

# COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

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## SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIES GENERAL STUDIES STUDENT COUNCIL

### GSSC Minutes January 27, 2004

Members Present: Arash, Josh, Richie, Pavan, Matan, Marguerite, Abigail, Claudia, Chris, Rob, Abbey, Won, Justin, Tinishia, Ariel, Scott, and newly elected SGB Liaison Jimmy.

Stephen is absent.

A quorum is established.

**Opening remarks by GSSC President** – I would like to welcome everybody back. I hope you all had a good break. There was some contention at the end of last semesters meeting. To avoid conflict within the council I am placing the contested item of food at meetings on the table.

Richie (VP Internal): Have we fully explored the vendor option.

Arash (President): No.

Richie: Motions to table the issue until we can fully explore what the vendors could provide.

Justin (SGA Liaison): Seconds the motion and all are in favor.

#### **Updates:**

Rob (Junior Class President): I have a Sunday Brunch planned for February 1 that I anticipate being even more successful than the first.

Scott (Student Services Rep.): Glad that the Media Center has created a uni-password system for sonic glossary, however there is still work to be done regarding updates of other systems at Columbia. Last Friday I attended a meeting of the Dining Advisory Council, the issue of kosher food is still being worked out with Barnard as they are revamping Hewitt. Hartley Deli will be relocating with new hours in the near future. An option that is being explored is a fresh produce stand where at JJ's place is now. A lot of options are being explored please forward any ideas. Other options are a bulk sales seller i.e. where one could buy a bulk package of water. I inquired as to if it would be possible to sell GS apparel at the Bookstore and I will be meeting with the representative to go over options shortly. West Side Market closure is being treated as a community issue.

Claudia (Alumni Affairs/Career Center Rep.): I met with the liaison in the Career Center regarding workshops for GS students. Last semester proposed 6 different workshops that

are organized and on websites. I proposed three more for the upcoming semester. There will be a Resumania on the same day as Abby's Social Science Fair.

Abby (Academic Affairs Rep.): A few events are in the works, a Social Science major night where there will be free food as well as other events in the future.

Matan (Senator): Meeting about housing issues was postponed until next week. Friday is the senate open house about Manhattanville most should have received three emails. On Friday the diploma vendors will arrive to discuss possible changes. With regard to the diploma issue we are forecasting an online vote for a standard diploma sometime after spring break.

Chris (Senior Class president): Spring Semester 95% of my work. I met with Dean McGee and roughed out what semester will look like. Precarious issue because I need to plan commencement however no list of people who will be graduating. Then form committee to plan out a lot of events. Senior 100's in two weeks, class day, dinner etc. I am gathering a preliminary budget a week from next Friday. The end of semester party was great and 120 people showed up.

Tinishia (CCSC Liaison): A room in the chapel being developed for use has its own kitchen, and students can request space. The Bat Mitzvah being held during study break caused a commotion and the issue for holding events during study periods is being worked out. Lerner is now controlling the Faculty House. Rooms are open until building closes. Two rooms are being reserved for use by students as practice space etc. There are also giving away furniture.

Abbey (Freshman Class president): Has a problem, found out that she has to go for the weekend and cannot be present for the dance-a-thon. A replacement can be found.

Justin: We can sponsor Barnard Dancers. Has anyone approached us for sponsoring the Intrepid event? Waiting to find out what happened with other councils. The event is no longer profitable as no alcohol can be served. Arash and others advise that the situation is still in flux and being worked out.

Richie: A request has been made to disclose minutes from the E-Board meetings. As these minutes are informal in nature it would be hard to provide minutes, however a nuanced summary can be provided. The last meeting we discussed what items should be on the Agenda and implications of those items being placed on the Agenda i.e. legality and how they would be construed by the administration.

Won (SEAS Liaison): Important visit from Mr. Robert Kasdin to the SEAS meeting.

SEAS: Mr. Kasdin made himself available. We asked about Student Life and very technical questions about expansion. New Flex-life working with BB1 to draft proposal to see what works what doesn't.

Matan: What is flex-life?

SEAS: Trying to modify agreement to use flex at outside vendors.

**Presentation- American Cancer Societies Relay for Life – Serby and Zack**

Serby and Zack: Relay for Life April 15/16 working with American Cancer Society (AMS) as a fundraising event. Columbia forming teams where each team raises funds and the money goes to AMS; a lot of money comes back to Columbia. We are looking for group recognition to get an account number as soon as possible, as well as co-sponsorship. We would also like to see GSSC out as a team.

Chris: About how many people, do you anticipate?

A: 400-500 participants, 12000 spectators.

Josh (VP External): What is the min estimate of what your group thinks it can raise?

