**Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly**
Minutes of the September 14, 2020 Meeting
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
Zoom Meeting

I.   Call to Order
    a.   Call to Order
        i.   A. Barrientos-Gomez called the meeting to order at 5:34pm

II. Roll Call
        i.   *Present*: A. Barrientos-Gomez, A. Cohn, M. Chatterjee, C. Duell, E. Schoenly, H. Bidigare-Curtis, M. Schoeffler, R. Barankevich
        ii. *Members Joined after Roll Call*: H. Cole, T. Luttermoser, K. Laurent
        iii. *Members not Present:* P. Vinhage, S. Lopez, M. Keefe, J. Dotzel, H. Xu, M. Sturgeon, A. Bidjarano, A. Cirillo, P. Cole, R. Maloney, D. Wang, A. Sontag, M. Welch, K. Keras, M. Cantar, K. Masters, E. Call, T. Tejeda

III. Approval of the Minutes
    a.   Minutes from April 6, 2020
        i.   A member moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by A. Cohn and approved.

IV. Presentations
    a.   Dr. C. Van Loan, Dean of Faculty, and Dr. N. Kudva, Associate Dean of Faculty (refer to PowerPoint posted under meeting materials on OA website)
        i.   Code of Academic Integrity
            1.   Dr. C. Van Loan stated that the three proposed changes to the code were related to replacing the independent witness with a video, a method for handling large case volumes, and S/U and grade change options. The groups that Dr. C. Van Loan wanted to specifically hear from included the faculty members on the College Hearing Boards, the JCC's, and members of the GPSA and undergraduate student community. The EPC (Educational Policy Committee) would look at the feedback and reshape the resolution within the next two weeks before sending it to the Senate. The resolution would be voted on by the Senate at their October 14th, 2020 meeting.
            2.   Dr. C. Van Loan stated that the first changed involved switching to a reliance on the Zoom recording rather than an independent witness for Primary Hearings. The recording would be a more accurate rendition of the meeting, save labor, and reduce the time of the process. He noted that generally from the basic feedback, people
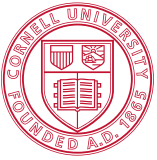
were okay with the change. One concern though, was that people did not understand what the role of the independent witness was. In the Primary Hearings, both the student and faculty were able to have witnesses and the proposed change would not erase that.

3. The second change would allow the instructor the ability to delegate their role in the Primary Hearings to a member of the staff or faculty in the event of large cases (more than three students). The delegation would have to be approved by the chair with the instructor still making the final decision. The change would delegate the role of the instructor to another individual but maintain checks to ensure the process would be completed properly. Dr. C. Van Loan reviewed the comments on the change.

4. The third change would allow a more just penalty for individuals taking a course S/U. The proposal would be to allow the student and faculty to discuss whether or not the student would like to have their grade changed to a U or a letter-grade.

5. There were no questions; Dr. C. Van Loan noted that if any member had questions later on, to share them on the website (anonymously) within the next week.

6. H. Bidigare-Curtis asked Dr. C. Van Loan if they were looking for grad students to reinforce feedback and if the current feedback brought up in the slides would be incorporated?

    a. Dr. C. Van Loan stated that grad students were welcomed to reinforce any pre-existing feedback or to add on anything that had not been mentioned already. Additionally, it would be up to the EPC to take all the feedback and convey their best recommendations to the Senate.

ii. Anti-Racism Initiative

1. Dr. N. Kudva stated that the Faculty Senate would be overseeing five aspects of President Pollack's response to the death of George Floyd. Dr. N. Kudva noted that she would be presenting on three of those aspects. The two aspects that would not be focused on were the themed semester and the program review process within the University. The first aspect included an educational requirement for students that work was still being done on to figure out logistics on distribution. There was also an education requirement for faculty which would require even more logistical planning. The third aspect

was the requirement of a "center" that would function as a vibrant intellectual force for anti-racism work.

2. The process was started in the Faculty Senate by a desire to build on the work of others and understanding what Cornell had completed as an institution to meet the diversity and inclusion goals. Dr. N. Kudva stated that Cornell University had a very egalitarian start but ran into issues in building on that egalitarian ideal. The Faculty Senate was focusing on using past taskforce reports to determine what the institution had been able to do and what failures came up over the years with the causes of those failures. Additionally, the Senate would like to build on current strengths.

