

Dear President Skorton, members of the Cornell University Administration, members of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, and to the Graduate and Professional Student Community,

As president of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GPSA), I have the privilege to address a Cornell University wide audience twice a year to report on the state and actions of the GPSA (Section 3.02 of the GPSA Charter). This report will summarize the work of the GPSA during the Fall 2010 academic term, describe issues that were unable to be resolved, and explore projects, ideas, and opportunities that potentially will be addressed in the future.

The main focus of the GPSA during the Fall 2010 academic term was to better communicate, engage, and socialize with the Graduate and Professional Student Community (GPSC). The launch of the freestanding [www.cornellgpsa.com](http://www.cornellgpsa.com) hosted by the GPSA Communications Committee allows the GPSA to post relevant news, upcoming events, and useful links. Additionally, the site allows for moderated forum discussions on issues and ideas ranging from internal charter revisions to the best places to eat in Ithaca. I encourage all members of the GPSC to actively utilize this webspace. Moving into the future with this project, the GPSA will have to consider how to best incorporate our existing blog framework with the emerging myCornell web portal.

The GPSA also passed Resolution 2 to form and fund an Ad-Hoc Survey Committee. The committee's specifically tasked with designing and implementing a survey for the GPSC in order to determine our community's utilization of byline funded organizations. The findings from this survey will be passed on to the 2011-2012 GPSA as the 2012-2014 GPSA Activity Fee is discussed.

The GPSA Events Committee has continued its excellence in providing numerous Graduate and Professional Student specific social events. These events have included happy hours, inter-college mixers, Science Museum field trips, and spa days. The attention of the Committee shall shift in the Spring Term to hosting the annual Grad Ball.

The GPSA Student Advocacy Committee spearheaded a project increasing the outreach to the Historically Under-represented Cornell University Graduate Student Organizations. From the meetings and forums conducted, a sentiment emerged that a sub-population of Cornell Graduate Students self-identify more closely with a community that is not specific to an area or a field of the Graduate School. These self-identified communities potentially emerge due to ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, parental status, as well as numerous other identifiers. The GPSA is utilizing this discussion as an opportunity to better our engagement of all Graduate and Professional Students on campus and incorporate the vitality and voice of these Graduate School Organizations and Communities into our existing framework.

The framework and charter of the GPSA is being reviewed and revised by the Operations and Staffing Committee. The overall charter review stems off of the initial GPSA Charter Rewrite that was conducted in the 2008-2009 GPSA. Issues that have come up in the past such as proxy voting, absences, the presence of a Sustainability Committee, and the workload of different officers, to name a few, are being considered in the review of the Charter. Additionally, for funding purposes, the GPSA Events Committee may be removed from the GPSA direct budget and spun-off as a byline-funded organization much like the GPSA Finance Commission. Additionally, the Operations and Staffing Committee is

furthering the concept that the GPSA Charter should remain as a consistent and little-changed document while utilizing the flexibility of the GPSA Bylaws to address issues that may change drastically over time.

The GPSA Executive Committee has tackled issues primarily surrounding inter- and intra-campus collaboration and communication. In October of 2010, two delegates from the GPSA attended the annual Ivy Summit at Princeton University. At the Summit, Cornell GPSA was able to share best practices with peer Ivy Universities. Additionally, due to the low cost of attending this year's Ivy Summit, the Executive Committee was able to provide funding for each Graduate School Area (or colloquially "Superfield") to host a small intra-campus summit for the GPSA members to connect with their community. Additionally, the Executive Committee is actively engaging our peer organizations at the Cornell University Weill Medical Campus to establish a lasting collaboration.

The most pressing issues that will be tackled in the coming semester is the revision of the GPSA Charter, the discussion over diversity, the discussion over sustainability, and the continued advocacy for the Graduate Community as a whole. Additionally, we are attempting to promote institutional memory and education through the generation and presentation of a GPSA specific handbook. The push towards institutional memory allows the GPSA to withstand turnovers in its membership and to develop a clear, concise, and consistent voice.

As my tenure with the GPSA is coming to a close in March and my time at Cornell University is becoming limited, I wanted to express my sincere hope that the positive relationship between the Cornell University Administration, the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, and other campus governance organizations may continue well into the future. I hope I have been able to promote the idea that collaboration is much more productive than competition, that listening is a prerequisite to being heard, and that building a strong community begins with the individual. We are all stewards of a robust, transformative, and enriched community and it is my personal aspiration to see Campus Governance and Administration not to be the endpoint of discussion, but the beginning.

Respectfully submitted,

Cresten Mansfeldt

Graduate and Professional Student Assembly President 2010-2011

GPSA Physical Sciences Voting Member 2008-2011

GPSA Civil and Environmental Engineering Field Representative 2007-2011