

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

**Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly**

Agenda of the February 6, 2017 Meeting

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Bache Auditorium, Malott Hall

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of the Meeting Minutes
  - a. Minutes from the November 28, 2016 meeting
- IV. Presentations
  - a. Janet Shortall, Associate Dean of the Graduate School: EARS Program expansion
  - b. Sabrina Solouki, President ASAP: March for Science
- V. Breakout Session by Division
- VI. New Business
  - a. **Resolution 8: On Responses to the Recent Executive Order “Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States” by Cornell and Peers**
  - b. **Resolution 9: A Call for Action Regarding Cornell Students Facing Uncertainties in Academic Access**
- VII. Business of the Day
- VIII. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates
  - a. Executive Committee
  - b. Operations
  - c. Appropriations
  - d. Communications
  - e. Finance
  - f. Student Advocacy
  - g. Diversity and International Students
  - h. Programming
  - i. Graduate School
- IX. Open Forum
- X. Adjournment

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If you are in need of special accommodations, contact Office of the Assemblies at (607) 255-3715 or Student Disability Services at (607) 254-4545 prior to the meeting.



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1 **GPSA Resolution 8: On Responses to the Recent Executive Order**  
2 **“Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the**  
3 **United States” by Cornell and Peers**  
4

5 *Whereas* at least two dozen<sup>1</sup> graduate and professional students are among the population affected by  
6 the executive order entitled “Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United  
7 States” issued on January 27th, 2017, regarding restrictions on lawful entry into the United States;  
8 and  
9

10 *Whereas* Cornell is a global institution that includes Weill Cornell Medicine Qatar; and  
11

12 *Whereas* graduate and professional studies often necessitate fieldwork, programs, externships,  
13 conferences, and collaborative exchange outside of the United States; and  
14

15 *Whereas* the official motto of Cornell University is “*I would found an institution where any person can find*  
16 *instruction in any study*”; and  
17

18 *Whereas* Cornell University has 4,921 international students as of 2016, with international students  
19 making up 43.4% of the graduate and professional student body<sup>2</sup>; and  
20

21 *Whereas* travelers from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen, including those with  
22 valid US visas, may now be barred by executive order from entering the United States of America<sup>3</sup>;  
23 and  
24

25 *Whereas* the Cornell graduate student population includes 1 student from Syria, 1 from Sudan, and 27  
26 from Iran<sup>4</sup>; and  
27

28 *Whereas* the Cornell academic staff includes 1 member from Libya and 19 from Iran<sup>5</sup>; and  
29

30 *Whereas* the above data may omit United States permanent residents or students with dual citizenship  
31 registered with Cornell University under a different citizenship; and  
32

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<sup>1</sup> <https://twitter.com/BKnuthCornell/status/825443144468672512>

<sup>2</sup> <http://isso.cornell.edu/sites/isso.cornell.edu/files/isso/documents/Stats16-17.pdf> page 10

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/27/us/politics/refugee-muslim-executive-order-trump.html>

<sup>4</sup> <http://isso.cornell.edu/sites/isso.cornell.edu/files/isso/documents/Stats16-17.pdf> pages 18-26

<sup>5</sup> <http://isso.cornell.edu/sites/isso.cornell.edu/files/isso/documents/Stats16-17.pdf> page 33



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33 *Whereas* on January 29th, 2017, Cornell Interim President Hunter Rawlings issued a statement  
34 condemning the executive order as “fundamentally antithetical to Cornell University’s principles;”  
35 and

36  
37 *Whereas* in his statement, Interim President Rawlings indicated the administration has not only been  
38 in regular contact with students directly impacted but has also been working to increase resources  
39 and support for international graduate students; and

40 *Whereas* the January 30, 2017 Graduate School Announcements message indicated that Cornell  
41 University is advocating on behalf of students to New York Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten  
42 Gillibrand; and

43  
44 *Whereas* the Graduate School in conjunction with the International Students and Scholars Office  
45 (ISSO) have been working to disseminate these resources, to further address students concerns, and  
46 to provide emotional and academic support for community members; and

47  
48 *Whereas* our peer institutions such as Princeton<sup>6</sup> are strongly advising students and scholars to  
49 postpone travel outside of the United States at this time; and

50  
51 *Whereas* New York-based law professors are also cautioning those who are not United States citizens  
52 to postpone travel outside of the United States at this time<sup>7</sup>; and

53  
54 *Whereas* key graduate and professional student and faculty recruitment will take place in the coming  
55 months; and

56  
57 *Whereas* the aforementioned concerns and uncertainty will discourage potential members of the  
58 Cornell community from applying or matriculating; and

59  
60 *Whereas* Cornell University has an interest in the application and matriculation of a broad, diverse  
61 and international body of scholars; and

62  
63 *Whereas* the Association of American Universities, of which Cornell University is a member,  
64 recognizes that "the administration’s new order barring the entry or return of individuals from  
65 certain countries is already causing damage and should end as quickly as possible," and urges "the  
66 [federal] Administration, as soon as possible, to make clear to the world that the United States

**Commented [1]:** Brown's statement made no recommendations about not traveling, other than encouraging international travelers to talk with administrative resources about their travel plans

**Commented [2]:** I think this is ready to go without adding more statements

<sup>6</sup><http://dof.princeton.edu/memos-datestoremember/announcements/dear-colleagues-executive-order-immigration>

<sup>7</sup>[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/trump-order-immigrants-travel\\_us\\_588a7bd4e4b0ccf5c870a7d2](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/trump-order-immigrants-travel_us_588a7bd4e4b0ccf5c870a7d2)



## Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

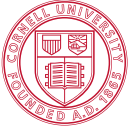
67 continues to welcome the most talented individuals from all countries to study, teach, and carry out  
68 research and scholarship at our universities,"<sup>8</sup> and  
69  
70 *Whereas* the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS), of which this body is  
71 a member, issued a statement on January 29th, 2017 affirming their belief that "this executive order  
72 violates our nation's ideals and is illegal... Thousands of graduate-professional students stand to be  
73 impacted;"<sup>9</sup> and  
74  
75 *Whereas* the rapid implementation of this executive order and the current political climate raise  
76 legitimate concerns regarding potential expansion of this or similar executive orders for current and  
77 potential international members of the Cornell community;  
78  
79 *Be it therefore resolved*, that the GPSA asks the Graduate School and professional schools of Cornell  
80 University to maintain clear lines of communication regarding our students' freedom of movement;  
81  
82 *Be it further resolved*, that the GPSA recognizes and applauds Interim President Rawlings's email titled  
83 "Message from Interim President Hunter Rawlings" on Jan 29, 2017, especially the language  
84 affirming that "President Donald Trump's recent executive order imposing a 90-day ban on  
85 immigrant and nonimmigrant entry to the United States from seven predominantly Muslim nations  
86 [...] is fundamentally antithetical to Cornell University's principles;"  
87  
88 *Be it further resolved* that the GPSA recognizes and applauds efforts undertaken by the Graduate  
89 School and ISSO to assist students during this uncertain period;  
90  
91 *Be it further resolved* that the GPSA recognizes and appreciates Cornell University's advocating to Sens.  
92 Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, on behalf of affected community members and in support  
93 of legislation<sup>10</sup> proposed by Sen. Diane Feinstein (Calif.) to repeal the Executive Order;  
94  
95 *Be it further resolved* that the GPSA additionally calls on Cornell University, through its political  
96 influence and connections, to advocate on behalf of affected community members to relevant  
97 Republican and third-party representatives in local, state, and national government, including, but  
98 not limited to, Rep. Tom Reed, for the purpose of those community members' freedom of  
99 movement;  
100

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.aau.edu/news/article.aspx?id=18366>

<sup>9</sup> <http://nagps.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Vahideh-Statement.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=5E9C9FAC-46B1-4158-8F93-970234D89F06>



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101 *Be it further resolved* that the GPSA hereby endorses the language of the NAGPS statement on Jan 29,  
102 2017, that “the executive order is morally wrong and detrimental to U.S. interests,”<sup>11</sup> and asks  
103 Cornell University to sign on to this language as well;

104  
105 *Be it finally resolved* that the GPSA asks that Cornell University seek out what additional resources, if  
106 any, ISSO may need to help it anticipate and respond to the obstacles international students and  
107 other affected members of the Cornell community will likely face in the days, weeks, and months to  
108 come, and then provide those resources as requested.

109 Respectfully submitted,

110 Alex Loiben

111 Chair, GPSA Student Advocacy Committee

112 Voting Member for the Physical Sciences, GPSA

113

114 Anna Waymack

115 Voting Member for the Humanities, GPSA

116

117 Iian Smythe

118 Voting Member for the Physical Sciences, GPSA

119

120 Jesse Goldberg

121 Voting Member for the Humanities, GPSA

122

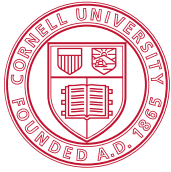
123 Manisha Munasinghe

124 Voting Member for the Biological Sciences, GPSA

125

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<sup>11</sup> Cf. note 8



**Cornell University**  
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1       **GPSA Resolution 9: A Call for Action Regarding Cornell Students**  
2               **Facing Uncertainties in Academic Access**  
3

4       *Whereas* rapid changes to federal immigration policy are creating uncertainty amongst the Cornell  
5 community and in particular the graduate and professional student body; and  
6

7       *Whereas* graduate and professional studies often necessitate fieldwork, programs, conferences,  
8 externships, and collaborative exchange outside of the United States; and  
9

10       *Whereas* Cornell University has 4,921 international students as of 2016, with international students  
11 making up 43.4% of the graduate and professional student body<sup>1</sup>; and  
12

13       *Whereas* the above data may omit United States permanent residents or students with dual citizenship  
14 registered with Cornell University under a different citizenship; and  
15

16       *Whereas* international graduate students on F-1 or J-1 visas will be required to return to their home  
17 country to renew their visas; and  
18

19       *Whereas* affected students may be unable to continue their education without overstaying their visas;  
20 and  
21

22       *Whereas* the rapid implementation of this executive order and the current political climate raise  
23 legitimate concerns regarding potential expansion of this or similar executive orders for current and  
24 potential international members of the Cornell community; and  
25

26       *Whereas* key graduate and professional student and faculty recruitment will take place in the coming  
27 months; and  
28

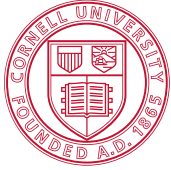
29       *Whereas* the aforementioned concerns and uncertainty will discourage potential members of the  
30 Cornell community from applying or matriculating; and  
31

32       *Whereas* the official motto of Cornell University is “I would found an institution where any person  
33 can find instruction in any study”; and  
34

35       *Whereas* Cornell University has an interest in the application and matriculation of a broad, diverse  
36 and international body of scholars; and  
37

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<sup>1</sup> <http://isso.cornell.edu/sites/isso.cornell.edu/files/isso/documents/Stats16-17.pdf> page 10



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38 *Whereas* in GPSA Resolution 8, the GPSA praised interim-President Hunter Rawlings's initial  
39 responses to the EO and called on the University to augment the resources available to ISSO as well  
40 as expand its already admirable political lobbying efforts; and

41  
42 *Whereas* Cornell University possesses equipment for allowing students to participate in lectures,  
43 meetings and seminars via telepresence; and

44  
45 *Whereas* Cornell University is part of a worldwide community of academic research institutions;

46  
47 *Be it therefore resolved*, that the GPSA calls on the Graduate School to ensure that the academic  
48 progress of any graduate or professional student for whom freedom of movement is restricted as a  
49 result of recent Executive Orders or any future similar Executive Orders will not be detrimentally  
50 interrupted as a result of such Executive Orders;

51  
52 *Be it further resolved*, that the GPSA asks the President of Cornell University to clarify those academic  
53 provisions -- which could include but are not limited to accommodating deviations from degree  
54 milestones and timelines, extending deadlines for coursework, and facilitating access to research  
55 materials whenever and wherever possible -- for students unable to take up or continue without  
56 interruption their academic work as a result of such Executive Orders;

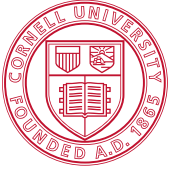
57  
58 *Be it finally resolved*, that the GPSA calls on the Graduate School to enable the academic progress of  
59 these students by waiving the residency requirements of their degrees, utilizing its extensive digital  
60 and telepresence resources, and establishing access to labs and necessary resources at peer  
61 universities.

62  
63  
64 Respectfully submitted,  
65 Alex Loiben  
66 Chair, GPSA Student Advocacy Committee  
67 Voting Member for the Physical Sciences, GPSA

68  
69 Anna Waymack  
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77

78 Ian Smythe

79 Voting Member for the Physical Sciences, GPSA