COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY SENATE
STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

EMAILS REGARDING THE DIPLOMA DESIGNS

Executive Summary

Emails: 119 number of emails were answered by University Senator Matan Ariel

Dates: Occurred from March 31 to April 20

Themes: There were six major themes of the emails, which included:

a) In support of the diploma designs (6 number and 5.5% of total)
b) Against the initiative (8 number and 6.5% of total)
c) Latin vs. English (22 number and 18.5% of total)
d) When will the diplomas be awarded (15 number and 12.5% of total)
e) General Questions (36 number and 30% of total)
f) Technical Difficultlutes (32 number and 26.5% of total)

Content: For University Senate records, the following document includes the content of the emails received and sent.
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I. IN SUPPORT OF THE INITIATIVE (6 e-mails)

Date: Thu, 1 Apr 2004 22:27:24 -0500
Subject: Diplomas
Thank you so much for the initiative. I recently received my Master of Arts in Mathematics Education and was quite disappointed in both the design (very boring and certainly not scholarly), and the fact that it read only "Master of Arts". I strongly believe that after close to $40,000 and a hell of a lot of rigorous coursework in mathematics that my diploma should at least recognize the specifics (that it is a Master of Arts in Mathematics Education). I hold my bachelors from an another Ivy League University, and the degree is beautiful - something I am proud to hang on my wall. I hope they change not only the design, but the specifics of degree earned.
Thanks!!!

Dear XYZ, Thanks for your support. If the initiative goes through we will have many more meetings with the administration, and the task force will bring up your suggestions.

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Date: Tue, 6 Apr 2004 16:38:28 -0400
Subject: doc student diploma design
i casted my vote - i think doc student design should be a little different from masters (e.g. golden or silver rim around the same design) - we worked very hard and deserve this distinction! :) warning - there are fewer of us (phd students) compared to masters and bach students - we may get overvoted!!! so i hope you do analysis re background of who voted for what (e.g. level, school, etc.) thanks, XYZ

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Date: Tue, 6 Apr 2004 13:09:53 -0700 (PDT)
Subject: [No Subject]
Hi! I'm a Teachers College doctoral student. I am glad to be able to participate in the diploma re-design. I really like the idea of an etching in the background, but was wondering if that etching might be more tailored for each school. For instance, for Teachers College students, it might have picture of the building viewed at an angle on 120th St. Varying the background etchings by school would make it more distinctive for students but not in a too obvious way. What do you think? My two cents! Keep up the great work!
Best, XYZ

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Date: Fri, 2 Apr 2004 16:23:17 -0800 (PST)
Subject: [No Subject]
i can't vote on april 5 but i like the choice with the columbia letters in blue; written in traditional calligraphy. not the one they have now and not the one with jsut the c and the u in blue with the etching in the background. please accept this as my vote

Dear XYZ The voting will take place for a full week, Monday April 5 – Monday April 12. The votes must be done via the online system to ensure one vote per registered student. We will not be able to add votes manually.

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Date: Tue, 13 Apr 2004 14:21:14 -0400
Subject: gratitude
Thanks very much for doing this entire Diploma facelift. It was much needed, and I sincerely thank you for all your efforts. Regards, XYZ, SEAS, 2004 (Masters student)
Dear XYZ, Thank you for your support, and we appreciate your vote. I would just like to stress that a change in the design, even if approved by the administration and Trustees, will not effect this year’s graduation.

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Date: Tue, 20 Apr 2004 14:14:31 -0400
Subject: Diploma Decision
Dear Diploma Committee,

I would like to express my strong support of design B. I believe design C is unreadable. Please, take this email under consideration.
Thank you,
XYZ
GS Student - Class 2005

Dear XYZ

The diploma vote is over. However, your comments will be added to the committee’s report.

