

Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

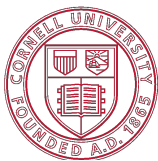
Cornell Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Minutes of the February 24th, 2025 Meeting

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Room 401, Physical Sciences Building | Zoom

- I. Call to Order
 - a. O. Karim called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.
 - i. *Members Present:* A. Basquiat, N. Brennan, D. Browne, J. Chobirko, C. Douglas, A. Garcia-Ortiz, I. Gatimi, A. George, D. Ghimire, M. James, S. Karaikal, O. Karim, A. Koyyada, A. LaGressa, A. Lando, Z. Liu, Z. Lynch, S. Matan, C. Meffert, T. Nguyen, K. Patel, A. Puder, S. Raimondi, S. Sepp, Y. Wu, J. Xiao I. Yaya
 - ii. *Members Absent:* C. Chappel, S. Hampi, C. Wang
 - iii. *Also Present:* K. Boor, J. Withers
- II. Approval of the January 27th Meeting Minutes
 - a. A. Puder moved to approve the minutes. The motion passed by unanimous consent.
- III. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates
 - a. Executive Committee
 - i. N. Brennan announced that the GPSA plans to allocate grant money to improve the graduate and professional student experience and asked for feedback on criteria for grant approval and kinds of projects the GPSA could fund.
 - ii. N. Brennan stated that a new ballot memo on divestment would be discussed during the meeting.
 - b. Operations and Staffing
 - i. Z. Lynch stated that there would be a review and potential vote on Resolution 7 on the GPSA's bylaws and encouraged members to read through the resolution and offer feedback.
 - c. Appropriations
 - i. None.
 - d. Communications
 - i. None.
 - e. Finance
 - i. A. Koyyada reiterated N. Brennan's call for suggestions on GPSA grant allocations and asked members to reach out.
 - f. Student Advocacy



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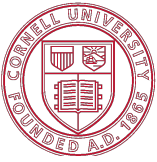
- i. None.
- g. Diversity and International Students
 - i. A. George announced that DISC is planning focus groups for graduate and professional students to share feedback on their well-being and experiences.
 - ii. DISC and the Office of Global Learning are collaborating on creating more resources for international students' tax filings. There will also be a webinar in March on visa statuses, changes to federal law, and advice for post-graduation.
 - iii. A. George announced an upcoming diversity and cultural festival and requested support for organizing the event.
- h. Programming
 - i. None.
- i. Faculty Teaching, Advising, and Mentorship Award
 - i. J. Chobirko stated that nominations are open both for faculty awards and for a faculty speaker at the graduate recognition ceremony.
- j. Graduate School
 - i. None.

IV. Presentation

- a. Prof. Bruce Lewenstein, Cornell University Ombuds Office
 - i. Prof. Lewenstein gave an overview of the Ombuds Office, its staff, and its services (informal conflict resolution, counseling, and mediation for a broad range of situations), and tenets, most importantly confidentiality. Prof. Lewenstein provided data on the office, noting increases to services provided due to tensions on campus.
 - ii. Prof. Lewenstein fielded questions from members.

V. Legislation

- a. Resolution 7: Revision of Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Bylaws (Sponsor: Z. Lynch)
 - i. Z. Lynch reintroduced the key bylaw revisions contained in Resolution 7, including an expansion of the Executive Committee to include other committee chairs, an overall simplification of the bylaws, language changes to avoid overlap with Graduate Students United, and election procedure changes to avoid potential conflicts of interest.
 - ii. O. Karim moved on to question and discussion periods.
 - iii. Z. Lynch moved to the previous question. The motion to pass Resolution 7 **passed** by a vote of 22-0-4. (*Yeas*: A. Basquiat, N. Brennan, J. Chobirko, C.



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Douglas, A. Garcia-Ortiz, I. Gatimi, A. George, D. Ghimire, M. James, A. Koyyada, A. LaGressa, A. Lando, Z. Liu, C. Meffert, T. Nguyen, K. Patel, A. Puder, S. Raimondi, S. Sepp, Y. Wu, J. Xiao I. Yaya) (*Abstentions*: S. Karaikal, O. Karim, Z. Lynch, S. Matan)

VI. New Business

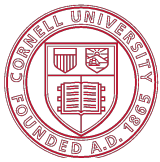
a. Ballot Memo

- i. Sponsor O. Karim introduced the proposed ballot memo, a referendum for graduate and professional students on Cornell University divestment.
- ii. O. Karim moved on to a question period, answering questions from members on the language and procedure of the referendum.
- iii. O. Karim moved on to a discussion period.
- iv. N. Brennan moved to put the language of the referendum on the table. The motion passed by unanimous consent.
- v. Z. Lynch moved to extend the meeting by ten minutes for a new end time of 6:40pm. The motion passed by unanimous consent.
- vi. N. Brennan moved to sponsor an amendment to the language of the referendum to include “and the West Bank” to Gaza.
- vii. M. James moved to move language edits to the Student Advocacy Committee, to be presented during the next meeting. The motion passed by unanimous consent.
- viii. N. Brennan moved to close the floor on discussion of the ballot question, leaving a vote on including the ballot question itself for next meeting.

- b. O. Karim called for nominations for a GPSA representative to the Cornell Dining Committee.
 - i. A. Puder nominated herself and was confirmed as GPSA Representative to the Cornell Dining Committee.

VII. Open Forum

- a. M. James announced the upcoming Melanin Mixer at the Big Red Barn.
- b. Z. Lynch invited members to come to GPSA socials on Wednesdays at the Big Red Barn.
- c. M. James announced an upcoming Cornell Cinema Oscars trivia night, also at the Big Red Barn.
- d. There will be an upcoming “Stand up for Science” rally in front of Mann Library to protest the defunding of science research.
- e. There will be a mutual aid meeting in the Thompsons County public library.



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The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anthony Wang
Clerk of the Assembly