

Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

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MINUTES

Graduate & Professional Student Assembly

April 20th, 2015

Bache Auditorium, Malott Hall

5:30 – 7:00 P.M.

- **Welcome and Introductions**

C. Wong called the meeting to order at 5:30pm

- Introduction of voting members, 1 min.

Voting Members Present: J. Balaes, C. Best, T. Bollu, J. Goldberg, W. Nicholson, H. Roberts, K. Schlauraff, I. Small, A. Thomson, C. Wong, L. Xu, C. Yao,

Voting Members Absent: J. Bergfalk, T. Snider, R. Walroth, A. Bybee-Finley, C. Rosenbaum, A. Jones

- **Approval of the Minutes**

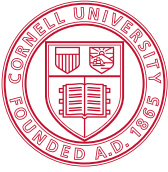
- April 6th, 2015, 1 min. – Attendance for the meeting was corrected. Minutes were approved as amended.

- **Presentations**

- **Provost Search Committee, 20 min.**

A. Mathios introduced himself as Chair of the Search Committee. He was present at the meeting to discuss search for Provost. He was present at the GPSA meeting to hear ore about what the graduate students desire in the next Provost. This search is a first of its kind

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full-blown international search, open to inside as well as outside candidates whereas, in the past, the Provost has always been chosen from inside candidates. C. Wong is on the search committee as well. Since it is a closed search, the members of the committee cannot talk about individual candidates. The search is kept confidential to get a deeper pool of applicants. The committee is in the process of deciding the final list of candidates and developing a list of questions.

A. Mathios was asked what kind of metric would be used to assess if individual will and foster academic excellence. He said they would look at past actions and proven experience of individual. The committee meets with several candidates, asks questions, but ultimately the University President gets to choose Provost. The Committee will support the decision and provide background information.

- **Towards New Destinations (TND), 15 min.**

U. Smith introduced himself as past student and SA president. He shared a lot has been going on regarding shared governance and participation of all assemblies in decision-making policies. He went over University Diversity Officers and Sara Hernandez will be the point person for graduate students.

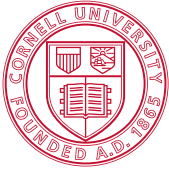
Presented a quick review of the TND. Its core principles will be composition, inclusion, engagement, and achievement. He then went over how to create TND initiatives that include approval by deans/VPs/UDC, utilization of appropriate committee to further develop goals, look for opportunities to collaborate, and finally publicize results. There is an evaluation method for initiatives with several criteria. The Office offers support tools such as refining and training opportunities to ensure initiatives are successful.

He was asked how the assembly could play their part to promote any initiatives? He answered graduate students can be asked sexual orientation questions on admission applications so the university has information on such topics prior to students showing up at school. Submit initiatives for review by July 1st.

- **Reports of Officers and Committee Updates, 5 min.**

- **Executive Committee (K. Wong)**

No updates.



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- **Operations and Staffing (T. Bollu)**

No updates.

- **Appropriations (S. Chandrasekaran)**

Byline funding applications will be sent out last week and all questions can be directed to him. Premier application will be due on Friday, and the rest will be due on September.

- **Communications (M. Daniels)**

Email her if want to include a blurb in the Buzz and the next edition will mainly talk about elected positions.

- **Finance Commission (H. Nguyen)**

Deadline for budget submission is April 24th. The committee is looking for volunteers to review finances applications.

- **Student Advocacy (J. Goldberg, M. Carignano)**

Dine and Discuss will be held next Monday at 6pm. There are a few slots open for the event and students can still RSVP if they would like to attend.

- **Faculty Awards (D. Citron)**

There were 24 nominations and the committee selected the following winners:

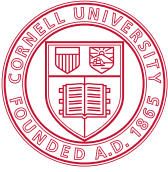
- John Abowd, Professor, Department of Economics
- Durba Ghosh, Associate Professor, Department of History
- Matthias Liepe, Associate Professor, Department of Physics.

- **Diversity and International Students (K. Herleman)**

Some of the students displaced after Chapter House fire were graduate international students. Talk to her if anyone would like to donate relief items. Kent Hubbell's office found housing, clothing for students who were affected by fire.

- **Programming Board (L. Munguia)**

Grad Ball will be held on Saturday, and there are some tickets left.



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- **New Business**

- **Resolution 8: Resolution to Critique the Hiring of Associate Dean of Students for Inclusion, Engagement, and Community Support and Re-Allocate Funding to Advocacy Services, Support Resources, and Inclusion Programming, 15 min.**

Resolution was introduced at the last meeting and was discussed further at this meeting. Amendment 1, approved unanimously, changed the name of the resolution. Amendment 4 states the role has too many responsibilities for one person to manage effectively and resources aren't available to facilities the responsibilities. Amendment was approved unanimously.

A. Thomson says this resolution provides valuable constructive criticism to the administration especially after the amendments today that make provide more specific recommendations. Resolution passed with a vote of 11-0 with 1 abstention.

- **Resolution 9: Resolution in Support of Assistant Dean of Students for Student Activities Joseph Scaffido and in Condemnation of Efforts to Terminate his Employment, 15 min.**

President of political organization called Project Veritas interviewed J. Scaffido with an undercover camera asking him deceitful questions about ISIS that led to state legislature upheaval. This resolution condemns his employment termination. The University has not yet fired him. Members of NY legislature condemned the two legislators who asked for his resignation. Cornell wouldn't have state funding eliminated neither does Cornell have plans of terminating his employment according to Kent Hubbell but this resolution shows support to the administrator.

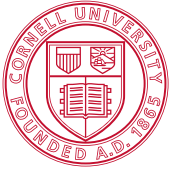
Resolution passed with a vote of 11-0 with 1 abstention.

- **Shared Governance Joint Declaration in Honor and Celebration of President David J. Skorton, 5 min.**

Passed with a vote of 10-1 with 1 abstention.

- **Elections of Officers and Committee Chairs, 10 min.**

- President – N. Rogers nominated **R. Walroth** who won the position unanimously.
- Executive Vice President – A. Rasweiler nominated A. Thomson, **T. Bollu** nominated himself. Both candidates introduced themselves and went over their qualifications.



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- Vice President for Operations – I. Small nominated A. Thomson, **N. Rogers** nominated himself. Introduced themselves and went over qualifications.
- Counsel – Must have served on executive leadership. No nominations.
- Communications – The Chair is responsible for documenting pertinent events and milestones for community, managing listserv and the GPSA website, publishing monthly Buzz and Facebook. No nominations.
- Diversity and International Students – This committee functions to facilitate dialog where people can bring forth and discuss any issues. K. Herleman nominated **Tiffany St. Bernard** who was elected chair unanimously.
- Faculty Awards – Committee chair is in charge of award nominations and choosing a winner of annual faculty awards. No nominations.
- Programming Board – Committee Chair is responsible for fostering a sense of connectedness amongst graduate and professional students. The committee hosts interschool mixers, co-hosts Grad's Night Out, and organize Grad Ball. Time commitment ranges too very little in the fall to more in the spring when Grad's Ball is being planned. **A. Molitoris** nominated herself and won unanimously.
- Student Advocacy – Advocates for student on topics such as worker compensation, dental coverage, etc. **Jason Bartel** won.
- University Assembly Representative (2) – Represent graduate and professional student constituency. Will be asked to have a leadership position on UA or one of the 3 standing sub-committees. Opportunity to get involved and have more influence. It is a very awarding experience to talk and make decisions on university wide issues. C. Yao nominated **K. Herleman** and **A. Thomson** nominated himself.
- Open Forum 3 min.
 - Bear Walk

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.