II. AGAINST THE INITIATIVE (8 EMAILS)

Date: Fri, 9 Apr 2004 13:08:05 -0400 (GMT-04:00)
Subject: Re: Vote on your D I P L O M A
[Dean of Students], I haven’t seen the new diploma designs but I’m horrified by the idea that the old one might be tossed. They’re very regal looking and VERY Ivy League and, when framed properly, as mine is, they’re glorious to hang on a wall. Would it be ridiculous for me to offer to bring mine in and perhaps leave it with Toni or you for a day so people can see what it looks like other than from behind a display case? XYZ

Dear XYZ, By the content of your message, I am assuming that I am not the person you wanted to send this message to. As this is a university-wide issue, I do not know to which administrator to forward your message. The Task-Force spent a lot of time and effort on these proposals, and we hope to allow students to see their diplomas and have a possible say on their design before they graduate. I agree that some frames make the diploma look better. However, since the diploma’s size is irregular, custom framing or the purchase of a special frame from the bookstore is required. We believe that the diploma should look good without the need of paying $125 (the cheapest frame in the bookstore). The decision on changing the design is not up to the students, but to the University President and Trustees. We will pass your comments (anonymously) with our report to the administration. If there is anything I can do to help with setting up an additional display, with your framed diploma, please let me know and I will do so gladly. One of our main goals is to have as many students as possible see the current and proposed design.

Dear Matan, I intended to send my response to [Dean of Students] and I apologize if my sentiments insulted you. That said, they are my sentiments, in particular as the first person in the history of the University to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Film Studies, (magna cum laude, GS 1992, the first year that particular degree was conferred). I had my "old" diploma professionally framed for less than the $125 you cite, and I would be happy to loan it to you for display if you would like. I have a very sentimental attachment to Columbia, having graduated from the University ten years ago and having returned last fall as a graduate student. I am so much looking forward to having my SoA degree hanging on my wall next to my BA degree--how many students can say they hold degrees from the same University conferred in two subsequent centuries?--that perhaps my passion got away from me. My former Columbia degree is so meaningful to me that it is the ONLY thing hanging on its wall. Again, my apologies. If I can be of assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me. XYZ GS, class of 1992 SoA, First Year Film, class of 2006

Dear XYZ, I was not at all offended. As a member of the task-force, I am happy to see that the issue in hand is indeed of importance to many members of the Columbia community. Your feelings about the diplomas
will not go unnoticed. The results of the university-wide poll, as well as copies of all the e-mails the taskforce has received in the last week (leaving out identifying information) will be submitted to the administration. I can assure you that any decision will take into account your, and others', concerns. If Director of Student [XYZ] agrees, I will provide him with copies of the diplomas to join your framed diploma. In order to comply with the instructions of the Registrar's office, the diplomas will have to be under the supervision of an administrator or locked behind a glass display.

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Date: Fri, 09 Apr 2004 18:06:24 -0400
To: diploma@columbia.edu, opinion@columbiaspectator.com
Subject: Please don't change my diploma.

I am finally nearing completion of my fourth (and final) Columbia degree and the University Senate wants to make this one look like an advertising brochure. Take a quick look at http://www.columbia.edu/cu/diploma/ and you'll see that the University Senate is conducting a poll on the adoption of one of two new designs for university diplomas. The designs make it clear that they don't fully understand what a diploma is or should look like. There is something stately about the simplicity of the traditional diploma: Text (in Latin or English), the seal, and the signatures of the President and the Dean of the school from which you graduate. The background is a parchment ivory color. If you compare this design to those of peer institutions (Harvard and Yale I've seen), they are of the same model: simplicity, no pretension. The proposals would radically change the design to one that incorporates graphics, blue flourishes, a white piece of paper that looks like it has been designed as a part of a marketing campaign. The last thing most people would call me conservative, but on this issue I'm positively Burkanian.

