



Cornell University  
Graduate and Professional  
Student Assembly

**Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly**

Minutes of the October 18, 2021 Meeting

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

398 Statler Hall

- I. Call to Order
  - a. P. Hanley called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM.
- II. Roll Call
  - a. *Present* [17]: B. Carver, K. Carter-Cram, C. Duell, R. Epstein, A. Inayatali, D. Kent, G. Li, P. Mehta, M. Minelli, C. O'Connor, C. Ohenewah, A. Presher, D. Sharp, C. Steingard, J. Washington, M. Welch, A. Wunsch
  - b. *Absent* [15]: C. Anklin, M. Balch, S. Bright-Thonney, C. Day, J. Dotzel, N. Gonzalez, B. Hayes, A. Khlyustova, D. Lanes, J. Levin, C. Liu, S. Lopez, G. Smits, W. Wang, H. Williams
- III. Late Additions to the Agenda
  - a. N. Danev moved to add “GPSA R5: Calling on Cornell University to Appropriately Recognize and Honor Veterans Day” to the Agenda.
- IV. Approval of the Meeting Minutes
  - a. September 27, 2021
    - i. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
- V. Presentations
  - a. Liz Davis-Frost, Graduate School Elected-Trustee obo PSAC
    - i. Refer to “Cornell PSAC Feedback Sessions Presentation” on the OA Website
  - b. LaDreana Walton, Assistant Director of Institutional Equity & Investigator
    - i. Refer to “Policy 6.3 – Consensual Relationships Presentation” on the OA Website
    - ii. A member of the assembly asked for clarification on the change from the previous policy.
      1. L. Walton stated that previously, the policy only prohibited sexual or romantic relationships between faculty members and undergraduate students. The change in the policy would now includes staff members and prohibit staff members from having relationships with undergraduate students.
    - iii. N. Danev noted that oftentimes, Graduate students were also employed by the University and asked if it would be possible to have an explicit definition of how Graduate students fit into the policy.
      1. L. Walton noted that the policy defined the identities listed in it, but added that if an individual were both a student and had an



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employment position, then OIETIX would look towards the individual's primary focus on campus. Therefore, student workers would be seen first as students and would fall under the protections of the policy.

2. N. Danev stated that most PhD students in natural sciences had student responsibilities while taking classes, but added that many had primary roles involving carrying out research and were paid by the University. N. Danev asked if the policy laid out a clear definition since PhD students could be seen as staff or students depending on the circumstances.
3. L. Walton stated that if in an individual's capacity as a staff member, they were in a position of authority over an undergraduate student, the policy would prohibit any relationship between the staff and student or at the very least outline a reporting requirement. L. Walton added that if an individual had a question on whether they were a staff or student, they should consult with OIETIX or work to setup a recusal plan.

VI. Breakout Session by Division

- a. Arts & Humanities Student Voting Member (2 Vacancies)
- b. N. Danev stated that the purpose of Division Breakouts was for field representatives to have an opportunity to talk to their voting members about the agenda and the topics that were up for discussion in the meeting. Therefore, the Division Breakouts would allow voting members to hear from field representatives on meeting items that needed to be voted on. N. Danev also spoke on the distinction between the Divisions.

VII. New Business

- a. Elections
  - i. Graduate and Professional Student Programming Board Chairperson
    1. P. Hanley noted that the Chairperson would be a voting member and stated that the goal of the committee was to help plan events for Graduate and Professional students.
    2. *No Nominations*
- b. GPSA Resolution 5: Calling on Cornell University to Appropriately Recognize and Honor Veterans Day
  - i. Abstract: This resolution calls on University Administration to establish Veterans Day as a University-holiday where courses are canceled, and University affiliates are not required to work.
  - ii. R. Molina introduced himself, noting that he was President of the Cornell Undergraduate Veterans Association (CUVA) and asked for the GPSA to



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support R5 which would appropriately honor and recognize Veterans Day. R. Molina stated that Veterans Day was originally recognized by Congress as Armistice Day to mark the end of WWI and noted that Veterans Day was recognized nationally each year on November 11<sup>th</sup>. The University was currently home to more than 400 Veterans and without official University recognition, members of Cornell's Veteran community were required to use vacation or personal time to participate in Veterans Day events. He stated that the resolution co-sponsors believed that the sacrifices of Cornell's Veterans and their families should be honored by the University and Veterans should be afforded the time and opportunity to celebrate the day that honors them. Additionally, recognizing Veterans Day would give those without military affiliation a day of rest made possible by the sacrifices of Veterans. Therefore, the resolution asks University Administration to cancel course attendance for students and required work for staff each academic year on November 11<sup>th</sup>.

