



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

MINUTES
Graduate & Professional Student Assembly
November 3rd, 2014
Bache Auditorium, Malott Hall
5:30 — 7:00 P.M.

I. Welcome and Introductions

R. Walroth called the meeting to order at 5:33pm

a. Introduction of voting members, 1 min.

Voting Members Present: J. Balaes, C. Best, A. Gardner, J. Goldberg, W. Nicholson, H. Roberts, K. Schlauraff, I. Small, T. Snider, A. Thomson, R. Walroth, K. Weng Wong, L. Xu

Voting Members Absent: J. Bergfalk, C. Yao, A. Jones, A. Bybee-Finley

P. Berry stepped off as voting member.

II. Approval of the Minutes

a. October 20th, 2014, 1 min.

There was a motion to correct the attendance of the voting members.

N. Rogers proposed a grammatical correction on the 3rd page under New Business. There was a motion to add detail to the topic of Civility and Free Speech regarding Skorton's email.

The minutes were approved as corrected.

III. Presentations

a. Kent Hubbell, Dean of Students, 25 min.

K. Hubbell introduced himself as the Dean of Students and a Faculty Member in the Architecture Department. His most important role as Dean is to be an advocate for the students. He oversees several offices and programs, some of which include:

- Religious Offices
- Greek Life
- Student Activities which is responsible for organizing Slope Day and includes committees such as the Programming Board
- Office of Student and Community Support which looks after health and wellness needs of Cornell students
- International Students' Office
- Center for Intercultural Dialog located on Thurston Avenue
- Residential and New Student Program, including Tatkon Center which serves as a gateway for first-years to the larger University

The Office works hard to include students and make them comfortable at Cornell. He has been advising GPSA for a while and is proud of GPSA for authoring GPCI and

GPSI that have been crucial for administrative purposes. He finished by thanking the GPSA for all the positive changes they make on campus.

b. TCAT Update, Teja Pratap Bollu, 10 min.

Teja Pratap Bollu introduced himself as the GPSA UA Elected Representative. He is also on CIC, Campus Infrastructure Committee, where they address issues such as TCAT. He offered a brief background followed by updates. The TCAT operating budget includes Cornell payment, federal grant, a city grant, revenue from fares and other resources. Cornell pays 86c per ride but the break-even point for TCAT is \$1. Even though the population of Cornell freshmen has increased over the years, Cornell has not increased its payment to TCAT. In a letter to TCAT treasurer, President Skorton said the University would increase payment in 2016. The UA passed a resolution last year that required an increase of \$500,000 in payment to TCAT to cut down their deficit that is over \$700,000. That resolution will be met by 2017 but not immediately.

The language of the letter suggests price of fares or price of the annual bus pass will increase to increase the revenue. The President has set up a transportation task force that is responsible for addressing the present TCAT issue as well as come up with a long-term payment method. The kick-off meeting for the task force will be December 1st. He then opened the floor to questions and discussion.

M. Foreman asked if the UA or the CIC has addressed the rumor of TCAT cutting lines as a punitive method to Cornell for not increasing payment was addressed. T. Snider asked how TCAT has been meeting the budget deficit. T. Bollu said he's not sure but he can only imagine it getting worse since worker contracts will be addressed in the near future and their wages have been frozen for several years. N. Rogers inquired about ridership data but T. Bollu said that is not accessible. In his letter, Skorton said TCAT should look elsewhere to fill the budget gap such as federal grants. There has been minimal conversation about how conditions of roads affect maintenance of buses.

IV. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates, 25 min.

a. Executive Committee (R. Walroth)

R. Walroth met with President Skorton to address various topics, one of which was TCAT. President Skorton also expressed interest in the GPSA coordinating with its Weill counterpart. R. Walroth will be attending the Ivy Summit. There's space for one additional person to attend the Summit. If anyone is interested, they can contact him.

b. Operations (A. Gardner)

A. Gardner said GPSA was successful at the last meeting at filling committee positions. If anyone is interested in learning more about the committees and available position, information can be accessed on the GPSA website. Big Red Barn Advisory Committee is looking for 3-4 people. M. Santaso said she would like to help out and she was elected by unanimous consent. The Student Assembly Dining Committee is looking for 1 more person. Transportation Hearing and Appeals Board is looking for 1 position that was filled by A. Loiben. UA Campus Welfare has 1 more open position and M. Foreman was elected to the Committee by unanimous consent. If anyone is interested in joining a GPSA internal committee, they can contact the leader of the committee or A. Gardner.

c. Appropriations (I. Small)

Committee will meet Tuesday, November 4th. Chair will be elected at the end of Fall Semester.

d. Communications (M. Daniels)

John Gonzalez, a new member of the Communications Committee, talked about the GPSA Buzz, a monthly letter distributed to graduate and professional students. He has started a new project called the Graduate Student Spotlight to help foster awareness about GPSA. It will serve as an opportunity to contact students who are not as involved. He asked field representatives to send him contact information of any student who would be willing to be in spotlight and are not involved in GPSA.

e. Finance Commission (C. Wider)

No updates.

f. Student Advocacy (P. Berri)

P. Berry stepped down as chair. A new chair will be elected at the next meeting.

g. Faculty Awards (D. Citron)

No updates.

h. Diversity and International Students (K. Herleman)

The committee is organizing a dinner on December 11th, 6:00-8:00pm in Biotech. Members of the Diversity Committee and Multicultural Clubs will be invited along with Dean Knuth who will give a presentation on diversity at Cornell. A panel will follow the presentation, and one of the panelists will be the recruitment chair who is in charge of recruiting diverse students.

K. Herleman said they need members on the Diversity Committee.

i. Programming Board (L. Munguia)

The Committee has a meeting scheduled for Monday, November 11th. There will be an interschool mixer at the Big Red Barn, 7:00-10:00pm. Schools are to be determined but everyone is welcome to attend.

V. New Business

VI. Open Forum, 3 min.

The Assembly will be elected a New Chair for Student Advocacy at the next GPSA meeting to replace P. Berry. N. Baran talked about the NAGPS congressional candidate project through which one can find out congressional representatives' view on higher and graduate education. T. Bollu said he would like to see better communication between committees and inclusion of assembly members on committees along with decision-making power. He hopes that the GPSA as an Assembly can address lack of communication.

K. Herleman inquired about attendance at the Diversity and International Students Dinner on December 11th. J. Goldberg asked about inclusion of diverse faculty members on the panel at the event and K. Herleman said they would probably not be at the event this semester since they want to keep concentrate on graduate students. The Committee will consider having an event with diverse faculty next semester.

Bollu said he would like more transparency between shared governance and people who would like to be a part of these committees. There should be more overlap between people who make a decision and those who want to make a change.

R. Walroth adjourned the meeting at 6:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Aastha Wadhwa