Marketing styles come and go. Do you want today's idea of good advertising design to sit on your wall for the rest of your life, glaring for its tendency to attract attention by any means? The Senate offers three arguments for the change: 1) Student Complaints. Apparently some student was displeased about the plain off-white piece of paper s/he received after years of hard work and toil (not to mention money). Shouldn't there be something big, bold, and brash for all that pain? The answer is no. Beyond the education and the right to put a few letters after your name, the symbol of those things should signify them in a way that calls attention to the achievement, not the symbol of the achievement. Think about this for a second and you'll see what I mean. Go back and ask Jostens (the firm contracted to design the new diplomas) which school rings have been selling best since they started giving choices and I bet they'll tell you it's the signet rings: a simple school crest rather than the large ostentatious ones with the huge stones. Not only do fads for the style of ostentation wax and wane (while a diploma must last a lifetime), but an institution like Columbia shouldn't have to force its way into your attention, it should stand on its own merits. And it does, in the current design. 2) 250. The Senate website states: "While we respect the tradition of the last 100 years, we believe that as Columbia celebrates its 250th year, we can create a new tradition that represents the prestige of our institution." Notice, this isn't an argument; it's a defense, an excuse. The obvious point is that as we celebrate 250 we are looking for bridges to the past, to our shared tradition; it should not be seen as an excuse to depart from it. Everyone who has graduated from any school at Columbia in the last 100 years has a diploma that looks basically the same as everyone else who has done so. Now, all of a sudden, the link to those people, those symbols, will be broken. As I already pointed out, the prestige of our institution is better represented by a simple design.3) The change in administration. "As a symbolic gesture to the Columbia University community, we seek to create new diplomas that illuminate the proactive and innovative initiatives supported by the new administration." This is an administration that has already come under heavy criticism for its ostentation and lavishness during a difficult time for our country. This proposal will rightfully give those critics new ammunition. Additionally, if this argument is to be accepted, the new design should begin with the NEXT administration since many degrees will have already been granted with President Bollinger's signature on the old design. But seriously, why does this particular administration merit a new diploma design when 100 years of previous administrations have not? I already have three degrees signed by three different presidents of Columbia University. The great thing about those diplomas is their similarity and their simplicity. Why should the next one look completely different and make me feel as though I am hanging up a poster like those I used to hang in my dorm rooms? Those who are members of the Senate should reconsider this proposal; those who are members of the Board of Trustees should vote against it then presented; those who are students should go online and vote for the
current design. Sincerely, XYZ, A.B. ’93, M.A. ’94 M.Phil. ’03, Ph.D. ’04? [<---- Please don't make me ashamed to hang this one on the wall with the others.]

Dear XYZ, Thank you very much for participating in the diploma vote. Unlike yourself, most students at Columbia University have never seen the University’s diploma before, so we encourage you to keep informing other members of the community on this initiative. All we ask, is that as many students as possible get a chance to look at the current and proposed designs and make an informed decision. A full list of display locations can be found online at www.columbia.edu/cu/diploma/. I would also like to correct two of your points. 1) The diploma redesign project is an initiative of the Student Affairs Committee of the University Senate. The full Senate has not made any official action regarding the diplomas. 2) All diplomas in the upcoming May graduation will be of the current design, regardless of the results of the poll. You will receive the same design you did in the past.

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Date: Tue, 13 Apr 2004 21:03:00 -0400
Subject: Redesign
To whom It May Concern, I believe that we should not break the tradition unless there is good reason to do so. I have discussed this with my fellow colleagues and they agree as well. Although the effort for the proposed diploma is admired, I question the intention of such a redesign. Are we now in the business to market our diploma? Have we decided to follow trends and not preserve our uniqueness? For whom are we considering such a change? If the argument can be made that we are aligning our presentation with the other Ivy League institutions, then the change may perhaps be substantiated. Have we examined samples of diplomas from various elite institutions in the US and abroad? Most feel that aesthetics alone is not compelling enough to create and effectuate such a change. In response to the current oversized diploma dimension, I ask, why is it not agreeable that we remain distinguishable from other academic institutions? Is it not pleasing to know that our diploma has been consistent over time and that heads of state as well as other notable alumni embrace the same diploma? Change is always good, but in this case does the intent (whatever that may be) justify such change? XYZ, MA ’04 Doctoral candidate ’06. PS: I ask if perhaps the current standard can be augmented (should the interest group press for change) by adding the proposed etching of Columbia in its background? ..or perhaps the standard can be translated to Latin?..consistent with the undergraduate degrees? again, what do the other Ivy League universities do? Consistency with their standards is key to maintaining integrity and respect for our presentation.

