

09.22.2016

GPSA Student Advocacy Committee Meeting Agenda

GPSA Student Advocacy Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 8th, 2016

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Weill 121

Agenda

1. Administrative Business (5 minutes)
 - a. Attendance
 - i. Jason Bartell absent
 - b. Approval of Minutes from 09.08.2016
2. New Business (45 minutes)
 - a. Charter and Bylaws Revision (20 minutes)
 - i. Operations and Staffing meets on 09.24.2016 to draft these
 - ii. We need to update our section
 1. Advocacy role in grievance process?
 - b. Tobacco Policy Task Force Update (2 minutes)
 - i. Will be taken up by Campus Welfare Committee (out of our oversight)
 - c. Cornell Plantations Naming Resolution (10 minutes)
 - i. Introduce at 09.26.2016 general meeting
 - ii. Approve this draft of resolution
 - iii. Email it to Nate Stetson (Sven) to send out to voting members
 - d. Maplewood Resolution (10 minutes)
 - i. Status update
 - e. Grad Student Surveys (time permitting)
 - i. Content
 - ii. Implementation
 - f. Dine and Discuss (time permitting)
 - i. Need to pick a date for this year
 - ii. Need to pick a discussion topic
 - g. Future agenda
3. Open Forum (5 minutes)

GPSA Student Advocacy Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 8th, 2016

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Malott Hall, Math Library Conference Room

Agenda

1. Administrative Business (10-15 minutes)
 - a. Introduction of Members
 - i. Jonathan
 - ii. Alex (Undergrad, Tobacco Policy)
 - iii. Jason
 - iv. Anna
 - v. Manisha
 - vi. Iian
 - vii. Richard
 - viii. Alex (Me)
 - ix. Nate (3:40 PM)
 - b. Future Meeting Times
 - i. Doodle Poll will be sent out
 - c. Assign Roles
 - i. Secretary (minutes): Iian
 - ii. Finances Subchair: Jason (pending)?
 - d. Reaffirm Mission
 - i. The GPSA Student Advocacy Committee works to act on issues of finances, stipend levels, mental and physical health, child care and the general well being of all graduate and professional students. The Student Advocacy Committee works in consultation with other relevant student and Cornell assembly committees and interested parties.
 1. Maybe we should have a “public defender” role available for advocating for students in a grievance process
 - a. We could offer advice on how to do it
 - i. Consultation service?
 - b. Analogous procedures for professional schools?
 - i. Johnson, Law, Vet can’t go through normal process
 - e. Make a Google Drive
2. New Business (30-45 minutes)
 - a. Budget Request
 - i. Need to submit estimate to Mariko Alexander by Friday 9/8
 - ii. Last year: \$1500
 - iii. GPSA has some rollover funds available if we need more

1. i.e. for a second Dine/Discuss
 - b. Dine and Discuss
 - i. Need to pick a date for this year
 1. Tabled for now
 - ii. Need to pick a discussion topic
 1. Tabled for now
 - c. Cornell Graduate Students United
 - i. Should we assign a liaison?
 1. Wait for the Union vote
 2. Maybe in the future, but not yet
 - d. Tobacco Policy Task Force Resolution
 - i. SA Health & Wellness Committee proposed creation of task force
 1. Official policy: 25 feet from any building
 - a. Very inconsistent across campus
 2. Ashtrays are located in violation of 25 feet rule
 - a. Some next to air intake
 3. We should explore on a unified front
 4. Lots of considerations
 - a. E-cigs?
 - b. Representative task force composition
 5. Campus welfare committee of UA
 6. We need data about grad student health/wellness/drugs
 - e. Cornell Plantations Naming Resolution
 - i. Plantations wants official support from GPSA
 - ii. Email Madhur about this!
 - iii. Introduce at September 26th meeting
 - iv. Need to vote by October 24th
 1. BoT meets October 28th
 2. The relevant BoT committee met today
 - v. We voted 6-0-1 in approval of moving forward with resolution
 - vi. Anna and I will work on crafting a resolution (copy/paste)
 - vii. Email it to Nate Stetson (Sven) to send out to voting members
 - f. Future agenda
 - i. Possible surveys of graduate population
 1. Health/Wellness
 2. Advisor Relations
3. Open Forum (5 minutes)



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

G.P.S.A. Resolution #X
Advocating an Inclusive Rebranding

Sponsored by: Alexander Loiben, Anna Waymack

Whereas, in 2004 Leaders at Cornell Plantations questioned the appropriateness of the name “Cornell Plantations” and whether a different, more descriptive name was needed; and

Whereas, in 2009 and 2010 Plantations went through a rebranding process in an effort to better define themselves, working with outside firm Lipman Hearne, to develop marketing tag lines that captured the essence of experiences at Plantations and to redesign their logo to try to visually depict what and who they are more clearly; and

