

Resolution 17: Amending GPSA Election Procedures

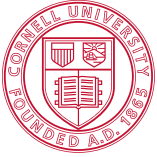
Abstract: The GPSA is committed to its role in the Cornell University shared governance model to effect more extensive involvement in campus governance as the representative body elected by graduate and professional students. However, the current GPSA election procedures do not reflect these sentiments, as the current GPSA election procedure does not allow members of the graduate and professional student community at-large to participate in voting for their GPSA representatives. This resolution seeks to provide the entire graduate and professional student community with the ability to participate in GPSA elections.

Sponsored by: Preston Hanley, Damien Sharp

Reviewed by: Elections Committee, 04/22/2022

Whereas, the current GPSA election procedures are outlined in the GPSA Charter as follows:

- Section 4.04: GPSA Voting Members
 - A. Voting members shall have the following responsibilities:
 - i. Elect GPSA Voting members;
 - ii. Elect GPSA Officers and standing committee chairs.
- Section 4.05: Election of Voting Members
 - A. Registered students from Divisions defined by the Graduate School are eligible to run for Voting member positions:
 - i. The 14 Voting members who represent the divisions of the Graduate School will be elected at the second to last GPSA meeting of the current GPSA term.
 - ii. At this meeting, field representatives and Voting members shall form caucuses by Division 227 to elect new Voting members from constituent fields.
 - a) In the Physical Sciences, at least one seat shall be from an engineering field and at least one seat shall be from a non-engineering field.
 - b) If no person is elected pursuant to the above procedure, the seat is thrown open as “at-large,” and a member may be elected from among the entire GPSA membership. The seat shall revert to its original Division designation at the next regular election.
 - B. Master’s Degree Specific Members
 - i. The two (2) Voting members who represent graduate students enrolled in Master’s degree programs will be elected by GPSA members at the first regularly scheduled meeting of the fall semester.



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- 36 • Section 5.02: Officer Elections
- 37 A. Officers of the GPSA will be elected at the last regularly scheduled meeting of the
- 38 current GPSA term.
- 39 B. All GPSA members shall be eligible to elect the officers of the GPSA.
- 40 C. The order of election shall proceed as follows: President, Executive Vice President,
- 41 Vice President for Operations, Vice President for Communications, and Counsel to
- 42 the Assembly.
- 43 D. To be elected to office, a nominee shall be subject to a majority approval of the
- 44 GPSA members

- 45 • Section 6.02: Standing Committees
- 46 E. Any matriculated graduate or professional student is eligible to serve on committees.
- 47 i. At the last regularly scheduled meeting of the GPSA each term, the
- 48 GPSA members shall elect, by majority vote, the chairs of the standing
- 49 committees, with the exception of the Chair of the Appropriations
- 50 Committee.
- 51 ii. The Chair of the Appropriations Committee will be elected during the
- 52 last regularly scheduled meeting of the fall semester. It is strongly
- 53 encouraged that the Appropriations Chair have served on the committee
- 54 for at least one semester prior to election.

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56 **Be it therefore resolved,** that in order to solidify the GPSA’s commitment to equitable

57 participation in the shared governance model, all members of the graduate and professional student

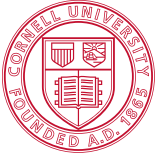
58 body should be able to participate in the election of GPSA Voting members and Officers.

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60 **Be it finally resolved,** that in an effort to achieve these ends, the GPSA elections protocol must be

61 rewritten as follows:

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- 64 • Removing lines 175-176 of the GPSA Charter giving Voting members the responsibility of
- 65 electing Voting members and Officers.
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- 68 • Amending GPSA Charter Section 4.05: Election of Voting Members to be written as
- 69 follows:



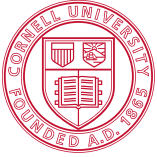
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Student Assembly

