

GENERAL STUDIES STUDENT COUNCIL

Town Hall Forum

I. INTRODUCTIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

- A. Josh Joseph, Vice President of External Affairs, opens up the meeting. Council members introduce themselves and explain the responsibilities of their positions.

- B. Claudia Barrera, Alumni Affairs Representative, explains the procedures for contacting alumni.

II. OPEN FORUM

- A. Dorien asks if the lounge can be made more accommodating for commuter students by adding more comfortable chairs, hole punchers, staplers and other items that would make it a more efficient office environment and minimize the amount of supplies commuters would have to bring back and forth to school daily.

- B. A student asks if more can be done to minimize the amount of paper waste on campus, as there seems to be an excess of magazines and newspapers such as the Spectator and Columbia's magazine.
 - I. A response is give by Ariel Beery, Committee of Instruction Representative, and Scott Olster, Student Services Representative, that detail certain aspects that the administration is working on and the fact that paper waste has been reduced drastically on campus in the past few years through use of the Ninja system. Scott Olster further discusses the double printing options as well as the fact that students can buy more paper if needed.

- C. A student asks about lockers for commuter students and further states "Some students on campus have lockers and live on campus".
 - I. Pavan Surapaneni (Treasurer) responds that "We have been promised GS specific lockers and we are working with the administration currently to expedite this process. When are we going to see the fruits? Not sure.

 - II. Matan Ariel (Senator) responds to the second statement that through the lottery, the system has gotten better, however it still needs some work.

- D. Melissa - This is my 1st semester, on the day of orientation, I signed up on a list, for Alumni to help me settle in and I have still not contacted. Additionally I was given a quantitative exam that my dean knows nothing about?

- I. Ariel Beery responds: A new course called *Frontiers of Science* that offers a holistic framework of what quantitative reasoning is which will satisfy the requirement. Until then they changed the wording for the science req. Math used to fulfill it, now nothing does. Quantitative Exam is refined if passes. Nobody passes exam, because GS students come to GS with math backgrounds farther in history.

Melissa responds: my question is the passing mark is 18, I received 17 which is high, is there any way to waive the requirement and what courses do I need to take if I cannot? My dean does not seem to be very informed about the Quantitative Reasoning exam or course quantitative course requirements.

- II. Matan: Issue that you are not getting the right information from your dean? We will try to forward that issue to the appropriate party.

Melissa asks: I pay student fees and could not get information about yoga some people emailed me back, however when I replied I never heard back from them again. Who is the person I should get in touch with for Yoga? Mmw2113@columbia.edu

- E. A student asks a question about tennis and whether or not it is possible to join a club.

- III. Jimmy Chiu (SGB Liaison) responds that he is part of an intramural Columbia Tennis Team and that a good deal is offered if a student joins the program. Aty2101@columbia.edu for tennis.

- F. A student asks about how to raise a printing quota.

- I. Scott Olster responds that it is possible to do it at an ACIS office, or online.

- G. Josh Joseph queries students about email system. Receives several replies that Cubmail is not very fast.

- I. Justin White (SGA Liaison) gives a demonstration of the Pine system as a faster alternative to the Cubmail system.

- H. A student asks about why the wireless is slow at times.

- I. Chris Danzig (Senior Class President) replies that the system is not as fast as cable modems. Additionally, there is a constant expansion with regards to wireless on campus.

- I. A student asks a question regarding email addresses post graduation.

Scott Olster replies that it is currently being worked on. Currently students keep their UNI's for life. The debate now lies with what benefits does that entail in regards to email accounts and space usage for that account. Details will be disseminated as they become available.

II. With regards to the UNI a database is being planned where students can store letters of recommendations to be used at a later time. Other services, non-email related are also being discussed.

J. A student asks a question about credits for internships.

I. Ariel Beery replies that currently no academic credit for internships is granted, however a student can receive credit that would be listed on their transcript. This credit however would not count as an academic credit i.e. a credit that would count towards a major requirement.

K. A student states that when they reviewed various websites it did not indicate what courses should satisfy the requirements.

I. Matan Ariel replies that by researching the GS Bulletin in conjunction with meeting with the advisor, a student should be able to discern what courses would be needed towards the requirements.

L. Josh Joseph queries the forum as to how to make emails more appealing.

I. General reply is free food, more information, and an email at the beginning of the week. With more information placed on the website.

II. The website for CULPA is provided www.culpa.info

III. CLOSING REMARKS

A. Josh Joseph requests that if any student has any question please feel free to contact the council at gssc@columbia.edu. Josh Joseph then adjourns the meeting.