



**Cornell University**  
**Graduate and Professional**  
**Student Assembly**

Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Agenda of the April 22, 2019 Meeting

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Bache Auditorium, Malott Hall

I. Call to Order

- a. A. Barrientos-Gomez called the meeting to order at 5:30

II. Roll Call

- a. Present: K. Angierski, A. Barrientos-Gomez, A. Cohn, K. Krishnan, C. Mittan, ,  
N. London, W. Anderson, W. Zhang, V. Kasonde, K. Palumbo, R. Harrison, J.  
Kent-Dobias, J. Bogdanowicz, M. Kalaji, D. Arora, E. Lavin, A. Woods, K.  
Esannanson, D. Parker, D. Giesler, S. Theobald,
- b. Absent: N. Carre, H. Kim, S. Bellizi, A. Belen Ruival, M. Jodlowski, E. Winarto,  
S. Chin

I. Approval of the Minutes

- a. Minutes from March 25, 2019
- b. Minutes from April 8, 2019
  - i. Motion to postponed

ii. Passed

II. Presentations

- a. Martha E. Pollack, President of Cornell University, Address to the GPSA

- i. M. Pollack: I wanted to thank the body in updating the Graduate the progress for Graduate student life. Let me turn to questions that people have asked me. The first issue I am usually asked regards mental health, all of our peers like us have added capacity to counseling in the past few years we have increased our counseling staff by 50%. I think all of you know that under VP Lombardi we are doing a mental health review, which will include a committee of graduate students. We are committed to making the results to the review public. We are now releasing the pre-consulting aspect of counseling as well as having a set amount of same day appointments. We are also addressing the large amount of graduate students who are released into community care. The second question I got was about the teaching at the university. I very firmly believe that research and teaching are intertwined and vital. It is really important to me that all of you have the resources you need to learn how to teach and do research. We have resources on campus to help teach graduate students learn on how to teach. Diversity and inclusion is also something that is really important to me, I had to 2 presidential task force that came up with things that we could do immediately and want to do. We want to hold the entire community accountable and if you go to [diversity.cornell.edu](https://diversity.cornell.edu) we have a spreadsheet of things we are doing and would like to do. We are concerned about international students with new immigration policy, but our graduate and professional international enrollment are holding steady. The next question if about student debt, we have increased financial aid so

no student on aid will see an increase in cost of attendance. For graduate student the majority have funding from Cornell, and 95% do not have more debt from their graduate education. For the professional school, we are trying to address debt levels especially with the vet school is trying we are moderating tuition and implement scholarships.

- ii. K. Palumbo: I am wondering about diversity
- iii. M. Pollack: I do have an exact answer for you, but one thing that has been pushed back is our reworking of the bias reporting process.
- iv. A representative: You mention about recruiting more disabled student, what is the retention rate of disabled students?
- v. M. Pollack: I do have retention data; we have tried to addressed parking
- vi. K. Krishnan: How often is the website being updated, and why are international students of color and domestic students of color reported differently.
- vii. M. Pollack: The federal government sets those guidelines, and I always try to be respectful of how people
- viii. W. Anderson: What does the diversity recruiting consist of?
- ix. M. Pollack: We are trying at all levels to make known to a diverse group of students that we want them here. The recruiting is just telling people we want We have this vague notion of one Cornell, and what I think really distinguishes us is how we are so interdisciplinary. The last thing I want to mention is the core value statements, I think if you were to ask 50 students what their core values are there would be an 80% overlap. We want to

give these values to all new members of the community.

- x. A representative: What do you attempt to do with your statements about recent global events?
- xi. M. Pollack: We want to look this summer is our statement policy, but it's simply meant to acknowledge events and show my support to those who are affected

### III. Approval of the Minutes

#### a. Minutes from March 25, 2019

- i. Motion to pass
- ii. No dissent

iii. Passed

#### b. Minutes from April 8, 2019

- i. Motion to pass
- ii. No dissent

iii. Passed

### IV. Division Breakout

- a. We will be working on elections.

### V. Elections: Division Chief and Voting Members Old Business (15 Minutes)

- a. Arts: Rebecca is new divisions chief
- b. Life Sciences: Leo is the new division chief
- c. Social sciences: Michael is a new voting member and interim chairs
- d. Physical Science: Yorka is the new division chief

VI. Discussion on Resolution 5: Ratification of Ivy+ Student Government Group

Constitution

- a. Andy: Alex will chair since I am a sponsor
- b. Victoria: I think that some things to consider that we need to start shaping values right away, how the constitution can be enforced, and that the \$1500 should be adjusted for inflation.
- c. Nate: The \$1500 should be adjusted periodic to account to inflation.
- d. Matt: The constitution is better than nothing, it works and I motion to vote on the resolution
- e. Seconded
- f. No dissent to vote
- g. Vote: 18-0-2
- h. Passes

VII. Discussion on Resolution 6: Approval of Rules for the Ivy+Student Government

- a. A representative: My concern is that lines 60-71 if we want to host in rotation, it takes a unanimous vote to host but the ski
- b. A representative: All of these things are amendable but if it is related to finances, but it would not be voted on at summit. It is less about school not wanting to host, its more about other universities travel cost.
- c. A representative: So what allows a school to join the group?
- d. Manisha: Not any school can join, and they would have to be part of deans group and then be voted on.
- e. A representative: Motion to table next meeting

- i. K. Palumbo: would be able to vote and pass it next meeting?
- ii. A representative: yes
- iii. K. Palumbo: seconded
- iv. No dissent
- v. Passes

#### VIII. Group New Business

- a. Introduction to Resolution 4: Revising the GPSA Finance Commission Guidelines
  - i. E. Otott-Kovacs: We are introducing some minor revisions because we noticed some minor mistakes, you can find the revisions online.
  - ii. K. Palumbo: How are you getting the word out to the community that this being revised and open to comments.
  - iii. E. Otott-Kovacs: I have sent it to the listserv and on orgsyn, and social media.
  - iv. K. Palumbo: Have you received comments so far, and how are you are going to incorporate them.
  - v. E. Otott-Kovacs: Most of the comments have been with understanding and explanation

#### IX. Committee Q&A

- a. Executive Committee: Remember if you are running for a position to reach out with questions
- b. Operations: For voting members who are newly elected come see me
- c. Communications: none
- d. Appropriations: none

- e. Finance: none
- f. Student Advocacy: none
- g. Diversity and International Students Committee: Meeting on Friday
- h. Programming: Grad Ball
- i. Faculty Awards: Winner announcements, we had 4 award winners and 2 honorable mentions.
- j. General Committee: none
- k. Grad School: In 2 weeks Big Red Barn will have a big end of the year event
- l. GPCI: none

Adjournment 7:04

New members:

Arielle Johnson, Voting Member, Plant Biology (SIPS),

Kristen Esannason, Voting Member (vet school),

Abby Woods, voting member (vet school),

Kasey Laurent (Physical Sciences),

Doga Yucalan (physical sciences, division chair), Madeleine Keefe (Life Sciences),

Leo Louis (Life Sciences, division chair),

Nathan London (physical sciences, returning voting member),

Andy Leonel Barrientos-Gomez (Arts and Humanities),

Becca Harrison (Division Chief/Voting Member (interim))