- 70 A. Registered students from Divisions defined by the Graduate School are eligible to
71 run for Voting member positions:
- 72 i. The 14 Voting members who represent the divisions of the Graduate
73 School, the Masters of Engineering, and the one “at-large” Master’s
74 student enrolled in a Master’s degree program administered by the
75 Graduate School.
 - 76 ii. In the Physical Sciences, at least one seat shall be from an engineering
77 field and at least one seat shall be from a non-engineering field.
 - 78 iii. The week prior to the second to last regularly scheduled GPSA meeting,
79 the solicitation of candidates for the aforementioned Voting member
80 positions will open. Solicitations shall be accepted via email, or during a
81 call for solicitations during the second to last regularly scheduled GPSA
82 meeting. The solicitation period shall end after this meeting.
 - 83 iv. Three days prior to the last regularly scheduled GPSA meeting the
84 election period will open, ending one hour prior to the last regularly
85 scheduled GPSA meeting. The Voting member election results shall be
86 announced at the start of this meeting.
 - 87 v. Voting for the GPSA Voting member elections shall take place via email,
88 graduate students shall only be permitted to vote on candidates from
89 their respective degree programs.
 - 90 vi. Unfilled seats shall remain open to members of that respective program
91 until the second GPSA meeting of the fall semester, where after that
92 meeting, the seat shall be thrown open as “at-large,” and a member may
93 be elected from any graduate or professional degree program.

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95 B. The professional schools shall select their voting members by whatever means they choose.
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- 97 • Amending GPSA Charter Section 5.02: Officer Elections to be written as follows:

- 98 A. Registered students from any graduate or professional degree program are eligible to
99 run for a GPSA Officer position.
 - 100 i. The week prior to the second to last regularly scheduled GPSA meeting,
101 the solicitation of Officer candidates shall begin. Solicitations shall be
102 accepted via email, or during a call for solicitations during the second to
103 last regularly scheduled GPSA meeting. The solicitation period will end
104 after this meeting.
 - 105 ii. Three days prior to the last regularly scheduled GPSA meeting the
106 election period will open, ending one hour prior to the last regularly



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Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

107 scheduled GPSA meeting. The Officer election results shall be
108 announced at the start of this meeting.
109 iii. Voting for the GPSA Officers shall take place via email, at the same time
110 as the Voting member elections.

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112 • Removing line 372-374 of the GPSA Charter that reads:
113 “At the last regularly scheduled meeting of the GPSA each term, the GPSA members shall 373 elect,
114 by majority vote, the chairs of the standing committees, with the exception of the Chair 374 of the
115 Appropriations Committee”

116
117 • Adding Section 6.03: Election of the Standard Committee Chairs, to be written as follows:
118 A. Registered students from a graduate or professional degree program are eligible to
119 run for a Standing Committee Chair position.
120 i. The week prior to the second to last regularly scheduled GPSA meeting,
121 the solicitation of Standing Committee Chairperson candidates shall
122 begin. Solicitations shall be accepted via email, or during a call for
123 solicitations during the second to last regularly scheduled GPSA meeting.
124 The solicitation period will end after this meeting.
125 ii. Three days prior to the last regularly scheduled GPSA meeting the
126 election period will open, ending one hour prior to the last regularly
127 scheduled GPSA meeting. The Standing Committee Chairpersons
128 election results shall be announced at the start of this meeting.
129 iii. Voting for the GPSA Standing Committee Chairpersons shall take place
130 via email, at the same time as the Voting member elections.

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132 • Adding “Article VI: GPSA Election Rules” to the GPSA Bylaws to be written as follows:

133 Section 6.01: Voter Eligibility
134 A. To vote in any GPSA election, a person must be a registered student in a graduate or
135 professional degree program.

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137 Section 6.02: Definitions
138 A. The following words throughout the Election Rules are defined as such:



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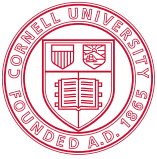
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- i. Classroom: is any space in which a professor, teaching assistant, or any other instructor holds prescribed class times. “Classroom” includes in-person, hybrid, and online courses.
 - ii. Cyber Bullying: is the act of bullying in any online space. These election rules follow the same definition of bullying as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct and applicable university policies or governmental laws.
 - iii. Individual or self-promoting publicity: is any outreach events, office hours, postings, or public 68 facing events, whether in-person or virtual, in which interaction with, or promotion of, the candidate is a substantial reason for the act.
 - iv. Social Media: is any online service that allows users to share, create, or post content for social networking purposes. Social media services include, but are not limited to: Instagram, Snapchat, Tik Tok, LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr, Reddit, MySpace, Pinterest, YouTube, and CampusGroups. However, email, GroupMe, WhatsApp, Signal, SMS texting, and private messaging features on other applications are not social media.

