



MINUTES
Graduate & Professional Student Assembly
December 1st, 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, J. Bergfalk, A. Bybee-Finley, A. Gardner, J. Goldberg, I. Roberts, K. Schlauraff, I. Small, T. Snider, A. Thomson, R. Walroth, K. Weng Wong, L. Xu, C. Yao

Voting Members Absent: C. Best, W. Nicholson

II. Approval of the Minutes

a. November 17th, 2014, 1 min.

There was a correction under Programming Board update. Minutes were approved as corrected.

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

a. Executive Committee (R. Walroth)

K. Weng Wong and the GPSA leadership attended an office hour with President Skorton on the issue of Pakistan and Palestine.

b. Operations (A. Gardner)

A. Gardner announced the General Committee of the Graduate School needs 1 more person. It is a 2-year appointment and a huge responsibility since the student will work closely with the graduate school. Both Big Red Barn Advisory Committee and the University Council on Mental health and Welfare need 1 more person. There's 1 position available for Liaison to the Employee Assembly. Contact A. Gardner if interested.

GPSA Internal Committees are still looking for members.

c. Appropriations (I. Small)

I. Small shared budget and rollover issues. The rollover money can be used for Ad Hoc Committees, purchase of assets for GPSA, or for general reserve.

The Appropriations Committee has scheduled meetings with all by-line funded groups. They're checking in to see if the groups are adhering to recommendations, reminding them about application deadlines, and obtaining an update on use of by-line funding for graduate student services. There hasn't been a discussion about management of funds on Cornell Tech Campus yet.

d. Communications (M. Daniels)

No update

e. Finance Commission (C. Wider)

No update

f. Student Advocacy (P. Berri)

The committee will have a meeting towards the end of next week.

g. Faculty Awards (D. Citron)

No updates

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h. Diversity and International Students (K. Herleman)

Let's Talk Dinner has been scheduled for Thursday, December 11th. All GPSA members will receive a formal invite soon.

i. Programming Board (L. Munguia)

There are no more events for the rest of the semester.

IV. New Business

a. Election of Appropriations Committee Chair, 5 min.

Elections for Appropriations Finance Committee Chairs were scheduled for the end of the semester. The Finance Committee Chair asked to move the election to the first meeting of the spring semester, extending her position by 25 days. The motion was seconded and passed.

I. Small, Appropriations Committee Chair, nominated S. Chandrasekaran who was voted Chair by unanimous consent.

b. Election of Vice President of Operations, 5 min.

A. Gardner will be taking a leave of absence next semester but will help elected person transition to his/her new job. Since there were no nominations, position will be left vacant till the first meeting of the spring semester.

c. Resolution 5 — Creation of an Ad-hoc Sustainability Committee, 10 min.

The date for the carbon neutrality goal has been moved up from 2050 to 2035. Graduate students have a large role to play since lab buildings have a much larger consumption of energy compared to any other building on campus. GPSA can provide leadership in this effort and having an Ad Hoc Committee will help guide efforts.

An amendment was proposed prior to the meeting that removed the clause requiring the Ad Hoc Committee exist till 2017. Existence of the committee will be based on progress and interest after its first year. Motion to approve amendment was passed by unanimous consent.

The original data of carbon neutrality, 2050, was included in the resolution. R. Walroth said D. Roth is interested in the committee and would be the one in charge of the Green Lab Initiative. N. Baran pointed out about 5 years ago a resolution to create a similar committee failed in GPSA. The primary concern with the resolution was if an organization like GPSA should be working on such issues. The goal is to have graduate students participate in all initiatives on campus. As a point of information, she added Ad Hoc committees only exist for a brief period and she finished by expressing her support for the resolution.

K. Herleman brought up inclusion of optimization of fume hoods vs. use of toxic chemicals as a possible amendment in the resolution. R. Walroth said that would be an issue to be discussed at the committee. J. Navarro proposed amendment to change 'goal of carbon neutrality' to 'sustainability goals.' This amendment passed. There was a motion to vote and the resolution passed with a vote of 15-0 with 1 abstention.

V. Open Forum, 3 min.

N. Baran has passed the torch off for the Chair of the Northeast Region; hence, there is no one to keep in touch with the NAGPS anymore. If anyone would like that responsibility, contact N. Baran.

T. Bollu is on the transportation task force. The first meeting was held a few hours ago. He said the meeting and the task force was effective. The task force covers a broad issue it is currently dealing with TCAT funding.

There was a motion to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned at 6:21pm.

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