

Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

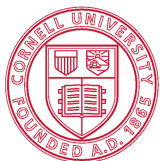
Cornell University Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Minutes of the September 25th, 2017 Meeting

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Bache Auditorium, Malott Hall

- I. Call to Order
 - a. E. Winarto called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.
 - b. *Members Present:* R. Adityavarman, K. Angierski, R. Boylan, C. Cannarozzo, A. Gagnon, J. Goldberg, R. Harrison, J. Hernandez, S. Hesse, M. Jodlowski, C. Little, A. Loiben, T. McCann, E. Michel, D. Moon, A. Schofield, C. Stambuk, W. Zhang.
 - c. *Members Absent:* None.
- II. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. A motion was made and passed to add approval of the August 28th, 2017 Minutes to the Agenda.
 - i. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.
 - b. Minutes from the September 11th, 2017 Meeting.
 - i. A. Schofield motioned to amend by striking her name and C. Stambuk's name under Members Present and add them under Members Absent, there was no dissent.
 - ii. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.
- III. Presentations
 - a. Black Graduate and Professional Student Association
 - i. T. Wheeler and M. Roberts, President and former President of the BGPSA respectively, read a statement on recent campus events. It is attached at the end of these minutes.
 - ii. Their net IDs are taw83 and lmr254.
 - b. Black Graduate Business Association
 - i. E. Etheridge, the President of the BGBA also read a statement on recent campus events, and stated support for Resolutions 4 & 5 and recent BSU demands. She called for bias training for the Cornell Community. The bias training needs to be as robust as possible; it can't be one event during orientation.



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- ii. Speaking on behalf of herself, she stated that she appreciates the effort to call certain things out and the creation of the task force, but it's not enough. Nothing changes, and she's sick of it.
- iii. E. Etheridge's netID is ele48

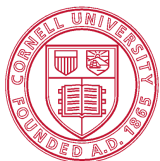
IV. Open Forum

- a. A. Gagnon read a statement on behalf of A. Natarajan about a hurricane Maria relief effort for Puerto Rico. There are drop off locations across campus for many items to help people in Puerto Rico. If you need more information contact mc2423 or A. Gagnon (amg458).

V. New Business

a. Resolution 4

- i. J. Goldberg introduced the resolution.
- ii. M Battaglia asked if Psi Upsilon has been found to be involved for sure.
- iii. J. Goldberg: Psi Upsilon denied that these students were involved in their fraternity, but then shut down their Cornell chapter and decided to offer the space for social justice groups to use. So read that as you will.
- iv. A motion was made to discuss and vote on Resolution 4 at today's meeting. The motion passed 14-0-4.
- v. T. McCann **motioned to amend** the final resolved clause by adding "subsection E" after Section A.
 - 1. A motion was made to call the question, there was no dissent. The amendment **passed** 16-0-2.
- vi. M. Battaglia was uncomfortable with punishing Psi Upsilon until the full facts were known. He **motioned to amend** line 72 by adding "should they be found to be involved in the incident on September 15, 2017"
 - 1. R. Boylan asked if by adding this clause this might be a loophole because Psi Upsilon wasn't a fraternity at the accused's pledging time.
 - 2. J. Goldberg was also worried about. The unofficial internet archives show that he was part of the fraternity.
 - 3. N. Rogers: this isn't a law, it's a recommendation. So it isn't unreasonable to have the original clause about Psi Upsilon.

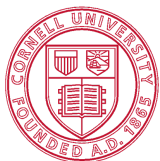


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4. A. Schofield: there need to be consequences when organizations fail to manage their members. We shouldn't give Psi Upsilon an easy out.
 5. E. Law stated that Psi Upsilon has a history of abuse. He would ask that they never be reinstated even without the September 15th incident.
 6. D. Brown: agrees Psi Upsilon should never return to this campus. The Greek Tri-Council statement agreed.
 7. M. Battaglia clarified that he doesn't want to act hastily. The wording of this is if they are involved, no matter unofficially or officially.
 8. J. Goldberg: activists are always told to wait. We shouldn't fall into this rhetoric of haste. We need to respond hastily to the mountain of events that preceded this moment.
 9. E. Law seconded J. Goldberg's statement.
 10. A motion was made to call the question on the amendment, there was no dissent. The amendment **failed** 0-14-4.
- vii. A motion was made to **call the question** on the resolution, there was no dissent. The Resolution **passed** 17-0-1.

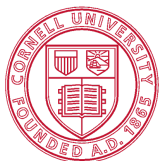
b. **Resolution 5**

- i. J. Goldberg introduced Resolution 5. It's a list of asks for President Pollack to implement in the formation of the task force.
- ii. E. Law: this issue can't be addressed with a task force. Issues of structural racism need to be consciously rejected everyday and in a continuous way.
- iii. D. Brown: the administration is struggling with how to constitute the task force (whether to have an electoral process or by appointments).
- iv. A. Waymack asked if it would make more sense for one of the GPSA's representatives to the UA to be an under represented seat instead of making a new seat on the UA.
- v. M. Munasinghe stated that later she will amend the bylaws to reflect that (once they are recommitted).
- vi. A motion was made to move into discussion and vote on Resolution 5 at today's meeting. The motion passed 16-0-2.



