



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Agenda of the February 12th, 2018 Meeting

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Bache Auditorium, Malott Hall

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call (3 minutes)
- III. Approval of the Minutes (2 Minutes)
 - a. Minutes from January 29th, 2018
- IV. Presentations (30 Minutes)
 - a. Gaeun Seo, Career Development Specialist: Graduate and International Advisor (15 Minutes)
 - b. Graduate and Professional Community Initiative, Nate Rogers (15 Minutes)
 - c. GPSA Slack, Xanda Schofield (5 Minutes)
- V. Division Breakouts (10 Minutes)
 - a. Discussion on Mental Health Experiences
- VI. Committee Updates (15 Minutes) (~1 Min/Committee)
 - a. Executive Committee
 - b. Operations
 - c. Communications
 - d. Appropriations
 - e. Finance
 - f. Student Advocacy
 - g. Diversity and International Students
 - h. Programming
 - i. Faculty Awards
 - j. General Committee
 - k. Consensual Relationship Task Force
 - l. Graduate School
- VII. New Business (15 Minutes)
 - a. Introduction to *Resolution 9: In Support of E.A. R8: Institutional Commitment to all LGBTQ+ Members of the Cornell Community*

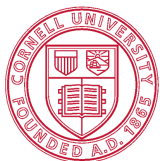
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- VIII. Open Forum (10 Minutes)
- IX. Adjournment

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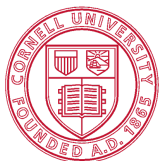
Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Minutes of the January 29th, 2018 Meeting

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

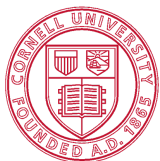
Bache Auditorium, Malott Hall

- 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.



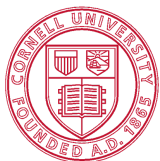
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- v. M. Pollack informed the GPSA that the administration is increasing the total annual budget of the student childcare grants by 40%.
- vi. In regard to diversity and inclusion, M. Pollack informed the GPSA that the Presidential task force is now 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 there 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.



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- 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.



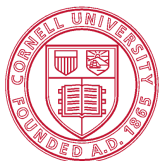
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3. A. Natarajan noted that some international students have problems paying deposits, and that because Maplewood is off-campus housing it won't have a blue light.
- iii. The Student Child Care grant budget increased by \$100,000.
- iv. Cornell is launching 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.



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- 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.



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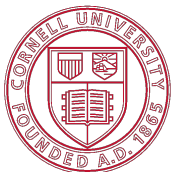
- iv. J. Goldberg specified that they want it to go to Operations and Staffing because there is no procedural precedent to resolve this complaint, not because it's necessarily severe.
- v. A motion was made to extend the meeting by five minutes, there was no dissent.
- vi. M. Battaglia asked if Operations 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



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**GPSA Resolution 9: In Support of E.A. R8: Institutional
Commitment to All LGBTQ+¹ Members of the Cornell Community**

Sponsored by: out in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (oSTEM); Elena Michel, Biological Sciences Voting Member and Co-President of oSTEM; Manisha Munasinghe, Executive Vice President and member of oSTEM; Joseph Anderson, Chair of University Assembly Campus Welfare Committee; Eugene Law, Chair of GPSA Diversity and International Students Committee, Breanne Kisselstein and Nicholas Carre, Co-Chairs of GPSA Student Advocacy Committee on behalf of SAC

Whereas, the Cornell Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Resource Center (LGBTRC) was founded in 1994 and was originally run by two full-time staff members² to be “the central hub of LGBTQ life at Cornell” and to specifically support students, faculty, and staff across the LGBTQ+ spectrum³; and

Whereas, the LGBTRC provides a myriad of services to the LGBTQ+ community including but not limited to the LGBTQ Mentorship Program, the First Year Queer Peer, and Lavender Graduation⁴; and

Whereas, the LGBTRC also provides support and guidance for numerous LGBTQ+ student organizations on campus such as Haven: The LGBTQ Student Union, MOSAIC, and Out in STEM (oSTEM); and

Whereas, the LGBTRC supports the functions and inclusion of the LGBT Colleague Network Group for all faculty and staff, which raises awareness about workplace issues faced by LGBTQ+ faculty and staff, provides professional networking opportunities for LGBTQ+ faculty and staff, and supports recruitment and retentions efforts for LGBTQ+ faculty and staff; and

Whereas, the LGBTRC supports the inclusion of LGBTQ+ issues in the academic setting by providing resources for the incorporation of LGBTQ+ issues into the classroom, made available to all faculty members; and

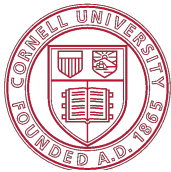
Whereas, the LGBTRC supports a set of general services to all LGBTQ+ faculty and staff, including but not limited to: advocacy, advising, consultation and referrals, and