- iii. N. Danev moved to amend the resolution to state "the Cornell University Administration will cancel both course attendance and required work for University affiliates each academic year on November 11<sup>th</sup>, the date of the nationally recognized holiday" on Lines 48-50 and in the abstract.
  1. The amendment was seconded and approved 17-0-0. The resolution was amended.
- iv. C. Duell moved Previous Question on the resolution; the motion was seconded.
- v. The resolution was approved 17-0-0.

VIII. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates

- a. Executive Committee – D. Sharp
  - i. D. Sharp reminded voting members that they were also required to be in a committee and noted that the Executive Committee would send out an email later in the week soliciting committee choices for voting members. Voting members that do not notify the Executive Committee of the committee they wish to join would be assigned to a committee. Additionally, he noted that voting members were required to attend the meeting in-person to vote and stated that field representatives could join via Zoom. Additionally, D. Sharp asked field representatives to email K. Carter-Cram so that they could put together a list of fields that still needed field representatives.
  - ii. P. Hanley stated that regarding GPSA R4, the Executive Committee had been able to meet with Dean Boor and gained another use of the Listserv.



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- b. Operations – K. Carter-Cram
  - i. *No further updates*
- c. Appropriations – B. Carver
  - i. B. Carver stated that the dates for the application process for Byline-funded organizations had been moved back since he was appointed into the role later in the process.
  - ii. B. Carver also encouraged members to reach out to individuals that might be interested in the committee.
- d. Communications – G. Li
  - i. G. Li noted that she had recently sent out an email to committee chairpersons to get their input for the newsletter and any items they wanted to include for the month. G. Li noted that she was currently working on the newsletter in conjunction with other members of the Executive Committee and the Office of the Assemblies.
  - ii. G. Li also noted that C. Steingard had reached out to her to advertise for a project she was working on and G. Li informed members to keep an eye out for that in the newsletter.
- e. Finance - C. Steingard
  - i. *No Updates*
- f. Student Advocacy – D. Kent
  - i. *No Updates*
- g. Diversity and International Students – P. Mehta
  - i. P. Mehta stated that the committee was currently working on drafting a resolution. Additionally, P. Mehta encouraged members to reach out to him if they knew who was running the existing DISC Facebook Page.
- h. Programming - Vacant
  - i. *No Updates*
- i. Faculty Awards – C. Duell
  - i. *No Updates*
- j. General Committee – N. Danev
  - i. N. Danev stated that the General Committee had recently met and approved several new degrees and several Graduate faculty members.
- k. Graduate School
  - i. J. Allen encouraged members to ask her or Dean Boor any questions they might have about updates from the Graduate School.
  - ii. *No further updates*

IX. Open Forum

- a. B. Carver noted that in moving to 398 Statler Hall, one item that came up was the fact that the room would cost \$300 per meeting, and it was not budgeted. B.



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Carver asked for feedback on the room and whether spending the \$300 on it was justified.

- i. A member of the assembly expressed that they liked the room better because it had better acoustics and allowed for members to be heard easier.
- ii. N. Danev asked for P. Hanley to provide clarification on Zoom participation because from his understanding, members had to physically attend the meeting in order to participate.
- iii. P. Hanley echoed what D. Sharp had stated in the Executive Committee address, noting that members needed to be in-person if they wanted to participate in the meetings. The Zoom was setup for individuals to watch the meeting if they could not physically attend, but currently Zoom participation was not allowed.

X. Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Auriole C. R. Fassinou  
Clerk of the Assembly