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- vii. E. Law **motioned to amend** the third to last be it resolved clause to add in line 73 “, including at least one Black graduate student representative and one Black professional student”
 - 1. M. Munasinghe **motioned to amend the amendment** “at the recommendation of Black Graduate and Professional Student Association, Black Law Student Association, Black Graduate Business Association, and Cornell Veterinary Students as One in Culture and Ethnicity”.
 - a. A motion was made to **pass** M. Munasinghe’s amendment to to the amendment with unanimous consent, there was no dissent.
 - 2. Point of information: how many graduate students are on this task force?
 - a. Answer: original intent was 10-12 members. Most students in the meeting with administrators thought this was inadequate.
 - b. D. Brown: President Pollack wants to limit it at 20.
 - 3. A motion was made to call the question on E. Law’s amendment, there was no dissent. The amendment **passed** 16-0-2.
- viii. J. Goldberg **motion to amend** line 20 to delete the brackets and “introduction”.
 - 1. The amendment **passed** by unanimous consent.
- ix. A. Loiben: we could add in a clause asking for at least X number of graduate/professional students on the task force if we want.
- x. D. Geisler wondered if we should add a Latino seat to the task force too, as the Latino community was also affected.
- xi. E. Law: we thought about including all the communities that need to be represented here, but we wanted to make it flexible for the limited number of seats, so we just stated that we want them to be diverse.
- xii. A. Schofield: we haven’t heard from these communities. We should give them a chance to respond.
- xiii. A. Waymack: if we make an amendment we should specify Black and Latinx.



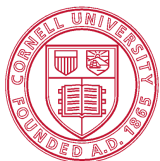
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- xiv. J. Goldberg: this resolution is saying this task force must not be majority white and male, and that it must include historically underrepresented minorities.
- xv. D. Geisler: this task force is about race, not underrepresented issues as a whole.
- xvi. E. Law: this was brought about by racism, but this has been extended to structural inequalities in many different areas. We should raise our voice for all of these groups.
- xvii. J. Goldberg **motioned to amend** line 51 “each of the constituent assemblies of the University Assembly to commit to including at least one Marginalized Community Representative amongst their four representatives” and to strike everything else in that section after that.
 - 1. A motion was made to call the question on the amendment, there was no dissent. The amendment **passed** 16-02.
- xviii. D. Brown: if we specify Black, Latinx, and underrepresented minorities that would impact the people making this Task Force.
- xix. E. law **motioned to amend** lines 73-78 “one Black student representative, one Latinx representative, and one additional representative from another marginalized community” and to strike what comes after.
 - 1. A. Waymack the groups that we just heard from requested a black graduate student AND a Black professional student.
 - 2. M. Munasinghe: we shouldn’t be beholden to what the administration will give us, we should say what we want. We could separate amendments to retain the request from the Black Graduate and Professional organizations we just heard from.
 - 3. A. Loiben motioned to have division breakouts to take attendance and to add five minutes to the meeting. The motion passed 13-0-5.

VI. Division Breakouts

VII. New Business Continued

- 1. E. Law withdrew his original amendment and proposed a new amendment which was written in blue on the resolution roughly lines 75-84. (see Resolution/Resolution History on website).



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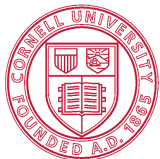
2. A motion was made to extend the meeting by five minutes, there was no dissent.
3. A. Waymack motioned to call the question, there was no dissent. E Law's new amendment passed 13-0-5.
- ii. A. Loiben motioned to call the question on the resolution, there was no dissent. Resolution 5 passed 13-0-5.

VIII. Old Business

- a. A motion was made to move Old Business ahead of Committee Updates, and to move section iii above sections i and ii, there was no dissent.
- b. **Resolution 3**
 - i. A motion was made to recommit Resolution 3 to the appropriations committee. The motion passed 13-0-5.
- c. **Resolution 1**
 - i. A motion was made to recommit Resolution 1 to committee. The motion passed 13-0-5.
- d. **Resolution 2**
 - i. A motion was made to recommit Resolution 2 to the operations and staffing committee. The motion passed 13-0-5.

IX. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates

- a. Executive: two seats are not filled for the Ivy+ Summit. The form to apply will open soon.
- b. Operations: there are many different opportunities to get involved. The committee will be discussing possible voting members for tier organizations.
- c. Communications: showcasing funded organizations on facebook.
- d. A motion was made to extend the meeting by ten minutes, there was no dissent.
- e. Appropriations: the Student Activity Fee process is going on. The committee is having public hearings this week. T. McCann encouraged all of the voting members to come to those. The October 16th GPSA meeting will be when they AC introduces their recommendations.
- f. Student Advocacy: still looking for members. Email dm793
- g. Diversity and International Students: get into contact with E. Law (epl49) if you want to get involved with the committee or other organizations/resources.



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- h. Programming: nothing to report.
- i. Faculty awards: nothing to report.
- j. General Committee: nothing to report.
- k. Graduate School: look in tonight's email for a list of resources on addressing racism and bias.
- l. A motion was made to adjourn, there was no dissent.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matthew Ferraro
Clerk of the Assembly