

# COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIES  
GENERAL STUDIES STUDENT COUNCIL

## GSSC MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 25, 2003

**Present:** – Josh, Pavan, Richie, Matan, Marguerite, Abigail, Claudia, Chris, Rob, Won, Justin, Tinishia, Ariel and Scott. A quorum is present.

### **Updates:**

Chris- Midnight Mania was a resounding success. Resumania went well, 7 people utilized Resumania and now 7 have better resumes.

Scott- Midnight Mania was an incredible success, far more successful and fantastic then initially envisioned.

Matan-Presented sample diplomas to TC, SGA and SIPA. SGA wanted no change however since they have their own board of trustees, their decisions would have no effect on other student bodies.

Claudia- Resumania went well, offers thanks to Marguerite.

Justin-I am just happy to liaison to a great council (SGA), a council on par with GSSC.

Tinishia-Happy to be here.

Josh-I am primarily dealing with inter-council affairs. I have been meeting with VP's and Treasurer's from other councils regarding available space at Columbia. There is a current focus on the area at Lerner that used to be a Credit Union. Councils are in the process of formulating a proposal that this area be turned into storage space for clubs and researching whether or not there is space for student groups at Teachers College as well as other areas for Columbia to facilitate activities of performance based groups.

Ivy Corps Resolution- (Justin) There is an issue with flyering with regards to administration and students about taking down flyers after they put them up. Administration wants a meeting with respective councils to designate official flyer areas.

### **Liaisons Update-**

ESC- Working with Miller in that they are not accommodating student groups. Student groups currently have to pay for ushering at cost of \$300 and cannot provide their own ushers at a cheaper cost. Seeking ways to make it more affordable to student groups. ESC is also looking to add more computer terminals in areas around campus i.e. Math and Pupin. This has met with success and might be installed before winter break. ACIS is still exploring issue of printing quotas. ESC also exploring concept of Flex kiosks i.e. a space where a student could make payments, and draw money. That idea was scratched, but looking into status checking online for flex accounts. Currently cannot do that. This account would also show recent transactions.

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SGB-Matan came and spoke talked about diplomas. Current discussion focused on Athletics Proposal and issues with student groups current difficulties with Miller.

**Ivy Council Resolution-Environmental Reform**-Presented by Justin.  
Vote-All in favor, two abstentions.  
Resolution-The motion passes.

**CU E-Community**-Postponed until next meeting.

### **GS Access to Alumni-**

*Issue*-Many GS students complain that they do not have the access they need to Columbia Alum to facilitate job searches and other needs.

#### *Debate:*

Chris-I forwarded an email about students having difficulties accessing GS Alumni. GS Students being limited to GS alumni, I feel it benefits no one. This system could be easily integrated. Not suggesting revamping infrastructure, but calling for open access. In response received response from Claudia, Jose Dominic and Arash. wanted to speak to council about proper way to approach issue in tactful and precise matter.

Pavan-I have a question. The people approaching GSSC, have they been trying to connect to alumni through CCE or alumni affairs?

Chris- Alumni affairs office.

Pavan-Feels if one goes through CCE all lists were open not issue of them being closed, but rather they do not want you barraging alumni rather CCE wants to be a liaison.

Chris-I did not know CCE had capability. Where does role of Alumni office end and CCE begin?

Claudia: CCE states each school has own alumni office. CCE only conducts an Alumni Networking Night. That is far as they go. CCE doesn't put students in touch with alumni. Rather CCE advises students to go to their respective school offices that handle alumni relations.

Pavan-I would like that fact verified.

Justin-Is it SOP that a student can contact all alumni?

Chris-Once a student has graduated they are an alumni, and currently all alumni databases are linked. Currently Jose has no access.

Claudia-In email, it stated that Kelly in Alumni office replied that it the dean of GS and Jose were taking steps to address problem. This problem appears to be on a dean level, upper level. Not on GSSC level.

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Matan-A question to other councils: DO CCSC and SEAS have a common database? ESC Liaison: I will explore whether CCSC and SEAS alumni databases are integrated.

Josh-The email that Dominic replied with stated that I will get back to you via email.

Chris-This is something on a higher level that Dom should be included in process.

Josh-Find some outstanding GS alums and present this to other councils and groups and say see what you would be missing.

Marguerite-Our alumni office sponsors luncheons, not dinners. They should sponsor more formal events as I feel this would illicit better responses from our alumni.

Claudia-There was a dinner scheduled with alumni, however it was cancelled.

### *Resolution:*

Chris talking to Dominic and will approach dean. Explore notable alumni, take it to other council's and then proceed with guidance from the council.

**Proposal**-Athletics Advisory Board.

### *Debate:*

Matan-SGA also approved this.

Ariel-I think this resolution is a waste of time and money. I believe that teams and athletes themselves should be able to organize and rally students. It's a creation of useless bureaucracy that will consume time and resources. Furthermore it is superfluous.

Justin-A couple of things, this proposal addresses that they won't do anything...I do not see it as a reason not to do anything. As far athletes doing there own promotions, I feel there is some merit in that. At the same time however there days are busy. I think that they will be ones that want people involved. It would make more of an impact if others push it. It costs nothing, just a committee of students seeking school spirit

Scott-Just coming from a committee that does what this advocates I fully like this proposal. Midnight Mania made up of all schools. Difficult to enact at whim, better if set as a permanent institution. Spirit on campus is dead. Midnight Mania whose teams may not be the best can still have spirit which helps develop the sense of Columbia's community. It's needed great way to get ball rolling. I think this is wonderful, if we do not pass it sends message that GSSC is not involving itself with another affair. This year is special in that we are starting to work with other councils. Let's not cut ourselves short. Let's take advantage of this opportunity to pass this resolution.

