



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

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MINUTES
Graduate & Professional Student Assembly
November 9th, 2015
Room 165, McGraw Hall
5:30 – 7:00 P.M.

I. Welcome and Introductions

R. Walroth called the meeting to order at 5:36pm

1. Introduction of voting members, 1 min.

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

Voting Members Absent : R. Abramov, K. Ladha

II. Approval of the Minutes

1. October 26th, 2015, 1 min.

Minutes were approved as printed by unanimous consent.

III. New Business

1. Approval of Activity Fee

R. Walroth explained the recommendation for each group passes with a simple majority vote. A challenge to the recommendation requires 2/3 of the majority vote. He reminded everyone they will not be approving grocery store funding since the store hasn't been approved by the President. The grocery store team was present at the meeting to answer questions.

- a. Athletics and Physical Education** – Called to vote by T. Snider without discussion. Passed by a vote of 14-0-1.
- b. Big Red Barn** - Called to vote by T. Snider without discussion. Passed by a vote of 12-0-3.
- c. Cornell Concert Commission** – Called to vote by T. Snider without discussion. Passed by a vote of 13-0-2.
- d. CU Emergency Medical Service** – Called to vote by T. Snider without discussion. Passed by a vote of 13-0-2.
- e. CU Programming Board** – Called to vote by T. Snider without discussion. Passed by a vote of 13-0-2.

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- f. **GPSA Programming Board** – Called to vote by T. Snider without discussion. Passed by a vote of 13-0-2.
- g. **International Students Union** – T. Bollu thought it's unusual that ISU co-sponsors events but still receives a large allocation. ISU is co-funded by SAFC, which can't fund food. They are a byline-funded organization since international events are surrounded around cultural food and the organization itself funds food-based events. 20% of their budget is from GPSA and 80% of it is from the SA. ISU has organized events by themselves without help from other groups. S. Chandrasekharan says exchange of ideas and advocacy doesn't happen unless for organizations like ISU. The organization must be byline funded since GPSAFC can't give sufficient funding to organize large-scale events and that's where ISU steps in. A member asked for information on how many graduate students participate in these events. ISU is an undergrad club but they do serve graduate students.

S. Chandrasekharan said this recommendation is inflation-adjusted to how much they have been funded in the past. They moved away from a model of event organization to one of funding events and clubs based on recommendations from the Appropriations Committee. C. Yao said out of 4000 graduate students, 50% are international students and the funding on is not proportional to that statistic. T. Bollu said he thinks they should stay at their current number for funding till they utilize all their money to sponsor events rather than co-fund.

The President of ISU said cosponsoring is different from ALANA funding since they also offer advice, such as cheap food options, room booking, event ideas etc. along with money. This is one of the main features of ISU that makes them one of the intermediaries in sponsoring events. They are entering a partnership model and will be hosting an event with IFC, a group ISU does not usually work with. An increase in the allocation would benefit such efforts. Additional money will go to resource allocation for international graduate student events. The speaker's list was closed at this point and the vote on the resolution was called. The allocation recommendation passed by a vote of 10-4-2. R. Walroth reminded the members an opportunity to change the funding still exists but needs 2/3 of the vote votes to pass.

- h. **Orientation – Graduate School** - Called to vote by T. Snider without discussion. Passed by a vote of 15-0-1.
- i. **Risk Management: Club Insurance** - Called to vote by T. Snider without discussion. Passed by a vote of 15-0-1.
- j. **Cornell Cinema** – A member spoke on behalf of graduate students and expressed Cornell Cinema has several screenings every week including educational movies. The organization also offers screening in the summer that mainly caters to graduate students. They requested \$12.00 for their capital project. \$10.64, the previously allocated amount, puts them on the edge of financial debt and they asked for an increase to put them in a more flexible position. N. Rogers asked around in Physical Sciences Department about students' views of the cinema and the views range from apathy to hostility. He asked the delegates why Cornell Cinema is viewed negatively. A representative from Cornell Cinema board answered that she thinks art tends to get under some people's skins and it's hard to gauge why some people don't appreciate the cinema.

GPSA covers 14% of cost, cinema must come up with the other 86% of costs. S. Chanrasekharan said GPSA is not responsible for a bad financial model and they should not be expected to make up the loss the Cinema is facing. T. Bollu said the usage statistics don't add up with the allocation and it is not as popular amongst graduate students as it should be to deserve this kind of funding. Resolution failed by a vote of 2-9-4. By a vote of 0-12-3, the motion to cut all of the Cinema's funding failed. The allocation will be returned to the Appropriations Committee for further reconsideration.

- k. **GPSA/Grocery Store** – The grocery store will offer subsidies to students who show financial needs and will cater to graduate students. If they demonstrate financial need, subsidy will be provided and will increase in accordance with funding. The store will also offer financial assistance and lessons. GPSA will wait for the President's approval before funding it.
- l. **GPSAFC** - T. Bollu asked about how the GPSA money would be used in the subsidy structure. The subsidy fund operates separately from the grocery store and prices will be reduced as much as funds are available. The grocery store will be able to accept SNAP.

IV. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates, time permitting. – Discussion was moved to next week due to lack of time.

- 1. **Executive Committee**
- 2. **Operations**
- 3. **Appropriations**
- 4. **Faculty Awards**
- 5. **Finance Commission**
- 6. **Student Advocacy**
- 7. **Diversity and International Students**
- 8. **Programming Board**

V. Open Forum, 4 min.

T. Snider motioned to adjourn the meeting. N. Rogers seconded it the motion.

*Sincerely submitted,
Aastha Wadhwa*