



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

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MINUTES
Graduate & Professional Student Assembly
April 18th, 2016
Bache Auditorium, Malott Hall
5:30 – 7:00 P.M.

I. Welcome and Introductions

R. Walroth called the meeting to order at 5:34pm.

1. Introduction of voting members, 1 min.

Voting Members Absent: C. Benson, J. Veintimilla

II. Approval of the Minutes

Add to Operations update name of Graduate Student Synergy Group. Minutes were approved as amended.

III. Presentations

1. Update on Mental Health and Wellness, 30 min.

Jana Lamey, Assistant Dean for Graduate Student life, presented an updated on Mental Health and Wellness Committee. She feels the GPCI (Graduate and Professional Community Initiative) document has a need for more data and statistics. The Health Committee will serve as a space for open discussion on the state of graduate and professional student mental health conditions. A resiliency framework will be designed to support students. The committee will also provide a platform for advocacy of student-involvement in mental health issues. The Committee is responsible for reporting its effort to the GPCI Executive Committee.

2. Statements from Candidates for GPS Elected Trustee, 10 min.

- a.** Tiffany St. Bernard is the current Chair of Diversity and International Committee. Her platform includes diversity and inclusion, communication and engagement between shared governance and administrators, and housing.
- b.** Nate Rogers has been involved with GPSA for 3 years, most recently as VP Operations. His platform includes affordable housing, extending resources to

international students, and access to University decision makers, mainly the Board of Trustees.

- c. Amy Molitoris is the Chair of Programming Board. Her platform includes carbon neutrality, fair chance employment, collaboration with students for advocacy of their concerns
- d. Dara Brown is a first year law student as served as Women's Representation on the Student Assembly as a Cornell undergraduate student. Her platform includes funding for safety measures, campus inclusivity, and to ensure student voices are heard regarding administrative matters.

IV. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates, 5 min.

- 1. **Executive Committee** – No updates.
- 2. **Operations** – Moving resolution concerning GPSA representation to next semester.
- 3. **Appropriations** – Will present updates later in the meeting. The Committee is working on reforming the finance guidelines and will postpone the resolution to the fall.
- 4. **Faculty Awards** – The Committee will meet later this week to go over nomination letters. The Winner will be announced in the first week of May.
- 5. **Finance Commission** – The deadline for the annual budget is soon.
- 6. **Student Advocacy** – The Committee hosted Dine and Discuss. They turnout was decent and the event went well. They are in the process of assembling notes.
- 7. **Diversity and International Students** –The Let's Talk Dinner went well with attendance from bother students and administration. The Committee would like faculty involvement for the next one.
- 8. **Communications** - The committee has a meeting the following day.
- 9. **Programming Board** – Grad Ball tickets are available on UniveristyTickets. The committee will have a First Talk event for students to speak about any topic they would like to.

R. Walroth said elections for the executive offers and committee chairs will be held next week.

V. Elections, 15 min.

1. Voting Members by Caucus for 2016-2017

The GPSA selects voting members by caucus as per the bylaws. For physical sciences, one must be from engineering and one student not from engineering. Caucuses will be physical sciences (4), biological sciences (3), humanities (3), social sciences (4).

2. Chiefs of Communication by Caucus for 2016-2017

Will be decided at the next meeting.

VI. New Business, 30 min.

1. GPSA Resolution 9: A Resolution Updating the Byline Procedures, Eligibility Criteria and Obligations

Appropriation Committee's role this year was to update the byline procedure along with eligibility criteria and obligations. The new document will outline criteria for byline funding, which will be updated every 2 years. The committee made some grammatical changes and the effective dates for funding cycle. Appendix A lists specific funded organizations and their obligations. The committee will be striking the current appendix to be replaced with an entirely new Appendix A.

Changes are italicized.

- **Cornell Concert Commission** – shows at Bailey and Barton *or similar*, *10% of tickets should be reserved for grad/prof students on first day of sales, track graduate/prof attendance at concerts*
- **Cornell Cinema** – Maintain programming *to best of ability, one seat on advisory board reserved for grad/prof student, track graduate/prof attendance at concerts*
- **Program Board** – Discount for grad/prof students, Tickets will be available 1 day before sales, 5% of budget goes to cosponsorship, *10% of tickets should be reserved for grad/prof students on first day of sales, track graduate/prof attendance at concerts*
- **EMS** – No changes except name
- **Big Red Barn** – ~~offer food at one TGIF/month~~, *maintain relationship with food trucks for TGIF, allocate special funds for media improvements to Barn*
- **Programming Board** – events for grad/prof community, no more than 50% of allocation can go for single event, co-sponsor at least 2 events/semester
- **International Student Union** – host or co-host 2 or more events/semester
- **GPSA** – \$2.50/student set aside to help Anabel grocery Store, if not used for that purpose, goes back to GPSA, no more than 20% budget can be used for travel without 2/3 vote
- **Cornell Tech Campus** – activity fee gets returned to them minus student insurance fee. Set up a formal organization with byline, registered with SLECA

Motion to waive requirement to read the resolution in entirety was passed unanimously.

A. Molitoris brought up concern of only being allowed to spend 50% of Programming Board on Grad Ball and said the Programming Board would appreciate not having a strict guideline. The resolution was only **introduced** at the meeting not voted on. It is to be tabled to the next GPSA meeting.

2. GPSA Resolution 10: Resolution Concerning Summer Stipends and Clarity of Offer Letters

Working on resolution and similar concerns with Student Advocacy Committee. Students reported that admissions letters stated vague summer offers. Another issue is that TAs over the summer are for classes compressed over time, but that factor is not explicitly covered. Minimum compensation can be confusing to TAs due to lack of clarity. Motion to waive requirement to read the resolution in entirety was passed unanimously.

The sponsors presented the resolution and brought up the fact that was no University wide standard or template for summer offers.

The sponsors were asked if they would include an example template. They said they could do it and it would be anonymized. The expectations from the offers are outlined in the resolved clause which clearly details a schedule of expected stipend support throughout the planned course of the degree, including summer terms. The resolution was only **introduced** at the meeting not voted on. It is to be tabled to the next GPSA meeting.

VII. Open Forum, 4 min.

Executive officers and chairs will send out information about positions before elections at the next meeting.

*Respectfully submitted,
Aastha Wadhwa*