

Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

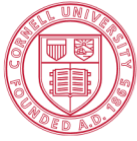
Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Minutes of the September 12, 2022

Meeting 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

700 Clark Hall | Zoom

- I. Call to Order
 - a. P. Hanley called the meeting to order at 5:10 PM.
- II. Roll Call
 - a. *Present [24]*: K. Boardman, S. Bright-Thonney, K. Cram, M. Dew, S. Graham, B. Hayes, M. Heeney, Y. Joo Kang, K. Karnuta, A. Majumdar, M. Matthews, A. McGraw, M. Minelli, N. Moore, A. Murtha, C. Ohenewah, A. Patel, N. Perez, G. Smits, D. Stanic, J. Washington, T. Wolford, A. Wunsch, S. Yang
 - b. *Absent [4]*: S. Carrillo, K. Chapman, Y. Cho, N. Dorvil
 - c. *Guests/Non-Voting Members [4]*: J. Forbes, P. Hanley, E. Kalweit, J. Zhang
- III. Late Additions to Agenda
 - a. Elections for the Industrial Labor Relations Representative
 - i. Allison Bruce self-nominated for Industrial Labor Relations Representative.
 - i. A. Bruce introduced herself.
 - ii. A. Bruce was elected to serve as Labor Relations Representative with 20 votes in favor, 1 abstention, and 0 votes against.
 - b. Elections for the Physical Sciences Representative
 - i. Abhishek Masand introduced himself.
 - ii. A. Masand was elected to serve as Physical Sciences Representative with 20 votes in favor, 1 abstention, and 0 votes against.
- IV. Approval of the Meeting Minutes
 - a. August 29, 2022
 - i. The meeting minutes were **approved** unanimously.
- V. Presentations
 - a. Jen Forbes: Big Red Barn updates
 - i. Hana Ega-Musa introduced herself as the new Barn Coordinator, a role including handling communications and events hosted inside the Big Red Barn.
 - ii. J. Forbes stated that the barn is utilized for many weekly events including Staff-led programs such as TGIF, while there are also Fellow Programs such as cultural, social, and wellness events, Group bookings, Snack Service of



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

drinks and food, and the Cornell Dining café.

- i. J. Forbes stated that programming includes 6 weeks of new student orientation featuring pre-TGIF mix and mingle program, Cornell Trivia, and an Ice Cream social. Outside of new student orientation is pumpkin carving, paint nights, talent show, etc.
 - ii. J. Forbes stated that the Big Red Barn has dining hours of Monday to Friday, 8am-3pm, while snack service hours are Monday to Thursday, 2pm-10pm and Fridays 2pm-4pm, with TGIF programming from 4:30pm-7:00pm.
 - iii. J. Forbes stated that the Barn utilizes bulletin boards, the Graduate School newsletter, barn newsletter, and Instagram accounts to communicate events and updates. J. Forbes also noted the introduction of air conditioning and more open positions for hiring.
- iii. D. Stanic inquired regarding the Art shows and questioned if this was open to graduate students of any discipline or art students specifically, to which J. Forbes stated that the Art shows are open to all students of all different levels, noting that
- iv. J. Washington questioned if there would be a farmers market event featured at the Barn, to which J. Forbes questioned that such an event hadn't been explored yet but could be investigated.
 - v. N. Perez questioned if there would be an event for Hispanic Heritage Month, to which J. Forbes stated that she wasn't sure but could check with div rep.
 - vi. A. McGraw questioned if there was a place to submit suggestions for events, to which J. Forbes stated that they could be reached out to individually or just brought up physically at the Barn.
- b. Andrew Murtha: Event Funding
- i. A. Murtha introduced himself as the Chair of the GPSA Finance Commission and stated his intention to introduce the process for applying for funding for one's student group.
 - i. A. Murtha stated that the GPSAFC funds events put on by graduate and professional students, with funds coming from the student activity fee. A. Murtha stated that GPSAFC-funded events must be inclusive, need-based, and extracurricular.
 - ii. A. Murtha stated that students may use Campus Groups to submit a



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

budget request before the date of event, noting that reviews start the first Tuesday of each month and typically end by the 15th. After a group has been allocated funds on Campus Groups, students may use SOBO for payment requests and reimbursements.

