



**Cornell University**  
**Graduate and Professional**  
**Student Assembly**

**Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly**  
**Minutes of the April 6, 2020 Meeting**  
**Zoom Meeting**

- I. Call to Order
  - a. A. Barrientos-Gomez called the meeting to order
- II. Roll Call (5 Minutes)
  - a. Present: A. Barrientos-Gomez, A. Bidjarano, M. Cantar, A. Cohn, P. Cole, C. Duell, A. P. D. G. Everett, J. Faulk, M. Gelsinger, A. Johnson, V. Kasonde, M. Keefe, K. Laurent, N. London, R. Maloney, K. Masters, M. Sawey, M. Schoeffler, E. Schoenly, T. Tejada, P. Vinahge, D. Yucalan
  - b. Absent: E. Call, M. Daly, R. Harrison, L. Louis, D. (Marvin) Wang, H. Xu
- III. Approval of the Minutes (5 Minutes)
  - a. Minutes from March 2, 2020 – approved unanimously
  - b. Minutes from March 16, 2020 – approved unanimously
- IV. New Business (30 Minutes)
  - a. Introduction of Resolution 13: Additional Donation from the GPSA to the Access Fund to Support Graduate and Professional Students in Need Related to COVID-19 Pandemic – approved by vote of 16-0-9
    - i. Abstract of resolution: This resolution approves the transfer of funds from the Graduate and Professional Student Programming Board (GPSPB) to the Access Fund to support students' urgent needs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This resolution also calls on the University to look for additional funds to support financial relief to professional students and guarantee graduate student funding.
    - ii. A. Johnson informed assembly members that graduate and professional students have already been allocated over \$145,000 and the total amount of donated funds was over \$240,000
    - iii. Motion to suspend article in bylaws to wait to vote and move to business of the day – approve unanimously
    - iv. No further comments or amendments
    - v. Motion to all to question – approved unanimously
  - b. Introduction to Resolution 14: In Support of the University Allowing International Graduate Students to TA Remotely During the Summer 2020 Session and the Fall 2020 Semester – approved by vote of 17-0-8
    - i. Abstract of resolution: Graduate students who are currently abroad and depend on assistantships for financial support do not know whether they will be able to return to the US in time for the start of the Summer 2020

session or the Fall 2020 semester. This resolution encourages the University to find legal ways to provide these students with, in effect, remote teaching positions during the Summer 2020 session and the Fall 2020 semester.

- ii. A. Johnson informed assembly members that graduate students who are currently abroad and depend on assistantships for financial support are not certain if they will be able to return to the US at the start of the Summer session or Fall Semester.
  - iii. Motion to suspend article in bylaws to wait to vote and move to business of the day – **approved unanimously**
  - iv. Discussion of resolution – amendments and questions
    1. Addition of K. Krishnan as co-sponsor
    2. Proposed amendment between lines 36 and 37 “Be it further resolved, if at the end of that research the University concludes that assistantships cannot be allocated to students living internationally, the University should coordinate with colleges and departments to redirect funds that would have gone to assistantships to expand university fellowship programs for affected students.” – **motion to amend approved unanimously**
    3. Proposed amendment to line 43 to add “...,or a fellowship position during the Summer 2020 session and Fall 2020 semester – **motion to amend approved unanimously**
    4. Proposed amendment to add “Whereas, students on fellowships are generally not required to be in the country” – **motion to amend approved unanimously**
    5. Proposed amendment to line 37 to add “...while protecting visa status,” – **motion to amend approved unanimously**
  - v. Motion to call to question – **approved unanimously**
- c. Introduction to Resolution 15: Requesting that First-Year Writing Seminar Instructors be Allowed to Hold Asynchronous Discussions Only, If Appropriate for their Class – **approved by vote of 15-0-10**
- i. Abstract of resolution: Some First-Year Writing Seminar (FWS) instructors have concerns about the privacy, equity, and logistical implications of recording live-video discussions which will then be viewed asynchronously by students who cannot attend. This is especially an issue for FWS instructors who have internet connectivity issues or who cover sensitive topic matter. This resolution asks that FWS instructors be given the freedom to hold discussions in whichever way they deem is most appropriate for their class.
  - ii. K. Masters stated that there is a huge difference between synchronous and asynchronous. Given the short amount of time that is left for classes, is there another way that they can teach these courses without it being discussion based? Recommendation was made to have a second discussion held asynchronous via Canvas.

