graduate degree at Cornell.
- IX. Open Forum
 - a. There were no new statements.
- X. Adjournment
 - a. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer J. Zhang
Clerk of the Assembly