

# COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

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SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIES  
GENERAL STUDIES STUDENT COUNCIL

## GSSC minutes December 2, 2003

Members present: Arash, Josh, Pavan, Matan, Marguerite, Abby, Abbey, Claudia, Chris, Rob, Stephen, Won, Tinishia, Ariel and Scott.  
Richie and Justin are absent.

Quorum is established.

### Updates:

Rob (Junior Class President) This Sunday is the 2nd Sunday brunch and there will be a Sushi event in one week in the lounge.

Marguerite (Social Chair) - a lounge event in a week. Monday.

Abbey (First-Year Class President) – Poker and Pizza party on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Also, Got a personal check for \$200 for dance marathon (from a nice lady!).

Stephen (Sophomore Class President) - working with other class councils for a possible class hour in the dance marathon.

Matan (Senator): Housing update – Working on opening the lounge in 600 W 113<sup>th</sup> street for all Columbia students. Also, at the Senate Housing meeting there was an agreement that GS students should be clustered together and that GS students that are going full-time will be treated as first ear applicants.

Claudia (Liaison from CCSC): CCSC is working on its relationship with USCC (United Students of Color Council) as its mission is very similar to the proposed Committee on Diversity. One of the possibilities for how to incorporate it into CCSC would be to get it a seat/representative for USCC on the council (CCSC). Also, CCSC, USCC and SPEaK are working together to make Comparative Ethnic Studies an actual major.

Josh (VP External) - Wants to open all lit-hum and Contemporary Civilization sections for GS students. Today, there is only one section open for each class. It used to be that Music-hum and Art-Hum also had GS-specific sections. Scott says that because there is not enough room for CC students, it is unlikely that we can make this happen. We do not have these classes as a requirement.

Abby (Academic Affairs Rep.) - planning two majors info nights for next semester. One for the social sciences and one for the humanities. She also wants to have a dinner and discussion with Dean Awn to have feedback from GS students about issues such as Lit-hum and CC sections.

Mike (Liaison from ESC) - CU community is the big topic, but will be discussed later.

Scott (Student services rep.) - will meet with other Student Services reps to plan for next semester.

Chris (Senior class President) - party next week on Monday. Open bar at the West End Lounge. He would like to open it up to the school and charge others \$15.  
Also, still working on getting Alumni access from other school's alumni.

Pavan (Treasurer) - has the current budget so that we know where we are standing.

**CU community presentation** - Adam Goldberg (from ESC):

Plans on releasing this new site in January. What will this portal have?

Will have a matchmaking feature.

Will have C-Vite that allows you to invite people to events.

Will have a marketplace like DogEars.Net.

Allows you to get info about other students that are in your class.

You have to sign up with your own user ID and password.

Q- Pavan: will groups be able to mass e-mail?

A- Adam: No.

Q- Scott: Will it include a calendar system?

A – Adam: the University is working to create a better one, so we are not doing it.

Q- Scott: Domain name? Security?

A- Adam: It is not maintained by ACIS. We need to take care of it.

Q- Josh: How can we make the calendar better for student groups?

A- Adam: we want to keep this for the University. But we can post unofficial events that are not posted in an official calendar.

We would form a committee with a member from each council and they will administrate the website. The committee members will not need to have technical knowledge in order to serve on the committee.

Q- Josh: who will be able to see the info?

A- Adam: some info is public, but the most will be open to CU members only. Only by providing a Columbia e-mail address can you get your password to the site.

Q- Josh: will we be censoring anything?

A- Adam: we did not decide yet.

Q- Matan: is the screen size set? Can you change the theme?

A- Adam: Yes, we will have more themes.

Q- Chris: What about printing out a simple schedule for your classes.

A- Adam: Good idea.

we want to tie all the Columbia members together. You can customize the page, get weather updates and news from the Spec.

Q- Ariel: where does the funding come from?

A- Adam: it only costs \$4 per year to maintain the site. ACIS is willing to host it if we provide the hardware.

Q- Josh: Speed. If 90% signed on than how will that work well?

A- Adam: The SEASCommunity portal is working well. There might be a speed difference between academic year and summer because during the summer the site will be maintained off the Columbia campus.

Q- Matan: what happens when you (Adam) graduate?

A- Adam: either ACIS takes over or the councils split the low cost.

