



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Minutes of the January 29th, 2018 Meeting

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Bache Auditorium, Malott Hall

- I. Call to Order
 - a. E. Winarto called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.
 - b. *Members Present:* K. Angierski, C. Cannarozzo, A. Gagnon, J. Goldberg, R. Harrison, M. Jodlowski, C. Little, A. Loiben, T. McCann, A. Schofield, C. Stambuk, W. Zhang.
 - c. *Members Absent:* R. Adityavarman, R. Boylan (Alexei Viarruel should have been called as he is the new Johnson School Voting Member), J. Hernandez, D. Moon.
 - d. *Also Present:* M. Pollack, B. Knuth, R. Lombardi, J. Malina.
- II. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. The minutes from the November 27th meeting were approved by unanimous consent.
- III. Presentations
 - a. M. Pollack, University President, then made her presentation
 - i. M. Pollack thanked the GPSA for its hard work in opposing elements of the tax bill that would have had detrimental impacts on graduate education nationwide.
 - ii. M. Pollack stated the need for increased Mental Health resources at Cornell and in higher education nationwide. It's a top priority for herself, VP Lombardi, and university leadership. An external review of mental health services is currently underway. So far 3 key areas of improvement have been identified: matching CAPS staffing levels to community expectations; investing in a comprehensive approach; and recruiting and retaining talented health care professionals, particularly underrepresented minorities.
 - iii. M. Pollack mentioned support for the BEST program.
 - iv. M. Pollack stated that Cornell is one of the nine founding members of the Coalition for Next Generation Life Sciences, an initiative to be transparent about career outcomes of life science PhD students.



Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

- v. M. Pollack informed the GPSA that the administration is increasing the total annual budget of the student childcare grants by 40%.
- vi. In regard to diversity and inclusion, M. Pollack informed the GPSA that the Presidential task force is now at work, with all 3 subcommittees active. They are not there to represent a particular group, they need to think as university citizens. She told the task force not to reach for consensus, but that their job is to generate ideas. They are on a tight timeline: they must have recommendations by May.
- vii. Other areas of progress are: IFC and PHC rolled out a new diversity initiative before rush; there is a new diversity website; and CTI is putting an online course together for faculty to help teach better in multicultural classrooms.
- viii. The Consensual Relationship Policy task force is currently seeking comments. Minutes of its meetings are on the faculty website. By May 1st there will be a proposal on M. Pollack's desk. She is a believer in shared governance, but if these bodies cannot agree on a policy, M. Pollack will bring a policy to the Trustees and have them authorize it.
- ix. Maplewood will open in August 2018 and there are still beds available.
- x. M. Munasinghe: will the CTI course for faculty be available for TAs and will it be optional or required for faculty?
 - 1. M. Pollack isn't sure about TAs, but doesn't see why not. And it won't be mandatory initially. They want a test run first.
- xi. An audience member stated CAPS is a joke
 - 1. M. Pollack rejected that characterization. She stated further that Cornell is having an independent external review done for mental health. They decided not to do a second review because the clinical staff is overloaded even though they are hiring more people.
- xii. B. Kisselstein: is there anything we can do as the GPSA and as SAC to help with increasing mental health for students?
 - 1. VP Lombardi: we would welcome additional comments and discussions with SAC and the GPSA in thinking about these issues.
 - 2. M. Pollack: we're always open to good ideas.



Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

- xiii. M. Munasinghe wanted to note that the external review did not delineate between graduate and undergraduate students.
- xiv. J. Goldberg: what is the university thinking about for students that live off campus in regard to DACA?
 - 1. M. Pollack: Cornell's policy is actually based on the policy of the Ithaca police department, so it is very similar whether you're on campus or not. She believes it's much more effective to work with other AAU schools than just alone. She has written to all of New York's Congressional delegation about DACA.
- xv. M. Munasinghe asked if there are any plans for the administration to help secure alumni donors to support the cinema since the administration won't fund them.
 - 1. M. Pollack: the cinema staff is building a new business model trying to secure more funding.
- xvi. B. Kisselstein: asked how were the eligibility requirements expanded for the student childcare grant?
 - 1. B. Knuth: we expanded eligible income levels.
 - 2. Hopefully this summer eligibility guidelines will be finalized. The website is studentswithfamilies.cornell.edu
- xvii. E. Michel: are there updates on a new director for the LGBT RC?
 - 1. R. Lombardi: the job is about to be posted again, and there is a convention in March that should attract talent.
- b. The Executive Committee then made a presentation.
 - i. M. Munasinghe: some things the Executive Committee does do not make it to the GPSA floor, and the committee wanted to update members on some of the things they did last semester and what they are doing this semester.
 - ii. Maplewood
 - 1. Maplewood can't hire international GCAs because it's a violation of their student visas. They are trying to work on this and get international students involved in maplewood.
 - 2. B. Knuth: there will be a meeting with legal and the graduate school to clarify this much more.



Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

3. A. Natarajan noted that some international students have problems paying deposits, and that because Maplewood is off-campus housing it won't have a blue light.
 - iii. The Student Child Care grant budget increased by \$100,000.
 - iv. Cornell is launching a student-alumni networking platform soon.
 - v. There is a new graduate and international student career services advisor: Gaeun Seo (gs643).
 - vi. Update on Cornell Tech: masters students there get all of their activity fee back. PhD students are a pseudo field right now.
 - vii. There is a plan to move to an online reimbursement process, but these are very early days for that.
 - viii. Update on non-Ithaca based student health care: they are trying to make the process easier for those students to find providers that take Cornell insurance.
 - ix. In the spring semester, the Executive Committee will work on students with families policies (parental accommodation, develop best practices for advisors of student parents) and developing an external affairs committee (lobbying in Washington or Albany).
 - x. Cornell is hosting the 2018 Ivy+ summit (next fall). There are a lot of details that need to be clarified asap. If there is anyone that is really interested in that please talk to M. Munasinghe (mam737).
 - xi. A. Natarajan asked what is the status of the GPCI document.
 1. The answer was that that committee has not met yet.
- IV. Division Breakouts
- V. Committee Updates
- a. A motion was made to amend the agenda by placing the Executive Committee update after the other committees. There was no dissent.
 - b. Operations: a doodle poll will be sent out regarding meeting times for the semester.
 - c. Communications: nothing to report.
 - d. Appropriations: the committee is probably meeting Fridays 6-8pm. Email crs349 with questions.
 - e. Finance: nothing to report.



Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

- f. Student Advocacy Committee: they will be sending out an email to schedule their biweekly meetings. If you're interested in joining see or email B. Kisselstein (bmk76) or N. Carre (nyc22). SAC and DISC will host a town-hall on Feb. 6th, 5:15pm, in 404 Plant Science.
- g. Diversity and International Students: working on planning biweekly meetings. Contact E. Law with questions (epl49). They are collaborating with SAC on a community town hall.
- h. Programming Board: Grad Ball will be on May 5th at the Museum of the Earth. They are still working out a theme. Email C. Cannarozzo with questions (cjc365).
- i. Faculty Awards: their first meeting will be Feb. 8th, 8pm, in Weill 221. They will discuss implementing an online platform.
- j. General Committee: they are discussing the possibility to get a masters in your minor concentration; they have received feedback from people in some fields where there was lack of clarity for responsibilities of DGSs, so the code of legislation has been revised to be more clear; they spoke about careers for international graduate students (communicating visa policies). Please read the code of legislation and please give feedback. Talk to your constituents and think about becoming a representative yourself.
- k. Consensual Relationship Task Force (policy committee): Dean Van Loan and A. Waymack will come speak on March 12th.
- l. Graduate School: you can email Jan Allen about the masters in minor fields possibilities.
- m. Executive: M. Munasinghe and E. Winarto received a complaint from a constituent. They have never had to deal with a complaint like this before.
 - i. M. Munasinghe and E. Winarto wrote a statement and wanted voting members to vote on it. M. Munasinghe then read the statement.
 - ii. The Executive Committee was asking for this issue to be reviewed by the Operations and Staffing Committee.
 - iii. The meetings of the Operations and Staffing committee will be open for all GPSA members.



Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

- iv. J. Goldberg specified that they want it to go to Operations and Staffing because there is no procedural precedent to resolve this complaint, not because it's necessarily severe.
- v. A motion was made to extend the meeting by five minutes, there was no dissent.
- vi. M. Battaglia asked if Operations and Staffing would look at how to handle complaints in the future because the mandating authority is very confusing here.
 1. M. Munasinghe said that they don't want to add procedures for complaints to the bylaws until this is settled.
- vii. A motion was made to move to discussion, there was no dissent.
- viii. M. Jodlowski stated that she was leaning towards voting no because this feels sort of sprung on the voting members. She needs time to see how she feels and how her constituents feel.
- ix. A motion was made to send E. Winarto's and M. Munasinghe's statement out to the voting membership and to put a discussion of this on the agenda for the next meeting.
 1. A motion was made to move by unanimous consent, there was no dissent to that. There was no dissent to the above motion as well, so it passed.

VI. Open Forum

- a. T. McCann **motioned** to send a formal warning to any voting members that have been absent more than twice that there will be a vote to unseat them. The motion **passed** with no dissent.
- b. A motion was made to adjourn, there was no dissent.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matthew Ferraro
Clerk of the Assembly