

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIES
GENERAL STUDIES STUDENT COUNCIL

TUESDAY APRIL 20, 2004

Present: Arash Yomtobian (President), Josh Joseph (Vice President External), Pavan Surapaneni (Treasurer), Richie Space (Vice President Internal), Matan Ariel (Senate), Marguerite Daniels (Social Chair), Abigail (E.) Becker (Academic Affairs Representative), Claudia Barrera (Alumni Affairs & Career Center Representative), Ariel (K.) Beery (Committee on Instruction Representative), Chris Danzig (Senior Class President), Rob Ward (Junior Class President), Stephen Davis (Sophomore Class President), Tinishia Bass (CCSC Liaison) and Jimmy C. Chiu (SGB Liaison)

Absent: Scott Olster (Student Services Representative) and Won Lee (ESC Liaison).

Dean of Students Announcements: On May 4 the Dean of Students Office is holding a dinner for the GSSC.

GSSC Formal: Arash – “Thank you for Marguerite and Erik for your great job for the GS Formal. The council would like to give you a token of appreciation.” Gifts are presented.

I - Agenda Item – Situation with Senior Class President

- Following the April 13th meeting the E-Board relieved the Senior Class President of his responsibility for the planning of the Senior Dinner. Council members felt that the whole council should have been apprised.
- Council deliberates on this and additional issues of their being no policy short of impeachment for addressing a council member who does not fulfill his or her responsibilities in a prescribed matter.
- Council decides to prepare amendments to the Constitution with respect to two protocols:
(1) E-Board minutes are to be presented to the Council.
(2) A set protocol that defines discipline for a council member other than impeachment.

II – Agenda Item – Resolution on Graduate Student Strike

- Graduate students are currently on strike. They are seeking the administration of Columbia University to recognize their right to form a union. The effects of the strike are deleterious to the undergraduate body.
- Pavan presents a Resolution that calls for both sides to reach a quick conclusion.
- Council deliberates on Resolution. Changes in wording proposed and executed. Council votes to approve Resolution.

Vote: 16 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

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III – Agenda Item – Proposed Holiday Resolution

- GSSC Committee of Instruction Representative Ariel Beery and Senator Matan Ariel propose a statement that the administration do whatever is possible to minimize the loss of class time that religiously observant students miss. Additionally the proposal calls for professors to recognize the student's right to miss class and be allowed to make up for lost class time due to religious holidays.
- Council deliberates and after enacting some changes in wording votes to approve resolution.

Vote: 13 in favor
0 against
2 abstentions

IV – Agenda Item – GSSC Housing Resolution

- Matan Ariel, Senator and Scott Olster, Student Services Representative propose a resolution that resolves that the council appoint one of its members to be a liaison to administrators that deal with housing. It also asks the administration to find a location for the clustering of some GS students and to ensure that when GS students are relocated to alternative housing, that they be given priority in the housing selection.
- Council votes to approve resolution as is.

Vote: All in favor.

V – Agenda Item – USCC/APAAM Co-Sponsorship Request

- APAAM (Asian Pacific Awareness Month) and USCC (United Students of Color Council) are having an event called *Infusion* and are seeking an allocation.
- Council deliberates. Issue arises in that APAAM was provided an \$800.00 allocation for all events during April. Additionally some members interpret the USCC request to be surreptitious. Counter-argument is that the event has expanded from its initial size and more funding is needed to accommodate this growth.
- Council votes to allocate no funding.

VI – Agenda Item – No Limits

- No Limits seeks \$100.00 more in funding due to a budget shortfall.
- Council deliberates and approves extra funding.

Vote: 11 in favor
2 against
1 abstention

Meeting Adjourned