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157 Section 6.03: Compliance with University Policies and Student Code of Conduct

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- A. Candidates and supporters acting on their behalf must be aware of and comply with all applicable policies and provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, including but not limited to:
 - i. Use of Cornell Name, Logo & Artwork policy
 - ii. Event Registration policies
 - iii. Facilities Reservation policies
 - iv. University Postering and Chalking policies
 - v. Intimidation tactics and cyberbullying activities are strictly prohibited
 - B. A violation of any University policy is a violation of these rules and therefore grounds for a challenge if it compromises the fairness of the election. It is the candidate’s responsibility to read the referenced documents and be familiar with the rules and regulations established within them. The Elections Committee may also refer any reported violations to the Office of Student Conduct and Community 190 Standards (OSCCS) or any other appropriate office, which may impose disciplinary remedies and penalties according to its own rules and procedures.

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176 Section 6.04: Electronic Communications

- 177 A. Candidates and supporters acting on their behalf:
- 178 i. Cannot receive campaign support through a Cornell
179 Administered list-serv.
- 180 ii. Must comply with Cornell University IT policies

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182 Section 6.05: Campaign Finance

- 183 A. Candidates or supporters acting on their behalf must submit all receipts and/or proof of fair
184 market value with the signed expense report to the Office of the Assemblies by the last
185 regularly scheduled GPSA meeting. Candidates who do not submit receipts and/or proof of
186 fair market value will be presumed to have spent \$0 on their campaign.
- 187 i. Candidates and supporters acting on their behalf may not exceed the \$25
188 limit for out-of-pocket expenses and fair market value of donations of
189 materials, professional services, and/or money.
- 190 ii. Fair market value is the value at which something is to be obtained
191 normally if documentation of its dollar value is not provided. If there is a
192 supporting receipt for goods used in a candidate's campaign, then the
193 value of that good is the dollar value on the supporting receipt as long as
194 the transaction was conducted at arm's length.
- 195 iii. For donated materials, professional services, or other goods for which no
196 official receipt is provided, candidates must seek the most plausible
197 assessment of the fair market value of the goods. Professional services
198 will be defined as any work for which the given individual/donor is
199 typically compensated. Volunteer time donated by full-time students,
200 who are not professionals (have received payment for service) in the area
201 of their volunteer effort, will not be considered professional services.
- 202 iv. Paid advertisements and related costs on social networking sites or other
203 websites must also be accounted for at fair market value.
- 204 v. Candidates may use any platforms at their disposal, granted they are free.
205 If these platforms require purchasing, candidates are required to report
206 this in their expense report form.

207 Section 6.06: Endorsements

- 208 A. All registered student organizations receiving funds from the GPSA are encouraged to
209 endorse candidates. If an organization chooses to endorse a candidate, it is expected to
210 abide by the guidelines below.



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

- 211 i. Student Activities Funding Commission (SAFC) funded and
212 Student Activity Fee (SAF) byline funded organizations may
213 endorse candidates. All groups must act in a way that is fair
214 and balanced when deciding on the endorsement of
215 candidates.
- 216 ii. The Elections Committee may recommend that the GPSAFC
217 impose fines on or revoke allocated funds from organizations
218 failing to comply.
- 219 iii. If a member of the Elections Committee sits on the
220 Executive Board or governing body of an organization, that
221 organization is prohibited from endorsing candidates
- 222 iv. All registered graduate and professional students are
223 encouraged to individually endorse candidates.
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225 Section 6.07: Campaign Ethics

- 226 A. Candidates and supporters acting on their behalf:
- 227 i. May not, at any time before, during or after the elections, harass,
228 threaten, or coerce others.
- 229 ii. May not provide anything of material value to a member of the Cornell
230 community to further themselves in the election or to promote their
231 candidacy.
- 232 iii. May not compel any person to endorse their candidacy, assist their
233 campaign, or act as supporter as an explicit or implicit condition for
234 initiation to, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership in
235 a group or organization.
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237 Respectfully Submitted,
238 Preston Hanley
239 President
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241 Damien Sharp
242 Executive Vice President
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