Oct. 19 General Meeting

1. Roll Call at 9:18 p.m.
   a. 43 present at the time, 2 late.

2. Officer Reports.
   a. President's Report.
      i. Announcement that Dean MGK will not be joining us this meeting because of a personal emergency.
      ii. President and Provost Fund Opportunity.
      iii. Bar/Bri hosting an LLM information panel tomorrow.
   b. VP.
      i. Halloween party, mad scientist pre-party in Lenfest Café, 7:30 pm to 8:45 pm.
      ii. Party will be at Marquis, Thursday Oct. 29th.
      iii. Call for volunteers, and to spread the word about the Facebook group!
   c. Secretary.
      i. Blood Drive, Drapkin Lounge. Nov. 2nd, 12 to 5:30 pm.
      ii. Call for volunteers.
   d. Treasurer.
      i. Nothing to report.
   e. Parliamentarian.
      i. Talked about the web site and getting involved in the Google site to provide feedback.
      ii. G-Drive, call for volunteers to help out with the project.
      iii. Khalil suggested to broaden the search to non-Senators because a lot of people probably have great ideas and helpful skills.

3. Committee Reports
   a. Standing committees:
      i. Grad Committee held their first meeting today, currently planning but nothing to report.
      ii. Housing will have its first meeting next week.
      iii. IT will have first meeting soon.
   b. Faculty committees:
      i. Journals met and decided which journals to review this year.
      ii. University Senate working on getting a H1N1 vaccine that's already out.
      iii. Started construction on the Mind and Brain building in Manhattanville.
      iv. Vacant seat on the Housing Committee, asked for any interested candidates.

4. Resolution to Create Senate Constituencies.
   b. McCormick briefly talked about the resolution. Divide the student body and assign them particular Senators who will be the point person to talk with students and bring concerns and feedback back to the Senate. Discussed the new Amendment proposing for a rough bullet points style, talking points memo to everyone, a standard form that would be passed on to their constituents.
   c. Move into 5 min of Q&A.
      i. Leslieann asked what the difference was between sending out a general newsletter versus individualized emails. Khalil said that there has been past experimentation with office hours, etc. but it didn't prove to be that effective. Wanted
to provide an avenue that would allow for more personal contact and encourage
students to get to know their Senators.

ii. Jae asked if there were any other ways to connect with constituencies, beyond
this. McCormick said definitely, though the assignments would be random,
opportunities exist to get to know new people more. Khalil brought up previous
criticism that Senate has been seen as helping only their friends, and this would
change that perception.

iii. Mike Anderson asked how this would be enforced, could be a wide range of
people to blow off the responsibility vs. those that actually put a lot of effort into it.
Khalil noted that there aren't a lot of enforcement mechanisms, maybe cc the Senate
E-Board on these emails. McCormick said that the time commitment was only 30
seconds to a minute and was not worried about that so much, given Senators had
already made a commitment to serving on Senate.

iv. Soo asked whether they were replacing general e-mail announcements or
supplementing it. McCormick said generally it was supplementing it.

v. Shana asked about how to present controversial topics, given personal feelings
one way or anything.

d. LDP asked to extend Q&A by 3 min, seconded. Call for consent, no objections.

i. LDP asked about any provisions to allow students to opt out, given previous
concerns about too much email spam. Also, how to address the possibility that all of a
senator's constituents choose not to receive it. McCormick said that this had been
meant to address all the spam, a personalized email would be much more likely to be
read by people instead of massive flyers. Khalil said that in the emails, people could
include a line saying that constituents could opt out. McCormick did not envision all
30 constituents choosing to opt out.

ii. Eric asked how it would be divided by. Khalil said by class lines, 1L, etc..

iii. Amaris asked whether it was just email notification, or beyond to a lunch or
dinner. Khalil said he had thought about getting a budget to pay for these social
events, but this was a first step, though that could potentially be offered.

e. Jessica extended Q&A by 2 min.

i. Leslieann asked for further clarification about assignments. Khalil said by class
year, every person would get 30 people.

ii. Chris asked if there was enough information flow out of senate meetings to
justify an email after every meeting. Khalil said yes, relatively important information
comes out during these meetings. Also noted that it was easier to respond to one
Senator instead of the general Senate, though he did understand the concern.

f. Move into 5 min of debate.

i. Mia said that the idea was really good, but the email system as it is would be
flawed, and explore other options to connect to people.

ii. Mike said it was well-intentioned, but the resolution wouldn't accomplish the
objective, problems with enforcement. Said he was elected by the people he knew,
problems with advocating positions they did not agree with. Student apathy, most
students want to be left alone. Said that they could send an email to people to let them
know about their Senator. Said the Secretary could just send an email himself.

iii. Soo said maybe this purpose could be served by a one time email but not a
regular one after every meeting. Khalil said that he would be open to an amendment
to change the email provisions. Soo said she really liked the idea.

iv. Amaris said that it seemed like a good idea, trying to get non-Senators more
interested. Make it a competition, assign points to people for going to Open and
Notorious, go to see Dean's roundtable.
Ryan McDevitt said that engaging students is a great idea, though this might not be the perfect form to do it. Noted the student apathy, and didn't see the need to force people to do it. Said we should spend more time perfecting it trying to make it right.

