



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

109 Day Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853-4203
t. 607.255.3715
f. 607.255.2182
Email: gpsa@cornell.edu
<http://assembly.cornell.edu/GPSA>
www.cornellgpsa.com

MINUTES
Graduate & Professional Student Assembly
March 23rd, 2015
Bache Auditorium, Malott Hall
5:30 – 7:00 P.M.

I. Welcome and Introductions

1. Introduction of voting members, 1 min.

R. Walroth called the meeting to order at 5:34pm

Voting Members Present: J. Balaes, T. Bollu, J. Goldberg, W. Nicholson, H. Roberts, C. Rosenbaum, K. Schlauraff, I. Small, A. Thomson, R. Walroth, K. Weng Wong, C. Yao

Voting Members Absent: J. Bergfalk, L. Xu, C. Best, A. Jones, An. Bybee-Finley

II. Approval of the Minutes

1. March 9th, 2015, 1 min.

The VET School Open House is on April 11th. The minutes were approved as corrected.

III. Presentations

1. GPCI Updates, 40 min

a. Anne Poduska – A. Poduska postponed her presentation.

b. Barbara Romano – She introduced herself as well as other members of the GPCI Housing Committee. K. Schlauraff and A. O'Toole represent graduate students on the committee. They continue to offer family-focused and family-friendly housing. She said the Off-Campus Housing Office has done an incredible amount of work this past year. Their initiatives include continued training, hiring Peer Advisors, and generating bi-weekly newsletter. They also posted neighborhood descriptions to the Off-Campus Living graduate and professional students webpage. The Office offers presentations for newly admitted students. She then moved on to Transportation Committee updates. The cost of parking for residents at Hasbrouck and Maplewood has drastically reduced and visitors are provided free parking. Hasbrouck is one of the Ithaca CarShare locations. The committee will continue to maintain and improve Maplewood Park as it nears its end.

IV. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates, 10 min.

1. Executive Committee (R. Walroth)

R. Walroth will be leaving Ithaca in April and K. Weng Wong will serve as chair of the meetings. He proposed a motion to give up his vote at the UA meetings to K. Weng Wong who will be an ex-officio member. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Operations and Staffing (T. Bollu)

No updates.

3. Appropriations (S. Chandrasekaran)

S. Chandrasekaran said byline applications will be reviewed in the fall. The application will be out next week and GPSA committee chairs are required to send budget to Appropriations committee.

4. Communications (M. Daniels)

The committee is looking for news for April Buzz.

5. Finance Commission (H. Nguyen)

H. Nguyen said deadline for the last budget request is April 3rd and the budget workshop will be held on April 11th.

6. Student Advocacy (J. Goldberg, M. Carignano)

Dine and Discuss will be held on April 27th and the theme will be communication. Discussion will be facilitated between students and administrators, students and departments, and amongst students. The committee is looking for volunteers to facilitate discussion as well as take notes.

7. Faculty Awards (D. Citron)

D. Citron said award nomination letters are due in 2 weeks and he will send one final reminder email.

8. Diversity and International Students (K. Herleman)

No updates.

9. Programming Board (L. Munguia)

L. Munguia thanked everyone who attended Meet and Greet. Grad Ball will be on April 25th.

10. Sustainability Committee

The committee is looking for volunteers who will be in Ithaca over the summer to offer training workshops.

V. New Business

1. Resolution 7 – Call for an engaged and transparent conversation with the larger body of graduate and professional students – 20 min.

Since R. Walroth is one of the sponsors of the resolution, he yielded time to I. Small. The resolution proposes a new plan on what could be done better to facilitate conversation between students and administration. The sponsors recapped amendments. The 1st amendment explained what shared governance is and was approved unanimously. The 2nd amendment presented the idea of a memorandum and was approved 10-0. The 3rd amendment specified which administrative officials should receive the resolution. There was a motion to include the name of the Interim Provost, and the amendment was approved 10-0. Other amendments that clearly defined the language of the resolution

were passed unanimously. A motion was called to pass the amendmened resolution and it was passed 10-4-0.

2. Break out session: Advisor-Advisee relations – 15 min.

One of the groups discussed the issue of negligent advisors who might not reply to emails. Advisor-student relationship depends on personal preference. The group also talked about a possible resolution on how to develop interdisciplinary standards on what would suit and benefit all students. Another group talked about rating advisors while maintaining anonymity as well as transition from one advisor to another when the advisor retires or is on leave. L. Smith asked if advisors get a transition report as to how to advise. There was consensus that advisors do not get any such reports and are expected to learn from experience.

VI. Open Forum 3 min.

R. Walroth adjourned the meeting at 7:15pm.

**Respectfully submitted,
Aastha Wadhwa**