¹ For the ease of reading, the resolution will use the acronym LGBTQ+ to refer to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer/Questioning, and others, unless referring to a specific entity or being

² <http://cornellsun.com/2013/03/10/university-reflects-on-shift-in-lgbt-presence-on-campus/>

³ <http://dos.cornell.edu/lgbt-resource-center>

⁴ <https://dos.cornell.edu/lgbt-resource-center/signature-programs-annual-events>



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community development; and

Whereas, the LGBTRC is instrumental in advising and advocating for Cornell’s LGBTQ+ community, which includes students, faculty, and staff; and

Whereas, in 2017 the Dean of Students Vijay Pendakur issued a directive for the LGBT Resource Center (LGBTRC) to no longer serve staff and faculty due to being understaffed; and

Whereas, on November 30th, 2017, the Employee Assembly conveyed Resolution 8: Furthering the Institutional Commitment to LGBTQ+ Inclusion (EA: R8) to Cornell University President Martha Pollack⁵; and

Whereas, EA: R8 states “Be it therefore resolved, The Assembly urges the Division of Student & Campus Life and the Office of the Dean of Students to rescind the directive for the LGBTRC to no longer serve the ongoing support and educational needs of staff and faculty”; and

Whereas, EA: R8 continues with “Be it further resolved, The Divisions of Human Resources and Student & Campus Life shall identify the resources to fully fund and staff (3) additional full-time, long-term professional staff positions in the LGBTRC”; and

Whereas, on January 2nd, 2018, President Pollack acknowledged EA:R8⁶; and

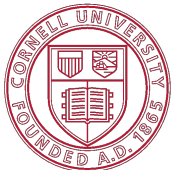
Whereas, President Pollack rejected the EA’s recommendation that the directive for the LGBTRC to no longer serve the needs of staff and faculty be rescinded stating “to provide the appropriate levels of service, separating educational and support services for students from faculty and staff allows Cornell to meet the unique needs of our LGBTQ students, as they pursue their degrees”; and

Whereas, President Pollack also rejected the EA’s recommendation that The Divisions of Human Resources and Student & Campus Life should identify the resources to fully fund and staff (3) additional full-time, long-term professional staff position in the LGBTRC writing “At this time, there will not be any additional long-term professional positions added to the center’s staffing”; and

Whereas, we strongly support all LGBTQ+ members of the Cornell Community, including staff and faculty; and

⁵ <https://assembly.cornell.edu/resolutions/ea-r8-furthering-institutional-commitment-lgbtq-inclusion>

⁶ <https://assembly.cornell.edu/resolution-actions/ea-r8-furthering-institutional-commitment-lgbtq-inclusion-3>



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Whereas, we dismiss the notion that, in order to “provide the appropriate levels of service...[for] our LGBTQ students”, the LGBTRC must no longer support faculty and staff;

Whereas, President Pollack states: “Further, the LGBTRC will continue to serve as resource to the Division of Human Resources as it provides education and support for our LGBT staff and faculty colleagues;” and

Whereas, this statement acknowledges the fact that the Division of Human Resources is not fully equipped to provide support for LGBTQ+ staff and faculty; and

Whereas, this statement contradicts the purpose behind the directive issued to the LGBTRC to stop providing support and education for LGBTQ+ staff and faculty as it indicates they will still be doing so, just with the added burden of passing this support through the Division of Human Resources before it gets to the staff and faculty; and

Whereas, we believe that finding additional resources to increase the number of full-time staff members working at the LGBTRC to support all LGBTQ+ community members, including faculty and staff, would be more effective in supporting the “unique needs of LGBTQ+ students”; and

Whereas, all LGBTQ+ Cornell Community members, including faculty and staff, should be served by the LGBTRC as it is the hub of LGBTQ+ life at Cornell; and

Whereas, the LGBTRC was founded to serve LGBTQ+ students, faculty, and staff, and we reject any attempt to alter its initial founding purpose that would fracture the LGBTQ+ community at Cornell; and

Whereas, a refusal to rescind this directive negatively impacts the LGBTQ+ community and is antithetical to Cornell’s “promise to support the LGTBQ+ community”; and

Be it therefore resolved, that the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly reiterates the recommendation from the Employee Assembly for the Division of Student & Campus Life and the Office of the Dean of Students to rescind the directive for the LGBTRC to no longer serve the ongoing support and educational needs of staff and faculty;

Be it finally resolved, that The Divisions of Human Resources and Student & Campus Life should identify the resources to fully fund and staff (3) additional full-time, long-term professional staff position in the LGBTRC.