

Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Resolution 4: On Graduate and Professional Student Representation on the Student Code of Conduct Review Board

Abstract: This resolution calls for the formal inclusion of elected graduate and professional student representatives on the Student Code of Conduct Review Board and all related committees that interpret, revise, or enforce the Student Code. It affirms that graduate and professional students are uniquely impacted by disciplinary decisions and must have a direct role in shaping policies that govern them.

Sponsored by: Michelle Heeney, Irene Gatimi

Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 17/11/2025

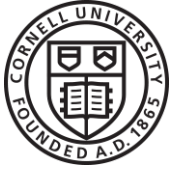
Whereas, the [Student Code of Conduct and Procedures](#) governs the rights, responsibilities, and disciplinary processes applicable to all Cornell students, including graduate and professional students;

Whereas, graduate and professional students face distinct consequences under disciplinary proceedings—including loss of funding, stipends, research or teaching appointments, housing, and visa status—that warrant specific consideration and representation in decision-making bodies;

Whereas, the [Student Code of Conduct Review Board](#) and related committees currently lack explicit provisions ensuring proportionate graduate and professional student representation;

Whereas, shared governance at Cornell University is founded on democratic participation and representation of all university constituencies, including faculty, staff, undergraduate, and graduate students;

Whereas, recent disciplinary cases have demonstrated the importance of transparency, fairness, and due process in the administration of the Code of Conduct, and underscored the need for oversight mechanisms that reflect the diversity of the student body;



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26 **Whereas**, the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GPSA) serves as the recognized
27 representative body for all graduate and professional students and has both the mandate and
28 responsibility to advocate for equitable inclusion in University governance;

29 **Whereas**, meaningful representation on the Review Board will strengthen confidence in
30 equitable administration of the disciplinary process, improve the fairness of outcomes, and
31 ensure that policies reflect the lived experiences of those most affected by them;

32 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GPSA) calls for
33 the formal inclusion of at least four (4) graduate and/or professional student members, elected by
34 the GPSA, as members of the Student Code of Conduct Review Board;

35 **Be it further resolved**, that graduate and professional student members shall receive the same
36 rights, responsibilities, and access to information as other members of the Board;

37 **Be it further resolved**, that the GPSA shall hold open elections or nominations each fall to fill
38 graduate and professional student positions on the Review Board, ensuring broad representation
39 across disciplines and programs;

40 **Be it further resolved**, that the nomination and selection process for all members of the Student
41 Code of Conduct Review Board be made transparent;

42 **Be it further resolved**, that the GPSA calls for similar graduate and professional representation
43 on all committees responsible for reviewing, interpreting, or revising the Student Code of
44 Conduct and Procedures, including the Code and Procedures Review Committee;

45 **Be it further resolved**, that the GPSA requests an annual public report from the Code and
46 Procedures Review Committee on its deliberations and proposed revisions to ensure transparency
47 and community input.
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49 **Be it finally resolved**, that the GPSA shall transmit this resolution to the President of Cornell
50 University, urging prompt adoption and implementation of these measures in the interest of
51 fairness, shared governance, and equity.

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53 Respectfully Submitted,



Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

- 54 Michelle Heeney
- 55 *Counsel to the Assembly*
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- 57 Irene Gatimi
- 58 *Student Advocacy Committee Chair*
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