Dear XYZ, Thank you for your comments. If you believe that the diplomas should not be changed, then by all mean do vote for the current design. The Task-Force did review diplomas of peer institutions. There is no one “Ivy” design, nor is there a consistency in Language. Some of the other undergraduate Ivy League schools have Latin diplomas, others have English. Two of the Columbia undergraduate schools have English diplomas, and two have Latin. Regarding the size of the diploma: a unique size also means a unique frame. Some of the students’ complaints that led to our review, was that the diploma frames cost too much. The irregular size means you need to have the diploma costume framed or purchase the frames sold in the bookstore. Currently, the cheapest frame is $125. This by itself is not the main reason for the review, just an example to the long discussions at the Task-Force meetings. In any event, I encourage you to inform other students about the vote, so that they may look at the diplomas in one of the display locations. Your comments will be added to a report to the administration (omitting identifying information).

Hi Matan, Thank you so much for your speedy and very thorough response. Let me just say that I did vote prior to sending you the email. Furthermore, I will definitely encourage others to vote on this initiative. Just a brief comment on the framing and size of the diploma. I have priced similars at various school and as well, priced traditional framing at various Framing Stores. Oddly, I have two other degrees that need to be framed. I have found that the frames in the school bookstores, regardless of the size are the same. I have a friend who just graduated from a small Catholic university in Florida who is complaining of the same and she has the standard dimension. I recently priced frames at my old alma mater Tufts University and discovered that the pricing is exactly the same with $125.00 as the least expensive of the options. the Tufts degree is also in the standard format. Custom Framing starts at $85.00 and up unless one buys a ready made
frame (usually cheaper); however, this is a chance of luck endeavor. Considering what I stated previously, I strongly believe that the apparent low response is attributable to the fact that most students do not clearly understand the rationale or significance of this proposal. Perhaps if it were marketed to the student body in another way, as in an affirming future text like: moving forward with a new image of the university for the 21st century coupled with a new mission and vision statement...etc. the effort would been better received. In this way, the diploma redesign would be a bi-product of the proposed innovation. Such a campaign sponsored by the President would add credibility and strength to this effort. Thanks again XYZ

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Date: Wed, 14 Apr 2004 21:32:06 -0400
Subject: CU Diploma Redesign
I oppose it. XYZ, CC ’68

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Date: Thu, 15 Apr 2004 21:44:27 EDT
Subject: Diploma redesign
To the Columbia University Senate:
Please record another opinion--mine--against the redesign of the Columbia diploma. The new designs seem to me to put too much emphasis on the name and honors of the individual graduate, and too little on the University, and soon membership in the community of scholars which the diploma signifies. Sincerely,
XYZ, ’69C, M.A. ’71

Dear XYZ, The vote is only open for current students. However, your comments will be included in a report to the administration (leaving out personal information).

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Date: Fri, 16 Apr 2004 18:33:27 -0400
Subject: diploma redesign

Hello,

I'm respectfully writing to let you know I think a redesign is a bad idea, and that the proposed alternatives are ridiculous. The original design has quirkiness and authenticity. The nonstandard size and simplistic design are a part of that. It's unlike any other university diploma and that is its value. The proposed alternatives are GENERIC designs offered by a printing company with no vested interest in the university. The only distinction between our diploma and the one for "Joe's Veneer Online University" would be the differing school colors.

My undergraduate diploma was in Latin, and it was really big. Sure it was harder to frame and had to come with a translation, but it had charm and history.

I admire your initiative, but I hope you will reconsider your position and choose to leave the symbol we take from here of our achievements untouched.

Best Regards,
XYZ
Graduate Architecture

Dear XYZ

Thank you for your comments. Your e-mail will be added to the report that will be sent to the administration.
**III. LATIN VS. ENGLISH (22 E-MAILS)**

Date: Tue, 30 Mar 2004 19:17:27 -0500  
Subject: Diploma  
Hello, I am interested in the issue of the diplomas. Will the change in diplomas also present a change in language? Will SEAS diplomas be issued in Latin from now on?

*Dear XYZ, The Student Affairs Committee is proposing a change in layout, not in language. Each school would keep the language of its current diploma. Your school’s diploma is in English, and would stay in English.***

Date: Mon, 5 Apr 2004 19:17:33 -0400  
Subject: Diplomas  
For the GS diploma, is their an option to have the diploma in Latin?