Ron said that actually having a group that a senator is responsible for would be a beneficial thing, even if done by email or not. Having the general plan is a good idea.

Art said that he liked the idea because it gives the students a "face" to the Senate, instead of an amorphous body. Reach out to more Senators, not just their friends. Wasn't worried about 5-6 emails a semester, every 2 weeks.

LDP said he agreed with Anderson, in that it was well-intentioned, but didn't think constituencies would solve the problems. Said that most people already know a senator and that this was a solution in search of a problem we didn't have. McCormick said that the communication between the Senate and student body varies wildly year to year. Said that there are people still unaware of their Senators. Khalil said issues with integrating the 74 transfers, etc.

Nick said that the people who don't know a senator are still out there. Moved to strike the email provisions. McCormick and Khalil accepted that as a friendly amendment, and the language was stricken.

Jae made a motion to reamend the proposal saying that if the resolution didn't have an action component (sending emails), it wasn't much of a resolution. Said that an email after every meeting might be cumbersome, so maybe less frequent but still wanted the email component. Khalil and McCormick said it was friendly, preserving the email component, changing the wording to "reasonable frequency."

Nona asked if the Senate will still be updating people by the general email. McCormick said that it would not change. Nona then asked what information would be provided. Worried about inconsistencies, and enforcement mechanisms. Khalil said that reasonable frequency would be determined over time, but not zero. Concern about inconsistency was noted.

LDP asked a point of procedure saying that the clock should be paused when someone not debating a point was speaking. Gradman noted the oversight and reset the clock to 4 minutes.

Chris said it didn't achieve the goal of the constituency, since 30 random people did not constitute a constituency.

Ron said that Nona's point about enforcement was valid and motion to strike the email component and work out later how to address the problem. Said he still thought 30 people did constitute a consistency and the idea was valuable.

Erik had a point of order, asking whether one to create a committee to address this problem. Made a motion to commit to a committee. Khalil asked how far the disagreement ran, if the issue was just about the email, we should just vote on it. Erik withdrew his motion.

Q&A session on the amendment by Ron, since it was held unfriendly by McCormick and Khalil.

Erik asked whether they had been emails sent on this issue, and McCormick and Khalil said there had been good emails but did not make any substantive changes.

Art asked whether there was a big disagreement since most people would be expected to send at least one. Ron said that having the ambiguous language for reasonable frequency should either be cut out or made less ambiguous, but he thought cutting it out was the better approach.

Eric asked whether the language could be changed to zero emails, and leave it to the discretion of the senators.

3 minutes of debate.
i. Mia said that she the discussion can't be tabled and it would be better to address the concerns than debate the language.
ii. Nona asked if there was a way to streamline the process.
l. Eric made a motion to postpone the whole discussion.
m. Vote for motion to postpone. 24 out of 45 present. Majority wins and the discussion was postponed.
n. Ravi motions to reopen the question and get the issue back on the agenda. Needs 2/3rds majority. Not enough to reopen the question and it remains tabled. 26 out of 45 present.

   a. Gradman discussed balkanization concerns and overview of the recognition process. Said that Sam from CLOCS would open itself more broadly to any classic and cultural arts, ballet, etc.
   b. Committee members re-voted on the amended application and now recommends the group.
   c. Move into 5 min of Q&A.
      i. Eric asked whether there was a pending motion to re-do the recognition process and student groups. Gradman said that there are ongoing discussions about addressing the process in general along with core funding, but nothing set in stone.
      d. Move into 5 minutes of debate.
      i. Ron said the he was happy that the club was recommended, said a lot of support among the 1L class.
      e. Move into vote whether to approve. Call for consent, objections. Hand vote. 32-6-7 out of 45 present.

   a. Austin asked where the beer tap we approved last year was. Jessica said that it may not have been purchased and never gotten one. Khalil said that might be true.
   b. Gradman called for volunteers to work on issues of recognition.
   c. Jean said that she wanted to talk about the opt-in system. Doesn't show the existing groups you're already registered for, so people don't know. IT already knew about the issue and will be addressing it. Also asked about if there was a new policy about groups requesting Senate to send out emails on their behalf. Jess said that it was on an ad hoc basis based on whether groups had a chance to meet, but meant to phase out after time.
   d. Tony asked about the centers and institutes, Jess said ongoing discussion with them regarding email.
   e. Ravi said that there was a LLM concern about the van service, foreign licenses. Said that NY and rental car services recognize his EU license, but Columbia does not. Concern about discrimination against foreign students.

7. Announcements.
   a. Blood Drive, Nov. 2nd, sign up!
   b. Amaris asked whether anyone had Twister for Open and Notorious.

8. Adjournment at 10:38.