- iii. J. Kent-Dobias expressed confusion regarding the resolution title as synchronous and asynchronous definitions are still undetermined.
  - iv. Motion to extend meeting by a half hour – **approved unanimously.**
  - v. K. Masters asked for clarification whether could be via video or held on Canvas.
  - vi. Motion to suspend article in bylaws to wait to vote and move to business of the day – **approved unanimously**
  - vii. Discussion of resolution – amendments, questions
    - 1. Proposed amendment to replace end of title with “...be Allowed to hold Virtual Discussions in Whatever Way They Deem Appropriate” – **motion to amend approved unanimously**
    - 2. Proposed amendment to replace “synchronous” with “live-video” throughout entire resolution – **motion to amend approve unanimously.**
  - viii. Motion to call to question – **approved unanimously**
- d. Introduction to Resolution 16: Demanding Cornell Fight for Fair Terms in the Remote Services Its Community is Required to Use – **tabled to 5/4/20 meeting**
- i. Abstract of resolution: Because of the coronavirus pandemic, students and instructors are required to use tools like Zoom and CASHNet. Despite privacy and security risks, both services mandate that users waive their right to sue in court or as part of a class action. Cornell must contact third-party vendors and fight to ensure their terms do not strip these essential legal rights. If Cornell cannot negotiate the removal of unfair terms from a service, it must commit to provide legal support for anyone harmed by use of that service.
  - ii. Due to COVID-19, students and instructors are required to use tools like Zoom and CASHNet. Despite privacy and security risks, both services mandate that users waive their right to sue in court or as part of a class action. Cornell must contact third-party vendors and fight to ensure their terms do not strip these essential legal rights. If Cornell cannot negotiate the removal of unfair terms from a service, it must commit to provide
  - iii. Motion to suspend article in bylaws to wait to vote and move to business of the day – **approved unanimously**
  - iv. Discussion of resolution – amendments, questions
    - 1. Proposed amendment to move lines 27-32 to end note 7 and amend line 26 to read “Whereas, item twenty of Zoom’s terms mandate arbitration and ban class action. (end note 7) – **motion to amend approved unanimously**
  - v. Motion to call to question – **approved unanimously**

V. Old Business (30 Minutes)

- a. Discussion on Resolution 2: Condemning the Dismissal of Julia Feliz from the Cornell Alliance for Science’s Global Leadership Fellowship
  - i. Not addressed at this time as meeting was not extended longer. Executive committee will discuss how best to handle this discussion.

- b. Discussion on Resolution 5: Support of the Development and Implementation of a Cornell Campus Circulator System
  - i. Not addressed at this time as meeting was not extended longer. Executive committee will discuss how best to handle this discussion.
- c. Discussion on Resolution 7: Condemnation of the dangerously late closure of Ithaca campus on 7 February 2020
  - i. Not addressed at this time as meeting was not extended longer. Executive committee will discuss how best to handle this discussion.
- d. Discussion on Resolution 11: In Support of Our Graduate Student Colleagues Participating in the “Wildcat Strike”
  - i. Not addressed at this time as meeting was not extended longer. Executive committee will discuss how best to handle this discussion.

VI.

VII. Division Breakout (10 Minutes)

- a. Voting Member Elections
  - i. Seats available for 2020-2021 term
    1. Arts and Humanities – 3
    2. Life Sciences – 3
    3. Physical Sciences and Engineering – 4
    4. Social Sciences – 4
    5. Masters-at-Large – 1
    6. Masters of Engineering – 1
    7. Professional Schools (Law, Johnson, and Vet), CIPA, and MILR will do internal elections

VIII. Committee Q&A (5 Minutes)

- a. Executive – no updates as meeting ran out of time and was not extended further
- b. Operations – no updates as meeting ran out of time and was not extended further
- c. Communications – no updates as meeting ran out of time and was not extended further
- d. Appropriations – no updates as meeting ran out of time and was not extended further
- e. Finance – no updates as meeting ran out of time and was not extended further
- f. Student Advocacy – no updates as meeting ran out of time and was not extended further
- g. Diversity and International Students – no updates as meeting ran out of time and was not extended further
- h. Programming – no updates as meeting ran out of time and was not extended further
- i. Faculty Awards – no updates as meeting ran out of time and was not extended further
- j. GPCI – no updates as meeting ran out of time and was not extended further
- k. General Committee – no updates as meeting ran out of time and was not extended further
- l. Graduate School – no updates as meeting ran out of time and was not extended further

- m. University Assembly – no updates as meeting ran out of time and was not extended further

IX. Open Forum (5 Minutes)

- a. Did not take place as meeting ran out of time and was not extended further

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Wendy Treat*  
*Senior Coordinator*  
*Office of the Assemblies*