*Dear XYZ, The vote is on the design of the diplomas, not on the language. The diplomas, if changed, would stay the same language as your school’s current diploma - English.***

Date: Mon, 5 Apr 2004 22:59:49 -0400  
Subject: RE: Diplomas  
Why isn't the survey also asking about the language? This has always been an issue with a number of students at GS and this survey would be a good opportunity to find out what the students think about the language on the diploma.

*Dear XYZ, While this has been an issue for some GS students, it is not what the task-force is looking into. We are concerned with creating a new design. The GSSC discussed the issue in its September 30, 2003 meeting, and voted to support English designs. [http://www.columbia.edu/cu/gssc/GSSCminutes9-30-2003.pdf](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/gssc/GSSCminutes9-30-2003.pdf)*

Date: Mon, 5 Apr 2004 21:12:44 -0400  
Subject: Re: Vote on your DIPLOMA today!  
Are the proposed diplomas in Latin or English? I am unable to tell from the samples. XYZ

*Dear XYZ, The vote is on the design of the diplomas, not on the language. The diplomas, if changed, would stay the same language as your school’s current diploma.*

Dear Matan, I understand that both Columbia College and Barnard students had the opportunity to vote on the language of their diploma. Matan, I know you are aware that this is an important issue for many General Studies students. Once a decision is made on a new design for the diploma, it is unlikely that the issue will be revisited for quite some time. I am sure the entire Diploma Task Force would agree that GS students should have a say in this very important decision.

*Dear XYZ, I understand that this is an important issue, however, the task-force is dealing with the university-wide issue of design, not the GS-specific issue of Latin vs. English. Barnard’s registrar’s office, and the Barnard design, are not under the control of the Columbia University registrar’s office. As far as I know, the Barnard council did not ask their students if they preferred Latin or English. The CCSC asked their students if they would like to keep their 250 year-old tradition during their student council elections. FYI, the GSSC addressed the issue of Latin vs. English at the beginning of the year: [http://www.columbia.edu/cu/gssc/GSSCminutes9-30-2003.pdf](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/gssc/GSSCminutes9-30-2003.pdf)*
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Date:      Mon, 5 Apr 2004 22:08:13 -0400
Subject:   Re: New Columbia University Diploma.
I think that the new suggested diploma layouts are all bad. The name of Columbia University is not
recognizable since it is written in Latin or Old English. They look diplomas from some University in
Germany and not something that had to do with Columbia University, the Ivy League, and/or New York
City. A diploma in Latin is fine, but at least the name and logo of Columbia University should be in
English. Thanks, XYZ.

Dear XYZ, The diplomas on the online display have been corrupted to prevent forgery. In the actual design,
Columbia University is very clear. Please take a look at one of the actual displays. You can see them in
Lerner, Butler, Hamilton and even in the GS Dean of Students Office.

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Date:      Tue, 6 Apr 2004 05:50:20 -0400
Subject:   Diploma question
Hi, Will General Studies diplomas be written in Latin, as are the diplomas of Columbia College and
Barnard? If not, will GS grads be able to opt individually for a Latin diploma? Thank you, XYZ

Dear XYZ, The vote is on the design of the diplomas, not on the language in which they are written. Each
school will keep its current language – GS will keep an English diploma. Individuals are not able to opt for
different diplomas.

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Date:      Tue, 6 Apr 2004 19:38:17 -0400
Subject:   Re: Columbia University diplomas
Dear Matan and [GSSC President],
Thank you for your efforts to redesign our University diplomas. As I am reading yesterday’s Spectator
article over the proposed alternate diplomas (page 1), I am not just surprised but offended that Barnard
College and Columbia College were given an option to vote to keep their diplomas in Latin or change them
to English, but we General Studies students are not. The results were overwhelmingly in support of Latin
(1078 to 274). Should General Studies students be treated any differently, and to whom can I address my
concern? I know of other students at GS who share this sentiment. Is there any way that we too could be
offered to select the classical language to our traditionally classic Ivy League University diploma, while
this effort to amend our diplomas is under way? If our diplomas are successfully redesigned, it will be the
first time in nearly a century. This may be the only opportunity we have to act on this. Thanks, and best
wishes, XYZ

