



Cornell University

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Summary of the March 11, 2021 meeting to discuss the International Teaching Assistant Program (ITAP) among Provost M. Kotlikoff, members of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, and Dean K. Boor

The Graduate and Professional Community Initiative (GPCI) of 2020 reported issues associated with the International Teaching Assistant Program (ITAP) that negatively affect graduate and professional students. Consequently, the Provost and Graduate School representatives met with Cornell Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GPSA) representatives on March 11th, 2021 to discuss the ITAP and the findings of the GPCI, the GPSA ITAP Survey, and the experiences shared in GPSA meetings.

After the March 11 meeting, Dean Boor held follow up conversations with Dr. Mathew L. Ouellett, Executive Director of the Center for Teaching Innovation and Dr. Julia Thom-Levy, the Vice Provost for Academic Innovation. Collectively, all agreed to undertake the following steps:

1. The Graduate School will ensure that proper information regarding the ITAP requirement is communicated in a timely and clear manner from the graduate fields to incoming students, including the class joining Cornell in the Fall of 2021.
2. The Graduate School will create clear and public guidelines, to be implemented consistently, outlining who is required to participate in the ITAP and will communicate them prior to enrollment of incoming admitted students in Fall 2021.
3. The ITAP office will provide clear feedback if a student places below the Intermediate High level in any of the ILA assessments or any of the associated ITAP courses starting with the incoming class joining Cornell in the Fall of 2021.
4. The GPSA will maintain a clear line of communication with stakeholders, including international students, the Provost and the Graduate School, as well as any other involved parties, regarding the evolving ITAP.
5. The GPSA will identify and appoint graduate and/or professional students to the ITAP advisory committee. There shall be at least one graduate and/or professional student representative on this committee.
6. The GPSA will continue to collect feedback from stakeholders and will take an active role in assisting the Graduate School and the Provost or their designees in communicating and implementing the aforementioned points and any additional tasks that may result from the discussions of the advisory committee, subject to a vote of the assembly.

This document reflects outcomes from the work of the graduate and professional students involved in collecting and processing data about the ITAP, the sponsors of GPSA resolution 12 of AY 20/21, the students who wrote the GPCI of 2020 and any students who came forward and spoke to the GPSA about their ITAP experiences.



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Executive Vice President of the GPSA¹



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Michael I. Kotlikoff
Provost
