

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIES GENERAL STUDIES STUDENT COUNCIL

Present: Arash Yomtobian (President), Rob Ward (Junior Class President), Matan Ariel (Senate), Abbey Dubin (First-Year Class President), Justin White (SGA Liaison), Jimmy C. Chiu (SGB Liaison), Abigail (E.) Becker (Academic Affairs Representative), Marguerite Daniels (Social Chair), Chris Danzig (Senior Class President), Stephen Davis (Sophomore Class President), Scott Olster (Student Services Representative), Pavan Surapaneni (Treasurer).

Absent: Richie Space (Vice President Internal). Tinishia Bass (CCSC Liaison) and Won Lee (ESC Liaison).

Arrived late – Josh Joseph (Vice President External), Ariel Beery (Committee on Instruction Representative) and Claudia Barrera (Alumni Affairs & Career Center Representative).

Updates (via e-mail)

Matan Ariel (Senate) – *Full Senate Update:* Housing Proposal – in an unexpected move, the Dean of GSAS strongly opposed the Housing Resolution. He did not understand why GS students are any different from graduate students (personally, I know of no graduate students that has ever asked the Housing Committee to establish a dormitory space for his/her schools). Before I was able to clear the issue and offer an explanation, a motion to table the discussion was made, seconded and voted upon. The proposal will be back in committee. I am in communications with the Dean and hope to answer his concerns and change the opinions of who is, apparently, a very influential person in the Senate. ROTC – the Senate established a task-force to examine the issue of ROTC and make recommendations to the Senate next fall.

TC Voting Rights and Gender-Neutral Language – the Senate finally had the 3/5 majority needed to change its by-laws and pass these resolutions.

Graduate Students Unionization – just before the Senate meeting, the Student Caucus voted to introduce a resolution of acknowledgment to the majority of graduate students who wish to unionize. The resolution was not allowed on the floor because it was not delved in time to the last Senate Executive meeting. President Bollinger was unwilling to acknowledge that the by-laws allow for resolutions to be presented without the knowledge or approval of the Executive Committee.

Resolution on the Process of Housing Reallocation – the Caucus also attempted to bring a proposal that would prevent the office of Institutional Real Estate from converting more graduate/GS housing into CC/SEAS dorms. The IRE decision was made without the knowledge of the Housing Committee and announced the day before the Senate meeting, leaving little time for formal action. This proposal was also not allowed to be presented to the Senate.

Diplomas: this week we are beginning to display the current diploma and 2 proposed diplomas. The diplomas are already up in Lerner, Butler, GS (DOS Office), SIPA & Hamilton. They might also be in Mudd and in BC. The website will be www.columbia.edu/cu/diploma/ Voting will take place Monday April 5 – Monday April 12. I will ask for an e-mail to go out just before voting starts.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIES GENERAL STUDIES STUDENT COUNCIL

GS merchandise: Scott and I are still waiting for a proposal from a vender that make shirts for the GS Alumni Association.

RFL: Only 3 people joined the GSSC Team. If you are planning on participating, please sign on ASAP!!!! I will start disclosing people's names so that all future readers of the minutes will know who did not join!

GSSC Guide Book: PLEASE send me the description of your job, the projects you have been working on, the people you were in contact with and any tips for future council members.

Quorum is established. Meeting begins at 19:40

Constitution will wait for 2/3 members.

Arash - GS Alumni weekend are looking for volunteers. Please sign on if you can.

End of year BBO:

Pavan – we have money issues. The DOS Office is not giving us any money for the senior events, so we will need to fund it ourselves.

Marguerite: We are getting a good deal, \$2,650, less than last year's event.

Pavan – we are going to get a lot of funding requests. So, can we ask the class Presidents that did not use their money to give some back. Rob, you have 1,764.

Rob – I have 2 more Sunday Brunch. I might be doing another Sushi event. You can take back about 1,000.

Pavan – Steven, you have 1,600.

Stephen – I am looking into replacing the pizza and movie events with other stuff. Movie nights require getting the rights to the movie. I am not sure about how much the fundraiser will cost. The bake sale will also need some money.

Marguerite – GSers will be supplying baked goods for the sale, and it would cost \$5 per person (for supplies).

Stephen – I will give back about 1,000.

Pavan – Abbey, you have 3,500

Abbey Dubin – the poker was cheap, and I will do a paintball event with 200. I am giving back 2750.

Arash – Claudia has an alumni event coming up.

Chris – Jose Gonzales will pay for some of that. She is planning to give Marguerite and me some money. My next event is expensive.

Pavan – we won't deal with her now. Abby B. you have 260.

Abby B. – I will have another event.

Pavan – we just got 4,750 clear in the budget.

Justin – joke about Dean Awn and New Orleans.

Marguerite – can we use the money from the bake sale for Relay for life?

Stephen – maybe, let's wait to see how much we raise.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIES GENERAL STUDIES STUDENT COUNCIL

Marguerite – for the end of year BBQ, I am waiting for more info. I am asking for \$2,700.

Marguerite gave the cost breakdown. Food is from Dallas BBQ.

Matan motions to give the full amount. Justin seconds. 11 in favor. 0 against, 0 abstain. Motion passes.