Adam - timeline: finish the site, get a sample for the councils, draft a constitution and release it in the Spring.

The council thanks Adam for his time.

**5th Annual Spring Formal** - Marguerite - We need to plan for the Formal. Usually we had a separate committee for this. Why do we have that?

Arash (GSSC President) - it is a full time job, better to give it to someone else.

Marguerite - we have \$ 27,000 for it, but that is not a lot. Will send an e-mail about it to the GS students, letting them know the position is open. People will start coming to meetings and ask questions.

Chris – Will we need any other allocations?

Marguerite - no more allocations. The date and place are set (Low Library).

Arash - We may have a joint Formal with JTS.

**Food at meetings:**

Arash- e-board talked mostly about this topic. They feel it is not right to have student funds go to weekly meetings. We already have enough trouble starting on time. If we have food we will spend time eating and not doing our business.

Ariel (COI rep.)- does the e-board get to decide alone?

Arash - yes.

Ariel - I feel this is insulting and should call for impeachment (that you make this decision without involving the council). It should be allowed for the council to decide this. It would not cost that much to pay for food in minutes. In the COI meetings there is

food. Other councils have food and that shows respect to the members. I am very upset the e-board made a decision without the council. In the last meeting we would have had enough votes to pass this. We shouldn't have tabled it.

ESC liaison and CCSC liaison say there is no food at their meetings.

Abbey - I am against the food in the meeting.

Arash - I am against having food at the meeting.

Pavan - it would not have reached a vote last week.

Ariel - it would have and we had the vote to pass it.

Arash - we can have a weekly event before the meeting and get some food before the meeting starts.

Ariel - we can have an open event with food at our weekly meeting. We should have had a democratic decision. You (Arash) are a voting member as is everyone else on council.

Arash - I don't vote but I need to be responsible to what goes on. I set the agenda.

Josh - I tabled the discussion last week. While it was heated, it wasn't going anywhere, and I felt that we as a council needed time to think about it, and I needed to talk to Dominic and the rest of the E-board. Personally I want us to have food, but I'm uncomfortable with using student life fees, and this was reinforced by the e-board meeting. This would be frowned upon by the administration, and I don't really want to mess around with the administration. This is a democratic council only in the sense that the administrators allow us to exist.

Arash - if you do not have time, don't be on council.

Chris - why not think outside of the box? Why not approach a pizza place and offer them to be the sole providers of pizza and have them pay for it.

Ariel - It is no longer just about the food, I am also upset that you decided for yourselves. The council can decide.

Pavan - last meeting you (Ariel) were against a referendum (which is a democratic way to decide). Also, you brought up the US Congress as an example but in the US Congress the majority Party in the US Congress sets the agenda. The equivalent here is the president (and e-board).

Ariel - I was never against a referendum-in the last meeting I said that there was no need for a referendum cause the council could decide. There are many events that we fund that we don't actually get to go to. The students would not mind paying 1/1500 of their student life fee to make the representatives more comfortable during meetings.

Stephen - I would like us to move on to Ivy Council update.

Arash - should we have a referendum?

Ariel - that is great. Who writes the question? How many students need to answer?

Marguerite - there are other issues we can ask the GS body.

Stephen - Last year we decided more issues on our own, like the ROTC resolution. It would look bad if we only asked the students this one question about having food at the meetings.

Pavan - We can ask a larger question that concerns food.

Stephen - There are more important things we can do.

Chris - I suggest we make an arrangement with a 3rd party. If that doesn't work lets explore other issues.

Scott - lets accepts the exec. decision and try to work outside of the box. What we do is always reflected upon us.

Tinishia (CCSC Liaison)- we should have food. We shouldn't take money out of student life fees. However, we can have outside fundraisers for this. We can take money that comes from that.

Ariel - that is the same as taking money from the general budget. We serve the community.

Arash - I will get the food somehow.

Matan – I am against approaching a 3<sup>rd</sup> party for the food. That free pizza could have also gone to a GS event.

Abbey – I am already getting free pizza for my events.

Marguerite – I still prefers that kind of arrangement (3<sup>rd</sup> party) than taking money from student life fee.

Arash – clarification: Richie (V.P Internal) was not at the e-board meeting yesterday.

### **Ivy Council update -**

Pavan - lets do this after break.

Council aggress.

Arash - have a good break.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM.