



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Minutes of the November 15, 2021 Meeting

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

398 Statler Hall

- I. Call to Order
 - a. P. Hanley called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM.
- II. Roll Call – *Did Not Meet Quorum*
 - a. *Present* [14]: S. Bright-Thonney, K. Carter-Cram, R. Epstein, D. Kent, G. Li, P. Mehta, M. Minelli, C. O'Connor, C. Ohenewah, D. Sharp, G. Smits, J. Washington, M. Welch, A. Wunsch
 - b. *Absent* [16]: C. Anklin, B. Carver, C. Day, J. Dotzel, C. Duell, N. Gonzalez, B. Hayes, A. Inayatali, A. Khlyustova, D. Lanes, J. Levin, C. Liu, S. Lopez, A. Presher, C. Steingard, W. Wang
 - c. *Guests/Non-Voting Members* [4]: J. Allen, Dean Boor, P. Hanley, W. Treat
- III. Breakout Session by Division
 - a. P. Hanley informed members of the Arts & Humanities Division about their 2 vacancies.
 - b. A member of the assembly asked about what members should be discussing in their Division Breakout Session.
 - i. P. Hanley stated that members should discuss on GPSA R10 which will be presented by D. Sharp later on in the meeting. Although the resolution would not be voted on at the current meeting because it was a Charter amendment, members should think about possible amendments they may want to make.
- IV. Roll Call – *Met Quorum*
 - a. D. Sharp motioned to recall the Roll; the motion was seconded.
 - b. *Present* [16]: S. Bright-Thonney, K. Carter-Cram, R. Epstein, B. Hayes, D. Kent, G. Li, C. Liu, P. Mehta, M. Minelli, C. O'Connor, C. Ohenewah, D. Sharp, G. Smits, J. Washington, M. Welch, A. Wunsch
 - c. *Absent* [14]: C. Anklin, B. Carver, C. Day, J. Dotzel, C. Duell, N. Gonzalez, A. Inayatali, A. Khlyustova, D. Lanes, J. Levin, S. Lopez, A. Presher, C. Steingard, W. Wang
 - d. *Guests/Non-Voting Members* [4]: J. Allen, Dean Boor, P. Hanley, W. Treat
- V. Late Additions to the Agenda
 - a. There were no late additions to the Agenda.
- VI. Approval of the Meeting Minutes
 - a. November 1, 2021
 - i. The meeting minutes were **approved** unanimously.



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

VII. New Business

a. Elections

i. Vacancies – Arts and Humanities Voting Member (2 vacancies); Master of Industrial and Labor Relations Representative (1 vacancy – Appointed Position); Social Sciences Voting Member (1 vacancy); Programming Board (1 vacancy)

ii. Social Sciences Voting Member

1. P. Hanley stated that the position had been vacated and would now be opened to all members of the assembly.
2. D. Sharp nominated N. Perez; the motion was seconded by K. Carter-Cram.
3. N. Perez introduced themselves to the assembly.
4. N. Perez was **elected** to serve as a Voting Member with 22 votes in favor and 2 abstentions.

iii. Chair of the Programming Board

1. K. Karnuta self-nominated themselves for the position and the motion was seconded by G. Li.
2. K. Karnuta introduced themselves to the assembly.
3. K. Karnuta was **elected** to serve as the Chair of the Programming Board with 23 votes in favor and 2 abstentions.

iv. Resolution 10: Resolution Establishing a Vice President of Finance on the Executive Committee & Renaming of Finance Chair Position

1. D. Sharp introduced GPSA R10 noting that it would give the GPSA Executive Committee a financial arm. He stated that currently, the Executive Committee would meet without knowledge of the GPSA finances. The resolution would make the current Appropriations Committee Chair the Vice President of Finance, and would make the current Finance Committee Chair the Chair of Appropriations because the Bylaws already dictate that the Finance Committee appropriates the GPSA funds. The resolution at its core would allow the Executive Committee to have Vice President of Finance to inform the committee of the state of the GPSA and help in day-to-day operations.
2. P. Hanley noted that the topic had also been discussed with the University's peer institutions and stated that the peer institutions had larger Executive Committees.
3. M. Welch asked why it would not be possible to just add to the Executive Committee without switching the name of the Finance Commission Chair.



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

- a. D. Sharp responded that in reading the Bylaws and Charter, it made more sense to change the name because the duties under the current Finance Commission are to appropriate the funds of the GPSA so it would be contrary to call the committee the Finance Committee even though they appropriate the funds of the GPSA. In order to free up the finance name for VP of Finance, the name of the Finance Committee needed to be changed.
4. D. Kent asked for an example of a problem the Executive Committee had encountered that could not be communicated easily with the Appropriations Committee Chair.
 - a. D. Sharp stated that the Executive Committee could not book the current room for the meetings without first emailing B. Carver and having him approve each expenditure of the \$300 paid to use the space. Adding a Vice President of Finance to the Executive Committee would prevent the committee from having to go through that obstacle each time.
 - b. D. Kent asked if a budget could have been requested at the beginning of the term instead of having to email the Appropriations Committee Chair for each use of the room.
 - c. D. Sharp and P. Hanley stated that the Executive Committee did not have the budget to book the room until the budget was passed at the previous meeting. P. Hanley added that each position of the Executive Committee had a specific function, but none had to do with finance.
5. M. Welch expressed concern for possible confusions that might come up in student organizations with the name change since many Byline-funded organizations were familiar with the role and name of the GPSAFC. M. Welch asked if there was a way to rethink the resolution so that the name change would not be part of it while still adding a financial arm to the Executive Committee.
 - a. P. Hanley stated that when he first joined the GPSA, he was confused by the difference in the duties of the Finance Committee and the Appropriations Committee. P. Hanley echoed D. Sharp's statements about the Charter stating that the Finance Commission Chair appropriated Student Activity Fee funds to other peer organization with the



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

Appropriations Committee Chair overseeing the direct finances within the GPSA.

b. D. Sharp added that even the Student Assembly had a Vice President of Finance.

6. P. Hanley stated that since the resolution was amending the GPSA Charter, it would need to be tabled and voted on at the next meeting or a subsequent GPSA meeting.

7. A member of the assembly motioned to Table the resolution. The motion was seconded, and the resolution was **Tabled**.

VIII. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates

a. Executive Committee – D. Sharp

i. No Updates

b. Operations – K. Carter-Cram

i. K. Carter-Cram noted that there were several Field Representative positions that were still open and informed members to tell anyone that they know that may be interested of serving on the GPSA.

c. Appropriations – B. Carver

i. No Updates

d. Communications – G. Li

i. G. Li gave a shoutout to her committee and also informed any Voting Members that had not been highlighted on the GPSA Instagram to reach out to her.

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 the commuting problem for international students travelling between the Ithaca and Geneva Campuses.

h. Programming – K. Karnuta

i. K. Karnuta encouraged members of their committee to reach out to them.

i. Faculty Awards – C. Duell

i. No Updates

j. General Committee & Graduate School – J. Allen/Dean Boor

i. No Updates

IX. Open Forum

a. W. Lee expressed concerns about the University's guidelines regarding food at indoor events. He noted that his group was having a difficult time getting



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

individuals to come to events because of the difficulty to provide food using GPSA funds.

- i. P. Hanley stated that the Student Advocacy team could aid in bringing up the issues regarding food policies to leadership and D. Kent noted that he would reach out to W. Lee to work on the issue.
- ii. Dean Boor stated that she knew there were new guidelines regarding food currently under-development and encouraged W. Lee to raise his concerns.

X. Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Auriole C. R. Fassinou
Clerk of the Assembly