Whereas, in 2014, Dr. Christopher Dunn started as the E. N. Wilds Director of Cornell Plantations and was tasked by Dean Kathryn Boor to take an in-depth look at Plantations, their mission and vision, and to see if it should be adapted to inform modern needs. She noted that one possible result of this examination is the Plantations that we know today could end up looking somewhat different in the future. Prospective changes could include rebranding; and

Whereas, from April 2014 through April 2015, Dr. Dunn met with Plantations’ staff, the advisory council, university leadership, CALS leadership, and other community stakeholders to better understand Plantations’ brand within the College and greater University context; and

Whereas, in October of 2015 Cornell Plantations began a strategic planning process and hired Beacon Associates to lead them through the process; and

Whereas, in November of 2015, Black Students United provided the Cornell University administration a list of demands that they felt needed immediate addressing, which included the changing of the name of the Cornell Plantations; and

Whereas, in December of 2015 Beacon held a series of focus groups amongst Plantations brand fans both on the Ithaca campus and in New York City and conducted a follow-up survey to better understand how they related to the mission, the vision and brand, which showed that 70-75% of respondents felt the name Cornell Plantations did not fit with who they are, and what they actually do; and

Whereas, in February of 2016 the Cornell Plantations name attracted distracting and negative press from *Inside Higher Ed*; and

Whereas, Liberty Hyde Bailey’s attempt in the naming of the Cornell Plantations to reinscribe an increasingly archaic, horticultural meaning of “plantations” over the word’s connection to slavery has not succeeded.



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

Be it therefore resolved that the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly encourages the Board of Trustees to include the proposed name change of Cornell Plantations on their October 2016 board meeting agenda.

Be it further resolved that the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly encourages the Board of Trustees to approve the proposed name change to “Cornell Botanic Gardens”, so that Cornell’s botanic gardens, arboretum and natural areas may better represent what they do, and reach broader audiences.

Be it finally resolved that this resolution be sent to the President, the Board of Trustees, the Dean of Students, and the Dean of the Graduate School.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alexander Loiben

GPSA Student Advocacy Committee Chair

GPSA Voting Member, Physical Sciences

Anna Waymack

GPSA Voting Member, Humanities

GPSA Resolution X: In Support of Maplewood Redevelopment Project

Sponsored by: Richard Walroth, Nate Rogers

WHEREAS, Cornell currently has capacity for 727 of its 7,589 Graduate and Professional (GP) students, and currently only houses 4% of GP students on campus with the remaining capacity occupied by family members of students;^{1,4}

WHEREAS, 40% of GP students live farther than a 30 minute walk from campus while simultaneously, proximity to campus is viewed by GP students to be critical to academic success;

WHEREAS, current off-campus housing options at Cornell are not well tailored to the needs of GP students, and the median apartment cost of \$1,165 represents 46% of the income of GP students receiving “typical” stipend support at \$2,547 per month;^{2,3}

WHEREAS, international students make up 48% of the GP student community, and these students often face difficulty in securing housing from overseas;⁴

WHEREAS, the new Maplewood development is positioned to address these needs of the GP student community by providing affordable housing close to campus, with amenities based around fostering a strong GP student community and tailored to the needs of GP students more broadly;

WHEREAS, Cornell’s Real Estate Office has maintained a high level of student involvement in all phases of the proposed redevelopment, beginning before the call for a developer was put out, continuing through the process of selecting the developer, and finally multiple meetings with EdR once they were selected as the developer;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the GPSA is in favor of the proposed redevelopment, and urges the University and its representatives, the Town of Ithaca, and the City of Ithaca to do all that is necessary to see it is completed as soon as possible;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in addition to maintaining rent levels commensurate with previous levels at Maplewood, the GPSA calls for EdR to strive to keep rents at affordable levels based on the minimum stipend level set by the Graduate School;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the GPSA recognizes the hard work of Jeremy Thomas, Senior Director of the Cornell University Real Estate Department, to conduct the Maplewood redevelopment project in close consultation with GP students, that this process has exemplified the principles of shared governance espoused by the university, and that the GPSA urges Cornell

to maintain this level of transparency and community feedback in all areas of policy development where feasible.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Richard Walroth

Counsel to the GPSA

Nate Rogers

President, GPSA

- 1) Guide to Graduate and Professional Student Living,
<https://living.sas.cornell.edu/live/wheretolive/gradhousing/upload/Graduate-and-Professional-Housing-Guide-2016-17-web-version.pdf>, accessed 9/20/2016
- 2) http://www.ithaca.com/news/why-is-ithaca-one-of-the-least-affordable-us-cities/article_e67f68f4-cb0e-11e3-9571-001a4bcf887a.html
- 3) <http://gradschool.cornell.edu/costs-funding/stipend-rates>
- 4) <https://www.cornell.edu/about/facts.cfm>