

# COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

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## SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIES GENERAL STUDIES STUDENT COUNCIL

GSSC minutes February 17, 2004

**Present:** Arash, Pavan, Josh, Tinishia, Rob, Marguerite, Chris, Jimmy, Stephen, Scott, Abbey Dubin, Matan and Won.

**Absent:** Abby Becker, Claudia, Ariel, Richy, Justin

13 out of 18 are present.

### **Updates (via e-mail)**

Arash Yomtobian (President) – no updates

Josh Joseph (Vice President) – no updates

Richie Space (Vice President Internal) – no updates

Pavan Surapaneni (Treasurer) – no updates.

Claudia Barrera (Alumni Affairs & Career Center Representative) - \* Interviewing for Internships workshop took place on Monday, Feb. 16. Seven people showed up and seemed happy!

\* Next Thursday there will be an event: "LITERARY NIGHT with CARMEN BOULLOSA" on Thursday feb.26 from 7:00 to 9:00 at Lerner's Party Space.

Ariel (K.) Beery (Committee on Instruction) – No update. COI meeting was cancelled.

Abigail (E.) Becker (Academic Affairs) - Last week's roundtable discussion with dean awn went swimmingly well. Thanks to all the council members who participated.

Marguerite Daniels (Social Chair) – 1) Ticket sales for the spring formal begin this week. I order everyone on the GSSC to go buy tickets!

2) Reminder announcement – the Billiards and Games party will be held on Thursday, Feb. 26th, 8 PM - 12 AM.

Matan Ariel (Senate) – 1) There is a new initiative to get the gym sign-up sheets online and to make the rules on who gets to use what enforced better. I hope to help with that.  
2) April the 18<sup>th</sup> there will be an event for undergraduates in Lerner – “how to get your first job after college”. The event is organized by student senators and by the Business school.

3) I am looking into a joint undergraduate proposal to have the Writing Center in Philosophy open on weekend, so that it is actually open when students write papers. More updates to come.

4) Writing proposal to lower the highest payable credit for GS from 17 to 15 credits. There is no reason that a GS student that takes 16 or more credits will pay more than a CC student taking 16 or more credits.

5) Jostens will be presenting a draft of the new Columbia diplomas to the task-force on Friday!!! Very exciting!

Chris Danzig (Senior Class President) – no updates

Rob Ward (Junior Class President) – 1) SUNDAY BRUNCH - coming up in a few weeks on Sunday, March 7th. I'm working on the planning for that, and hoping to get some hot food (e.g. eggs). If anyone knows any especially tasty and inexpensive catering services, please let me know.

2) BAR EVENT - working on the plans for a GS bar event sponsored by the junior class. Depending on location, student art exhibits may be displayed.

Stephen Davis (Sophomore Class President) – 1) I'm planning a pizza break in the lounge.

2) Also, I want to plan a GS fundraiser to benefit the relay for life. I am looking for ideas and others to help.

Abbey Dubin (First-Year Class President) – no updates.

Won Lee (ESC Liaison) - no updates

Justin White (SGA Liaison) – no updates

Tinishia Bass (CCSC Liaison) – no updates

Scott Olster (Student Services) – no updates

Jimmy Cesar Chiu (SGB Liaison) – 1) Anti-Affirmative action bake sale that was held a few weeks ago: SGB has spoken to Chaplain Davis regarding racial and violent remarks that were made by some Columbia students at the bake sale and on the CCC website. They have decided to forward those comments to security (it is officially a security issue) and SGB is awaiting information on Columbia University's policies, specifically freedom of speech.

2) SGB is planning to have a spring speaker, and it is to my understanding that they would like to have Senator Hillary Clinton. Another name that was considered was Jesse Jackson, but the group had heard that Mr. Jackson was speaking at the African Culture Show on Feb. 22, 2004.

**Constitution:**

{Clarification: there are two copies of the constitution at the meeting. The one with the logo is the current one. The other is the proposed. DOS referees to Dean of students Office. E.C. refers to the Election Committee.}

Scott: Article V a – typo – to make “U” instead of “u”.

Stephan: It should be CCE, not CCS.

Marguerite: Wow, my position changed. That’s good.

Chris: Article VIII, needs to be bolded.

Stephen: what is the porous of the suspension of the constitution?

Pavan: For example, to allow the council to bring in a new member. That is just an example for how it can be used.

Chris: Elections – what is E.C.?

Pavan: Election committee. The DOS office needs to be present when they tally the vote.

Scott: What happened in the past about term time?

Pavan: it was implied that it begins on day of commencement.

Chris: bi-annual has more than one meaning.

Pavan: will be changed.

Stephen: Rules regarding candidates – what about when people change class standing during the following year?

Pavan: we will change it to be according to the fall semester.

Stephen: are there any other job description for senior class president that we should include?

Chris: There is class day, commencement.

Stephen: we should include that in.

Chris: there are also committees that you need to sit on – the advisory committee and an executive committee that work on senior events. Adding: “Formation of an advisory committee and cooperation with the DOS office to... Commencement activities”.

Pavan – done with nice wording. Also, changing the definition of class standing for senior class president. The Senior Class President must be a senior for the entirety of the academic year.

Marguerite – Make it clear that the formal can be organized by other GSers. Also, make it her job to help others with their events.

Scott – looks perfect.

Jimmy – how many governing boards are there?

Pavan – 2 out of the 5. The 2 big ones are ABC (Activity Boards at Columbia) and SGB (Student Governing Board).

Chris – other councils have Class Councils. Maybe we should have V.P. Class Presidents.

Pavan – I am against that, but that is open to debate. They also have more committees that are in the meetings.

Josh – You don’t want many people that are on council but that can’t vote. You can nominate someone to be on your committee.

Scott – what about creating more committees.

Pavan – I think we should have a committee made of Liaisons, but that should not be in the constitution. Let’s work on this together.

Matan – Ariel wanted me to bring up a way to have a motion on the agenda without the President bringing it.

Chris – what about way of tabling stuff.

Arash – if the President want to table something, s/he can.

Pavan – the President sets the agenda (with the E-board), sets the votes, and decides on speakers. That is why s/he has no vote. We can choose to impeach the President.

Arash – it would not get to that, because the e-board will push the President to change his/her mind.

Pavan – the 2/3 vote is like a filibuster.

Chris – with us, impeachment means leaving office.

Marguerite – Article 8, section 6: we need to add PM to the time.

Arash – change President to Student Body President. In meetings with other Presidents and administrators, CCSC seems to be representing everyone.

People agree.

Sheridan (GS student) – leaving council members should leave a record for future members.

Pavan – we have that.

Pavan – We have stuff for debate: Rules for endorsements and experience on council.

Marguerite – people should run for themselves.

Pavan – I think that we don't have that much contact with groups on campus, and if we let groups to endorse us, they will know more about us.

Chris – I think it is dangerous. It allows the groups to “put” someone in council and on the e-board.

Tinishia – that is politics

Arash – we usually do not give money by ourselves.

Pavan – last year, CTV (that is supposed to be part of SGB) did not have enough money. We gave them a promise for money. We now have something against the e-board giving more than \$200.

Stephen – I don't want people to be the “candidate for Club A”.

Pavan – when GSres vote, they do not know enough about the candidates. The clubs might know more.

Stephen – how many clubs will listen to a GS candidate? It will be an e-board... we don't want a CC students deciding on a GS candidate.

Arash – nevertheless, that will give another student leader (from CC/SEAS) a chance to learn about GSSC.

Stephen – I think that many clubs do not have GSers on e-board. Maybe we should add this in the future.

Abby – this brings unnecessary bias. We can do other networking.

Pavan – I feel it will rise turnout.

Tinishia – How big were the campaign.

Arash – not big. Many positions were uncontested.

Abby – what is campaigning process?

Arash – it should be more than one person running, having debate, campaigning before the vote.

Marguerite – I expect more people running this year.

Arash – lets move to the minimum term for e-board members issue.

Scott – it is a good idea, but what will be the minimum term.

Pavan – I came in the middle of the semester.

Scott – what about when a member leaves during the year?

Pavan – the President decides.

Scott – I think the requirement should be a semester. Nominations (from the President) should also be with experience.

Arash – I agree, but I am concerned about limiting people and not bringing new voices to the council. This clause will guarantee 4 current members a position.

Pavan – we can make it effect only the next year (not the following elections),

Stephen - and what about people that get into council during the semester?

Josh – we can leave things to the council/E.C./DOS

Pavan – I think it should be by dates.

Scott – What about people that had a year off.

Pavan – we can word it accordingly

Matan –I object to this clause. We should leave it to the democratic process.

Josh – We should not wait till the last minute to know if someone is qualified.

Pavan – we do not have enough information going to the student body for a real democratic process.

Josh – We need people on the e-board that know the system. They can't start the job not knowing what goes on.

Arash – ESC have closed e-board elections.

Rob – I agree with Matan, but suggest a compromise. We should only limit the President for a semester of office.

Abby – what about transfer students with experience from other schools.

Arash – it is not about serving on a student council. It is about knowing this campus.

Scott – in the event that no one with the right experience runs, what happens?

Pavan – having exceptions by the DOS/E.C.

Scott – but people would not declare intension to run.

Pavan – stagger the declaration and leave time.

Stephen – do we have a requirement of class standing for President?

Pavan – no

Matan – I don't think it should be for all the e-board. I also don't think it should be a full semester of experience.

Scott – the wording now is not for a semester.

Arash – I started going to meetings before I was on council. I think it should be just for the President.

Chris – what about meeting times?

Pavan – it is in the constitution.

Arash – tabling for another meeting. Pavan will prepare the updated version for a future discussion. An updated proposed constitution will be sent by e-mail so that members that were not present will see changes and will have a chance to made additional changes.

(Won leaves the meeting).

## APAAM

Asian Pacific Heritage Month

Event: Opening reception funding needed

Presented by Samir Bose and Evelyn Lu.

We want to increase APAAM awareness. We have a great, but expensive speaker. This group has 2 GS students on the e-board. We are getting more GS students involved now. We used to be just a source of cash for other groups, now we will have one big event. Our speaker that will appeal to many people, not just Asians. Asking \$500, or more if possible.

Matan moves to give \$500, Scott seconds.

9 in favor, 1 against, 1 sustain.

Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:33pm

Submitted by Matan Ariel