Arash – we will do housing later.

Take Back the Night (presented by Sheridan Gayer):

Sheridan: This is a yearly campus-wide gathering. We march, raise awareness on sexual abuse and violence. We ask for \$200 for the food and other expenses. CCSC is expected to give money. ESC gave us 100 and IDC gave us \$500.

Arash – what about SGA?

Sheridan – they fund us for many events. Including an event a week later.

Chris: One of your guest speakers might give you a special price.

Sheridan – she did. GS are very involved with the group.

Arash –we will let you know.

No Limits (presented by Derrick Wilder):

Derrick Wilder: I am here to tell you about No Limits. We invite students from a high school to come over, This is a public high-school. 99.9% of them go to college. The event will be on April 23 (last Friday of the month). We are asking for \$530 for food, printing etc.

Pavan – did the budget include the flowers?

Derrick: yes.

Stephen – are you going to other councils?

Derrick – no. This is a GS event. CC is involved, but not with funding. Last years we did not work with such a successful (academically) school.

Scott- what do you do in the workshop?

Derrick – Skip Bailey tells them about financial aid, we give them work-skills info, and there is an “our story” part from PALS members.

Club Bengala (no presentation)

Arash – they are not here, so lets look at the allocation request.

Pavan – the membership is usually the number of people on their e-mail list.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIES GENERAL STUDIES STUDENT COUNCIL

Seema Shah (Liaison from Barnard SGA): they bring vendor from other parts of the city, lots of food, and Bengali dancing and other dancing troops. It will be all day long on Low steps. The day before another group is having another big group.

Chris – a lot of their spending look strange.

(Josh Joseph arrives - 20:24)

Justin – lets give them according to the number of GSers that attend.

Housing Issues

- 1.) Housing resolution has been brought back to committee
 - a. BUT! CC & SEAS are taking over another floor in the 113 street building
 - b. Housing committee didn't know about this housing allocation to CC & SEAS
- 2.) Matan sent (to GSSC e-board for approval) a thank you letter addressed to the Director of Undergraduate Housing for granting GSers access to dorm lounges AND a second letter of protest asking about the questionable housing allocation to CC & SEAS
- 3.) Housing was granted to URH by institutional real estate.

Abbey:

How many units of housing?

Matan:

One floor, but we have lost floors in the past so slowly we are losing housing instead of gaining it

DIPLOMAS!!!!

Student Affairs Committee has put together some diplomas for students to vote on

They are in Lerner, Butler Hamilton, GS DOS office, SEPA, TC and maybe Mudd. They can also be found online and various locations at the medical sciences campus

Voting will take place online Monday April 5 to Monday April 12

Design will be for all the schools except Law School and Med School

Send questions to diploma@columbia.edu

Elections Committee:

3 awesome people are on the election committee

* Mason Beard

* Justin White

* Duson many Horses

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIES GENERAL STUDIES STUDENT COUNCIL

Elections are April 22. Start thinking about your position, send ideas for the GSSC Guide and think about running again.

Allocations:

Take Back the Night:

Abby D. motion for \$200, Pavan seconds. 12 in favor. No objections or abstentions.
Motion passes.

No Limits:

Arash – this is our program, and it's a really good event for a good cause. However, the flower costs need to be taken off the allocation. Without that its \$430.

Abbey E. B: motion for 430. Justin seconds. 12 in favor. No objections or abstentions.
Motion passed.

Club Bangala

Justin – its too much money.

Chris – motion to allocate \$250. Marguerite seconds. 9 in favor. 1 oppose. 2 abstentions.
Motion passes.

Constitution

Arash – we didn't vote on the constitution. We need to approve it before the election begins.

Matan: I still think we need to have a copy in front of us when we vote on this.

Council members agree to hear the list of changes

Arash: We agreed on the following changes [note from minutes taker: not all changes are in the minutes. Please refer to the constitution online to see the final version]:

Pavan: title change – Treasurer changes to VP Finance. SGB Liaison changes to Governing Board Liaison. We add 2 responsibilities to council members (to be in all meeting for the office, and a clause about what to do when missing a meeting).
Absence policy – after 2 absences the VP internal will get involved. When there are open positions, we will open it to the GS student body. We will help the transition of future members. The e-Board will set agenda... maintain fund... any 6 members can bring an item to the agenda, quorum is 2/3, we will uphold relations with counterparts, VP internal will run meetings when the President is not there, but the VP External will be the 2nd in line for succession. VP Finance will monitor the money, advise groups, advice the GSSC, maintain records, uphold relations, serve on at least on governing board. Social Chair will be in charge of the formal, will sit on social committees on council, We need to set the date for the retreat, and let people running know about it. To run for president, you must have been in GS for a year and have completed at least 12 credits, with at least 6 in each semester by the time you take office.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIES GENERAL STUDIES STUDENT COUNCIL

(Claudia and Ariel arrive – 21:01)

Arash: we need to vote on Treasurer name change - VP finance vs. VP Funding.
Finance gets voted.

Stephen – I move that we adopt the new constitution. Justin seconds.
11 in favor, 1 against, 2 abstentions.

Meeting adjourned at 21:04.