A. 8-15 people teams, each person has to raise 1000 per team. We are hoping to raise 50-60 thousand dollars. Last year we raised 90 thousand.

Serby and Zack: We are having a kickoff event on February 10, and hope to see you all out there.

**Agenda Item - Formal Committee – Presented by Marguerite and Eric.**

Want to donate 50% of revenues to one of two charities, The School at Columbia or Community Impact. 50% number due to budget.

Ariel: Could money go to books? Do we need to advertise percentage?

Marguerite: we are not going to make known what % we are giving.

Pavan (Treasurer): The School at Columbia is not necessarily disadvantaged as the Upper West Side area is pretty affluent.

Marguerite (Social Chair): Another option is auctioning off students.

Matan: 1st I would like to remind that we don't need to have the formal as a fundraiser in order to attract people. Last year we over-sold. We would be doing it as a fundraiser because it is a good thing to do. About the School, I feel we should not give them money because it is a highly politicized issue and we should stay out of it.

Abby: Are we pen to donating to other organizations.

Marguerite: Absolutely.

Chris: If give to organization could we kill two with one stone and make donation that money.

Josh: CI -- I met with Inter-group Caucus and heard from CI that they really lack funding. They need new funding, for any new volunteer groups.

Pavan: I agree, as a member for CI would love to see money come to us, more immediate things to do. \$2500.00 a drop in the bucket for what CI needs.

Justin: Motion that we are going to give 50% of revenue minus shortfalls for profit to ACS Relay for Live as well as co-sponsorship.

Chris Seconds:

10 in favor 2 opposed 3 abstentions. Motion passes.

Josh: Motion to vote to submit to the Deans Office that Relay for Life be recognized as a group.

Justin: Seconds

0 opposed 0 abstentions.

**Agenda Item - Standardized Forms- presented by Ariel:**

Ariel: For groups that come for money to realize that money has value. We are seeking to build relationships as well as set up a time frame for funding requests.

Justin: Overall good, ESC and SGA have request forms online. The comments I have regard the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> clauses. Item 1, advanced notice should be recommendation not a demand as we hamstring ourselves as well as groups seeking emergency funding. With regards to the 2<sup>nd</sup> part, I like everything but demand for a brief description of student's previous events. I am more interested in function now not past.

Rob: I think we should change "must" to "should".

Matan: I would change the 1<sup>st</sup> sentence "more willing" to give money if submit in two weeks, to "more happy" in giving money. .

Ariel: The purpose of number 4 is to build ongoing relationships with the other bodies as well as create a collage or end of yearbook to show all that GSSC is involved with activities and supports a wide variety of activities.

Scott: How would we tell the groups about the form?

Ariel: Put it on the web-site

Pavan: The content fine. Change part 3 from GS to GSSC. Part 4 they should submit, not come to us.

Arash: I agree with others and do not want to keep clause #4.

Ariel: This will be a "working-community" with these student groups. This will be something that will make the groups better as well.

Scott: These are good ideas, but we need to change the language to more of a "we ask that you provide pictures" instead of "we demand pictures".

Marguerite: This is a good idea.

Chris: Many clubs have similar rules, but the content of the 400-500 word will be a lot of extraneous activity to demand. .

Abbey: If it is not a successful event, they will not do it again.

Ariel: We don't need the 400-500 word for the council, but for a way for us to show the GS community what we did this year.

Marguerite: Why not a paragraph?

Ariel: That is what I mean.

Pavan: The 4 treasurers of the undergraduate councils have been trying to create a common change.

Ariel: This is what we want. I am a free market kind of guy. If we do something right, other councils will join us.

Arash: Can you edit this proposal and bring it back again?

Ariel: Yes.

### **Agenda Item - SGB position**

Arash: Some people have shown interest. During orientation a number of them showed interest ad talk to me about joining the GSSC. Should we open it up to everyone?

Pavan: There are several ways to get involved at GS, not only council positions. When I came to council I got involved before I officially joined. We can open other things to them.

Matan: I agree. We should give the people that are already here a chance.

Josh: We are near elections. We should fill the position and tell people about getting involved in the future.

Tinishia: I agree with Josh. I like Jimmy. There were new students many who asked about us, but did not show up.

Arash nominates Jimmy.

Marguerite seconds.

Passes unanimously.

**Dance Marathon.**

Arash: Lets give the extra money to SGA so that they can fund their extra dancer. Besides that, do you want to give more money for not sending the dancers we promised to send from our council?

Scott motions that we add another \$50 to the dance marathon allocation.

Ariel seconds.

11 in favor. 1 abstention. Motion passes.

**Meeting adjourned at 9.15pm**