3. M. Chatterjee asked if the university had allocated monetary or financial budgets to the anti-racism initiatives?
   a. Dr. C. Van Loan responded by saying that the Faculty Senate was tasked with figuring out the best way to accomplish the initiatives without focusing too much on the exact figures. President Pollack, the Provosts, and the Deans would then figure out the resource allocations that would be necessary.

4. J. Pea noted that C. Van Loan had mentioned that the departmental review would be a possible measure to address accountability for faculty. J. Pea asked if there were any other ideas for tenured faculty since the other option seemed geared towards tenure-progression faculty?
   a. C. Van Loan said that the ideas would really apply to all promotions and faculty on any track. Tenured faculty were not completely insulated from it. N. Kudva stated that after year 12 or 13 it would become difficult to hold faculty accountable, but the accountability would need to be maintained.

b. G. Giambattista, Director of the Office of the Assemblies (refer to PowerPoint posted under meeting materials on OA website)
   i. Presentation on Shared Governance

V. Division Breakout

VI. Election Updates
   a. A. Barrientos-Gomez noted that the GPSA elections would be held at the next meeting (September 28th, 2020). There were several positions that were available including the Executive Board positions. A. Barrientos-Gomez briefly went over the positions that were available and stated that the document containing the info along

with time commitments would be sent out to members. There was also a vacancy for Appropriations chair. The main role of the Appropriations committee was setting the byline funding for setting the student activities fee. There were also vacancies in voting member positions and field representatives.

b. An attendee asked if the two voting member positions would be the only positions available for the year or if current voting members were continuing in that role?

    i. A. Barrientos-Gomez stated that the new voting members were elected in April and would hold those positions until the end of the term. The vacant positions were due to no one running for them.

c. An attendee asked if those who served in an Executive capacity also served as field reps or would departments need to send in a separate field rep?

    i. A. Barrientos-Gomez said that he believes Executive members could have a maximum of 2 roles.

VII. Committee Q&A

a. Executive

b. Operations

    i. A. Barrientos-Gomez noted that there currently was not a VP of Operations responsible for overseeing all the other committees.

c. Communications

    i. A. Barrientos-Gomez said that the Communications committee would work with all the GPSA communications including the email summaries from T. Tejeda.

d. Finance

    i. A member stated that the Finance committee was welcoming new members. The Finance committee was responsible for reviewing budgets and allocating funds to student groups.

e. Student Advocacy

    i. M. Chatterjee conveyed to attendees that the role of the Student Advocacy committee included working on finances, mental and physical, and the general well-being of graduate students.

f. Diversity and International Students

    i. A. Barrientos-Gomez stated that the role of the committee involved issues of diversity and international students. Additionally, the committee had been quite active in the past with hosting events such as equity workshops in relation to international students.

g. Programming
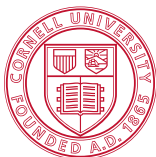
       i. K. Laurent noted that the Programming committee was responsible for organizing non-academic events such as wine tours. The time commitment would be minimal since there were many members involved.

      ii. A. Barrientos-Gomez noted that the majority of the money donated to the Access Fund had been raised by the Programming Board and Finance Commission.

h. Faculty Awards

       i. C. Duell noted that the awards normally took place every Spring and were a fun way for the GPSA to honor faculty members that had excelled in the area of teaching, advising, and mentorship. C. Duell went over the role of members in deciding award recipients.

i. General Committee

       i. A. Barrientos-Gomez noted that the General Committee did not recruit members and consisted of two representatives (S. Lopez and B. Harrison),

j. Graduate School

       i. A meeting attendee (J. Allen) presented on the Graduate School staff and its role in helping graduate students while working remotely to de-densify campus.

k. University Assembly

       i. J. Pea commented on the role of the University Assembly in shared governance. The UA was responsible for overseeing and giving advice on issues that would affect all members of the University community. The most recent business conducted by the UA Executive Board was appointing students, faculty, and staff to the UHRB (University Hearing and Review Board).

VIII. Open Forum

a. An attendee noted that they were starting a support and advocacy group for individuals with pelvic pain.

IX. Adjournment

a. A. Cohn moved to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Auriole C. R. Fassinou
Clerk of the Assembly