

1 **Resolution 16 — GPSA Diversity & International Students Committee**

2
3 **WHEREAS**, The GPSA represents all graduate and professional students, regardless of
4 what they study, their race, color, national origin, gender, or sexual orientation; and

5
6 **WHEREAS**, The GPSA has an obligation to represent students on everything non-
7 academic, including issues specific to diversity and international students; and

8
9 **WHEREAS**, Diverse participation within the GPSA has been a long-standing challenge
10 of the Assembly and issues pertinent to a diverse community are not consistently
11 discussed by the GPSA; and

12
13 **WHEREAS**, The Graduate & Professional Community Initiative (GPCI), which was
14 passed with Resolution 14 on March 25th, 2013, addressed the needs of Diversity &
15 International Students; and

16
17 **WHEREAS**, The Diversity & International Students section of the GPCI is intended to
18 serve as a guideline for advocacy efforts to create a more diverse and inclusive graduate
19 and professional student community at Cornell and outlines areas that can be improved
20 upon; and

21
22 **WHEREAS**, The GPCI calls for the creation of a standing committee of the GPSA
23 which focuses on issues affecting Diversity & International Students; and

24
25 **WHEREAS**, The GPSA wishes to work towards a structure that adheres to the four
26 principles of composition, engagement, inclusion and achievement of diverse and
27 international students as outlined in the “Toward New Destinations” framework
28 established by Cornell University within the GPSA membership; therefore be it

29
30 **RESOLVED**, That the GPSA affirms its commitment to promoting diversity and
31 inclusion within its membership and within the broader graduate and professional
32 student community;

33
34 **RESOLVED**, That the Bylaws are amended to insert following language after Section
35 3.10 (and renumbering existing Sections 3.11 through 3.15, as necessary)--

36
37 **Section 3.11 Diversity & International Students Committee**

38 a Purpose

- 39 i The primary purpose of the Diversity & International Students Committee
40 (“Diversity Committee”) is to promote diversity and inclusion in all its
41 forms within the GPSA membership and within the broader graduate and
42 professional student community at Cornell University.

- 43 b Chairperson
- 44 i The Diversity Committee shall have a chairperson, elected by the GPSA, as
- 45 described in Article 6.02 of the GPSA Charter.
- 46 c Membership
- 47 i Any graduate or professional student is eligible to apply to become a
- 48 member of the Committee. Applicants will be reviewed and staffed by the
- 49 Operations and Staffing Committee as specified in Section 3.03(f).
- 50 ii Termination of a committee member is at the discretion of the
- 51 Chairperson when a committee member is absent for more than half of the
- 52 scheduled committee meetings.
- 53 d Duties
- 54 i Communicate with groups engaged with diversity and international
- 55 student issues in order to involve and engage diverse students with the
- 56 work of the GPSA.
- 57 ii Provide a forum to discuss diversity and inclusion within the graduate and
- 58 professional student community.
- 59 iii Host an annual meeting for groups representing diversity and
- 60 international students.
- 61 iv Engage Cornell administration in issues affecting diversity and
- 62 international students.
- 63 v Bring before the GPSA resolutions on issues related to diversity and
- 64 international students.
- 65 vi Present to the GPSA annually during the second to last meeting of the
- 66 GPSA term on its work supporting international students, Students of
- 67 Color, gender equality, LGBTQI students, and related issues.
- 68

69 **RESOLVED**, That the charge of focusing on diversity and inclusion is transferred from

70 the Communications Committee to the Diversity & International Students committee:

71

72 **RESOLVED**, That the Bylaws are amended to remove the following language from the

73 Section 3.06 Communications Committee:

74 a. i. To ensure that the GPSA is representative of the diversity within the Cornell

75 graduate and professional community, the committee is also charged with

76 reaching out to student organizations that promote diversity in the Cornell

77 community and encourage their participation in the GPSA.

78

79 d. 6. To promote diversity within the GPSA, the committee will form a diversity

80 focus group. This focus group will communicate with student organizations that

81 promote diversity on campus to encourage participation of their members in the

82 GPSA as field representatives, Voting members and committee representatives.

83 The focus group will report back to the entire Communications committee.

84
85 **RESOLVED**, That this resolution be sent to *Peggy Beach*, Director of the Office of
86 Assemblies; *David Skorton*, President; *Kent Hubbell*, Dean of Students; *Susan H.*
87 *Murphy*, Vice President for Student and Academic Services; *Barbara Knuth*, Vice
88 Provost and Dean of the Graduate School; *Sheri R. Notaro*, Associate Dean for Inclusion
89 and Professional Development, Graduate School; *Renee T. Alexander*, Associate Dean of
90 Students, Director of Intercultural Programs; *A.T. Miller*, Associate Vice Provost for
91 Academic Diversity Initiatives; *Lynette Chappell-Williams*, Associate Vice President for
92 Workforce Diversity and Inclusion; *Yael Levitte*; Associate Vice Provost for Faculty and
93 Development; *Jan Allen*, Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs, Graduate
94 School; *Janna Lamey*, Assistant Dean for Graduate Student Life; *Brendan O'Brien*,
95 Director of ISSO; and the leadership of the Black Graduate & Professional Student
96 Association (BGPSA), Society for Asian American Graduate Affairs (SAAGA),
97 Latina/Latino Graduate Student Coalition (LGSC), Indigenous Graduate Student
98 Association (IGSA), Haven: the LGBTQ Student Union, and the International Students
99 Board (ISB).

100

101 **Respectfully submitted,**

102

103 Yevgeniy Izrayelit

104 GPSA Student Advocacy Committee Chair

105

106 Maximillian Chen

107 Member, GCI Ad Hoc Committee, President of the Society for Asian American Graduate
108 Affairs (SAAGA)

109

110 Monet Dumas

111 GPSA Johnson School of Graduate Management Voting Member

112

113 Matt Holden

114 GPSA Physical Sciences Voting Member

115

116 Mitch Paine

117 GPSA President

118

119 Nicole M. Baran

120 GPSA Executive Vice President

121

122 Evan Cortens

123 Counsel to the GPSA

124