- iii. A. Murtha stated that requests are reviewed in a specific process where commissioners meet, two commissioners review each budget, comments or a need for more information are initiated through Campus groups, and allocations are finalized by the 15th of each month, noting that there are typically around 100 requests to review each month.
- iv. A. Murtha stated that, depending on Tier, student groups will have different spending allocations. A. Murtha emphasized that any student group can move up or down tiers dependent on fulfilling requirements. A. Murtha stated that while Tier requirements have not been enforced due to the pandemic, these requirements will be re-enforced from now on.
- v. A. Murtha noted the circumstances which cannot be funded. A. Murtha noted three major changes in the new academic year. A. Murtha stated that events with an admission cost are prohibited unless clear and accessible fee waiver option is provided, the honorarium cap has been raised to \$1000 from \$500, and proof of Big Red Barn reservation if desiring to hold an event at the Barn.
- ii. A. Wunsch questioned if A. Murtha could repeat the explanation on SOBO, to which A. Murtha restated his previous point and noted the SOBO email for any further questions.
- iii. A question was read into the record from the chat, to which A. Murtha stated that once the allocation period closes, the SOBO link will appear in Campus Groups.
- iv. J. Forbes stated that should groups ask the GPSAFC pay for drinks at the Big Red Barn, groups could either pay out of pocket and then get reimbursement, or an email with proof of allocation can be sent to procure a gift card with the correct funds.

VI. Breakout Sessions by Division

VII. New Business

- a. No new business.



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

VIII. Business of the Day

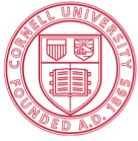
- a. Retreat update
 - i. N. Moore stated that two dates have been confirmed for the retreat and that an invite, email, and agenda should be expected for members.
 - ii. K. Karnuta emphasized that when making announcements, it would be helpful to stand by the microphone for Zoom participants.
 - iii. G. Smits questioned if resources could be provided should a member have conflicts and not be able to attend the day of. N. Moore agree and further noted that it would also be the hope that one's committee chair could pass down information.
- b. Graduate/Professional Student Elected Trustee Information and Election
 - i. Liz Davis-Frost introduced herself as the former Student Elected Trustee and noted that this Election typically occurs in the Spring semester, but due to the pandemic the election shifted to the Fall. L. Davis-Frost noted that terms typically end at the end of the academic year and those eligible must graduate after the term ends.
 - ii. L. Davis-Frost introduced the role of the Trustee and highlighted the responsibilities and experience she has had. L. Davis-Frost stated that the time commitment and relationships built are dependent on the wishes of whomever fills the position, and that the position is what one makes of it. L. Davis-Frost gave an overview of the elections schedule and beginning of term.
 - iii. A. McGraw motioned to extend the meeting by 15 minutes to 6:45pm. The motion was approved.
 - iv. M. Matthews questioned the typical number of candidates for the election. L. Davis Frost stated that there are currently around 7-10 applicants.
 - v. A. McGraw questioned the time commitment of meetings. L. Davis-Frost stated that meetings on a day might start at 9am and run until 5pm, with the frequency of 4 times a year. She emphasized how rewarding and fulfilling, yet how much effort and time goes into the position.
- c. Committee Appointments for all Voting Members
 - i. P. Hanley noted that per bylaws, all members are required to be a part of a committee.

IX. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

- a. Executive Committee
 - i. No updates.
 - b. Operations
 - i. J. Washington stated that an email was sent for the creation of a presentation for introductions.
 - c. Appropriations
 - i. N. Moore stated that a hardship form for graduate students is currently being developed.
 - d. Communications
 - i. Kate Boardman stated that the newsletter is currently being curated.
 - e. Finance
 - i. No updates.
 - f. Student Advocacy
 - i. No updates.
 - g. Diversity and International Students
 - i. No updates.
 - h. Programming
 - i. M. Matthews noted the first dinner of the year to connect MPH and CRP programs for a dinner social that will take place once a month.
 - i. Faculty Awards
 - i. A. Majumdar noted three faculty for the Faculty Award that have been selected and stated that work will begin for creating plaques, trophies etc.
 - j. General Committee
 - i. No updates.
 - k. Graduate School
 - i. Associate Dean Janna Lamey noted the formation of the Graduate Student Life Advisory Council which will facilitate monthly meetings to meet with the GPSA and J. Lamey of the office of Graduate Student Life. J. Lamey stated that the Council should be around 10-12 people.
- X. Open Forum
 - a. No open discussions.
- XI. Adjournment
 - a. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm.



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer J. Zhang

Clerk of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly