



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

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MINUTES
Graduate & Professional Student Assembly
September 28th, 2015
165 McGraw Hall
5:30 – 7:00 P.M.

I. Welcome and Introductions

R. Walroth called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.

1. Introduction of voting members, 1 min.

Voting Members Present: R. Abramov, C. Aurand, C. Benson, T. Bollu, J. Goldberg, M. Jodlowski, A. Molitoris, W. Nicholson, N. Rogers, K. Schlauraff, T. Bernard, J. Veintimilla, R. Walroth, C. Wong, C. Yao

Voting Members Absent: T. Snider, K. Ladha

II. Approval of the Minutes

1. September 14th, 2015, 1 min.

The minutes were approved as printed.

III. Presentations

1. GPSA Overview, 20 min.

R. Walroth presented an overview of the GPSA for the new and returning members. The VP Operations, N. Rogers, has authority over the operations and staffing internal committee. The President, R. Walroth, acts as chair of General Body Meeting, and serves as the point of contact between the study body and the administration. VP Communications communicates outwards between EC and the rest of GPSA, and raises awareness of GPSA initiatives. The Executive Vice President, T. Bollu, manages internal operations of the committee. There are 3 field representatives from each professional school, or more if the field has more than 100 students. Voting members have the same responsibilities as the field representatives but they also vote on resolutions. They are also eligible to serve as committee chairs and are expected to take on leadership roles in the GPSA.

The GPSA, and all the other assemblies, operates by Robert's Rules of Order. The basic premise of the document is that only one person maybe speak at a time after being recognized by the Chair. All members have the right to speak during a discussion.

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The GPSA Charter gives the assembly authority over the graduate student activity fee and allows it to examine University policies that impact graduate and professional school students. GPSA is consulted with respect to the modification and development on non-academic policies. Not all resolutions passed by the assembly require presidential approval, but President Garrett can support it before the Board of Trustees.

The University President's approval is required to make changes to the Charter, whereas, the bylaws are standard practices that GPSA operates by. They are more fluid and open to change. The Office of the Assemblies supports the 4 different assemblies by handling meeting logistics, providing a clerk to take meeting minutes, logistics of meetings, providing counsel on parliamentary procedure and governing documents, as requested.

IV. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates, 10 min.

- 1. Executive Committee:** No updates.
- 2. Operations:** N. Rogers will send out an email with external committee links. 2/3 of the members have been appointed. He wanted to point out that for anyone who wants to make a difference, liaisons to campus committees are more useful than resolutions.
- 3. Appropriations:** The committee will present a report and recommendations at the next meeting.
- 4. Faculty Awards:** No updates.
- 5. Finance Commission:** Since the deadline to apply for funding has now passed, the committee will meet to discuss the final recommendation.
- 6. Student Advocacy:** At the last meeting, the committee discussed summer funding, Maplewood apartments and their reconstruction, and signing of intellectual property. Anyone interested in these issues should go to the next meeting.
- 7. Diversity and International Students:** The committee had a meeting last Thursday.
- 8. Programming Board:** The quality of interschool mixers will improve by the next mixer.

V. New Business

- 1. Election of Voting Member at Large, 5 min.**
T. Bollu nominated Sarah Hesse, Kareem Spahi nominated himself. Both nominees gave a brief introduction. S. Hesse won the position of voting member at large.
- 2. Election of Vice President for Communications, 5 min.**
R. Walroth nominated S. Hesse, who unanimously won the position of Vice President of Communications.
- 3. Election of Chiefs of Communication by Caucus, 15 min.**
Keep lines of communications open with Deans of Colleges
- 4. Re-Evaluating GPSAFC Guidelines, 30 min.**
3 types of funding: Annual budget, special project request, summer budget (specific to summer)

VI. Open Forum, 4 min.

R. Walroth adjourned the meeting at 7:05pm.