



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

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MINUTES
Graduate & Professional Student Assembly
February 22nd, 2016
Bache Auditorium, Malott Hall
5:30 – 7:00 P.M.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Called the meeting to order at 5:30pm

1. Introduction of voting members, 1 min.

Voting Members Absent: J. Veintimilla, T. Snider, T. Bollu

R. Walroth announced the voting member from biological sciences, C. Aurand, has graduated and someone must be elected to replace him at the next meeting.

II. Approval of the Minutes

1. February 8th, 2016, 1 min.

Add AEM rep's name, Margaret Jodlowski, to the minutes under discussion of Resolution 5. Minutes were approved as corrected.

III. Presentations

1. Student Health Insurance Advisory Committee, 20 min.

The committee is deliberating on the idea of starting SHIP on August 1st rather than August 17th. They are thinking about this because health insurance exchanges operate on a rigid 1st of the month/15th of the month calendar for the start of a plan. MBA students, athletes, and international students return early and should be covered as soon as they are back on campus. She also introduced a new plan called SHP – Medicaid which would operate from 8/1 to 7/31; another reason to move the other calendar is so they both coincide. They haven't heard any negative feedback. If it goes through, it would require 2 year of planning and would take effect in 2017.

IV. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates, 20 min.

1. Executive Committee – No updates.

2. **Operations** – N. Rogers sent an email about an available spot on the Synergy committee for college of business available to a GPSA representative.
3. **Appropriations** – The committee will be meeting in the next couple of weeks. Since most members are graduating this semester, let the chair know if want to join. They have formed a sub committee along with the Finance Committee to consider changes to GPSA committee guidelines in an effort to make them more inclusive and improve budget allocation ability.
4. **Faculty Awards** – The award ceremony is on May 20th and the nomination period will open soon.
5. **Finance Commission** – No updates.
6. **Student Advocacy** – Committee has a meeting this week. Dine and Discuss will be on April 14th at the Big Red Barn.
7. **Diversity and International Students** – No updates.
8. **Programming Board** – The committee is organizing an event called Fire Storm where participants will be given 5 minutes to talk on any topic.

V. Elections, 10 min.

1. **Finance Commission** – H. Nguyen nominated Sayeed Ali and he accepted the nomination. He was approved as chair unanimously.

VI. New Business, 40 min.

1. **GPSA Resolution 4: Endorsement of the Best Practices for Faculty Advisers Document**

R. Walroth presented a brief overview of the resolution and expectations from advisors - advisors must respond quickly, facilitate communication with committee members, and communication must be respectful. The work expectation should be no more than 10 hours a day and 6 days a week. Advisers must also be mindful of other programs student is involved in and should encourage a healthy mix of research and non-research life. Advisers should help or direct student in correct direction for navigating a bureaucracy. Advisers should take funding into consideration when deciding on a thesis topic. Advisers should be trained to recognize mental health deterioration and handle it appropriately. R. Walroth proposed an amendment to include that changes to the document to ensure it is a working document will require approval from the GPSA. The amendment passed with unanimous consent. Motion to vote on the resolution was called and the resolution passed by a vote of 12-0 with 1 abstention.

2. **GPSA Resolution 5: Sense of the Body Concerning the Creation of the College of Business**

The sponsors stated the resolution is about the administration not looking for feedback from shared governance bodies on such topics. A member said Resolution 7 from Spring

2015 wasn't endorsed by President Skorton and there's no use bringing up a resolution that wasn't endorsed. He also believes rhetoric and emotion should not be included in the resolution, hence, the location of the meeting in NYC should not be included. It was not a conspiracy but rather a coincidence instead as stated by Annie O'Toole. The GPSA should not speak on the behalf of Faculty Senate and Student Assembly since that is presumptuous unless they asked for the GPSA's support. He believes the GPSA should vote on two resolutions instead - pass resolution 7 from last spring taking President Skorton's comments into consideration and draft another independent resolution about concern over the College of Business. He's on the same page as sponsors when it comes to subject matter but wants two resolutions instead that address concerns separately. J. Goldberg said location of NYC was a determinant to students attending. The purpose of Resolution 7 is to stress that the conversation of shared governance has been brought up before and is in line with work that has come before. Faculty Senate and SA citation inclusion has precedence. GPSA is not speaking on their behalf in the resolution but including a public decision made by those Assemblies. Marc Kohlby agreed with J. Goldberg over geographic location and the disconnect between the Board and students. Believes idea is important to include in resolution. K. Ladha says it is important to move the resolution forward rather than working out small disagreements. Resolution passed with a vote of 10-0-2.

VII. Open Forum, 4 min.

Daniel Citron - Education Policy Committee is concerned about price of course packets. Store policy increased price of printing and prices are now exorbitant. C. Yao presented updates from UA and the recent resolution about Weill Cornell. A. Waymack wants to express best wishes to President Garrett from all members of GPSA. Cornell Cinema is looking for more members on the advisory board.

*Sincerely submitted,
Aastha Wadhwa*