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Rob-Success of Midnight Mania could lead to a better athletics dept. I am still a little confused as to costs. We should support athletics. I think it is an important and well written proposal.

Pavan-I am in total agreement with last two responses. School wide issue not only athletes, produced not only on basketball court. One concern, is role for SGSB club sports and don't think we should, be limiting to varsity teams. Integrate club sports.

Chris- What was official committee? Was it a subcommittee of CCSC and GSSC? Were we involved?

Scott-There was involvement through me. One thing disappointed about Midnight Mania, was the shootout was no one from GSSC at shootout, no GSSC at undergrads. However the word about this event wasn't fully disseminated.

Chris-This proposal would ensure solid representation.

Matan-Short and small issue with the spelling and certain grammatical mistakes.

Josh-One comment, only recently that Josh realized a reasonable number of people at GS on sports teams. A fair share of Rugby Lacrosse hockey

Tinishia-Are we allowed to play varsity?

Council-Yes with Implications.

Josh-Not matter of athletes in their own self-interest, rather the people in athletics don't know where to begin. They really need good ideas.

*Resolution:*

Justin moves to adopt resolution.

Stephen seconds with amendment that club sports are included.

*Vote:* All in favor one abstention-Motion passes.

### **END OF SEMESTER PARTY-**

Justin- I suggest we have one.

Chris-this will be at night a party, Either Thursday before, or to have the party on actually last day of class. Arash felt we should have it on Monday. If we have it on Thursday we will discourage others. Lounge event on the 8th. Lounge singer event on the lounge downstairs with music etc, bar and clean up. Idea of opening up to other schools.

**Food at meetings:**

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Josh-we have not traditionally had food at meetings from our budget this is technically speaking an option in that we are not buying things of durable goods nature, Food is under purview. There are certain sticky moral issues present.

Pavan-I am emphatically against us paying for our food out of student life fees. Especially because we are elected as a good will service to the school.

Ariel -Emphatically for this, not going to far to think that reps are asked to do best possible jobs when we get here at 7:30pm and go to 9pm. I do not think that it is too much to ask that the class subsidize food or pizza for this sacrifice of time. US Senators and other legislative bodies are provided funds for sustenance.

Matan-I have been going to a lot of different councils in last weeks, at Teachers College they have sandwiches cookies and fruit, SIPA had bagels and lox. Part of money should have been used towards retreat, maybe use that allocation towards food. Student Senate decided to bring money and then order pizza.

Abigail-I do not want to repeat points that have already been made. Council members always have at some point before meetings to eat, if not immediately before meeting then possibly a couple of hours before.

Won-Having food here should be great however if we use that money to greater benefit of GS Community that would be better choice.

Rob-There are selfish and corrupt implications present, however these are open meetings and everyone is welcome to come to meetings and it would be great if more came out. It might show more interest and more productive body, if we did pass, set a limit. If we did do, it wouldn't cost that much. We plan all the events that include food and we generally do not have good turnout rates.

Marguerite -I agree with Rob don't understand why it could not be good incentive for us and others to become involved in Council and attend meetings.

Chris-If not out of student life fees then other sources of funding could we look to. Should University be funding us? Could we look at university for funding?

Josh-As been noted we have not had a retreat and not going to have one in format that would resemble last years retreat. We do have money allocated for us very much in favor that we want to keep it student money and in that sense certainly SG officials in the past who have abused the system. Very innovative arguments are that GSSC are open events What Dom said in years past that snacks were at times provided and would be keeping in spirit and cost structure.

Tinishia-Being trustee at a CC in New Jersey we were provided for at meetings with refreshments.

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### *Responses:*

Pavan - In response to Senate, they are receiving compensation because they are not going to work, full time. I don't think it is right, could not write out "B" form for this type of action and could not satisfy position as Treasurer. If we put it out as a referendum would all be satisfied with letting the student body decide?

Ariel-Precedence abounds in every single council and major legislative body. Most bodies recognized that members sacrifice time, as I am dedicating my time to GS community. I am sacrificing my ability to work. I gave up job tutoring on Fridays and meeting with a professor on a research project. To not fund GSSC on this issue would be disrespectful to us and students and goes against every precedent of democracy.

Chris-11 meetings left. Push to delay to next week.

Matan-Trustees get paid and meals food brought to meetings came from an event that just ended. I would be very happy if we had an event every Tuesday at 6.

Rob- A number of things, as Ariel said its cents pre person, if presented to GS community, if referendum best way, then maybe go that way, the point has been brought up would bring people here. If we advertised and put out adds ad that might address both sides, this is a meeting and not an event then this will come as an event. Food in middle area where people could have social event outside and people telling us

Abby-fantastic to have more students but don't think that we have free food would get the turnout that we want, not a big chance that they would sit around and debate allocations. Especially food in separate area.

Josh-I am clearly hearing a lot of stuff from passionate views that are opposed but a common ground that we are hungry and like to increase turnout in any way possible to get more opinions and method for legitimating not being hungry and in touch with GS community and creating social atmosphere. That being said, we would probably benefit from table the matter. Come up with issues and plans that we can work with for next week. So when we discuss this next time, we will be debating problems with each others positions and not with each other.

### *Resolution:*

Josh-Motion to table the matter- All in favor-Motion passes.

**Meeting Adjourned.**