

SENSE OF THE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SENATE  
RECOMMENDATION ON A GRADUATE STUDENT CENTER

WHEREAS, interdisciplinary interaction in an academic community is a key institutional priority for Columbia University, an idea broadly endorsed by faculty as crucial for comprehensive graduate education; and

WHEREAS, graduate students and postdoctorals have expressed a strong desire to strengthen the academic community via increased interdisciplinary interaction in formal and informal contexts; and

WHEREAS, existing facilities on both the Morningside and Medical campuses are unsuited to increasing interdisciplinary interaction or building an academic community among graduate students and postdoctorals; and

WHEREAS, graduate students and postdoctorals are the only academic constituency at Columbia University which do not have a dedicated space; and

WHEREAS, proposals for a Graduate Student Center have in the past been discouraged by the lack of space and funds, both of which are available at present; and

WHEREAS, a Graduate Student Center would enhance the quality and competitiveness of Columbia University's Master's, Ph.D., and postdoctoral programs relative to our peers, almost all of which already have such centers; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Campus Planning and Physical Development has successfully executed its mandate to "advise the administration and the Trustees on faculty, student and staff concerns, priorities and particular projects" by producing the [attached report](#) on the rationale, needs, and feasibility of a Graduate Student Center.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RECOMMENDED

That the University Senate endorses the conclusions of the report and respectfully recommends the President and Trustees of Columbia University to consider the creation of an interim Graduate Student Center, subject to space and fundraising considerations.

PROPOSERS

Campus Planning and Physical Development Committee  
Student Affairs Committee