Dear XYZ, I understand that this is an important issue, however, the task-force is dealing with the
university-wide issue of design, not the GS-specific issue of Latin vs. English. Barnard’s registrar’s office,
and the Barnard design, are not under the control of the Columbia University registrar’s office. As far as I
know, the Barnard council did not ask their students if they preferred Latin or English. The CCSC asked
their students if they would like to keep their 250 year-old tradition during their student council elections.
FYI, the GSSC addressed the issue of Latin vs. English at the beginning of the year:

Dear Matan, Thank you for your reply. I still believe that the Latin issue needs to be further explored. I read
the transcript you sent me of the GSSC 30 September 2003 meeting, but I do not see that this issue was
seriously debated. The issue being thus addressed as "authoritative-licious", while a creative and comical
term, does not take seriously this concern that I know has been brought up by several of my fellow General
Studies students. Best wishes, XYZ

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Dear XYZ, While the minutes appear short, the discussion was actually longer and serious. Furthermore, the quote “authoritative-licious” is actually by one of the GSSC’s strong supporters of a Latin diploma. As part of the report to the administration, we will be passing all the e-mails the task-force received during this period (leaving out the senders’ identifying information). Your support of a Latin diploma will be included in this report. However, again, the Diploma Task-Force is concerned with the layout of the diploma, not with the language in which it is written.

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Date: Wed, 7 Apr 2004 10:00:17 -0400 (EDT)
Subject: Where can we choose language?
The diploma design web-site: https://www1.columbia.edu/sec/ce/foralma/vote/SEAS_ugrad/ballot.html doesn't specify a language, how can we show our support or indifference? Will it be a separate poll? -- XYZ

Dear XYZ, The diploma vote is for the design of the diploma, not the language in which it is written. The diplomas online are in gibberish. Each school would keep the language it currently has on the diploma – SEAS would be in English.

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Date: Wed, 7 Apr 2004 12:53:16 -0400
Subject: New Diploma Style
I am glad that you are redesigning the diploma. I have seen a sample of the current diploma in the book stores and have always thought that it was too simple and undistinguished for a university that has as storied a history as Columbia University does. That said, I would also like to propose to you that the diploma be written in Latin. I know Columbia College's diploma is written in Latin and my undergraduate diploma from Fordham University is also written in Latin. Latin would add an extra level of elegance and distinguishment to the diploma that represents an education from Columbia University. I hope you will consider this. XYZ

Dear XYZ, The diploma vote is for the design of the diploma, not the language in which it is written. Each school would keep the language it currently has on the diploma. Thank you for voting and I will pass your suggestion to the task-force.

Dear Matan, Thank you. That's all I ask. XYZ

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Date: Wed, 7 Apr 2004 14:46:25 -0400
Subject: Diplomas for the School of General Studies
Dear Student Affairs Committee, I'm a student in the School of General Studies. Will the diplomas for our school be the same as those for Columbia College, e.g., will they be in Latin, too? Personally, I hope they're the same in all respects. Thanks for your attention. Sincerely, XYZ

Dear XYZ, The diploma vote is for the design of the diploma, not the language in which it is written. Each school would keep the language it currently has on the diploma – GS would be in English.

***

Date: Thu, 8 Apr 2004 19:01:48 -0400
Subject: a question
hi, just wondering if the diploma will be in Latin? i saw the examples which were all in English but i thought they were usually not. thanks, XYZ
Dear XYZ,
The vote is on the design of the diploma, not the language in which it is written. Each school would keep the language it currently has. All the schools that give the standard diploma, except CC, have English diplomas. CC has a tradition of 250 year of Latin diplomas.

thanks so much for your response! - XYZ

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Date: Sun, 11 Apr 2004 00:51:48 -0400
Subject: Diploma designs
I prefer the diplomas written in Latin. Which of the designs will continue that tradition?
- XYZ

Dear XYZ, The diploma vote is on the design, not on the language in which the diploma is written. Each school would keep the language it currently has – as a CC student, you will continue to get a Latin diploma.

Awesome. I was just wondering 'cause some of the ones on display are Written in English. Best, XYZ

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Date: Mon, 12 Apr 2004 19:05:32 -0400
Subject: GS Diploma redesign proposal
Dear Sir/Madam, Will the diploma for General Studies (GS) also be written in Latin as opposed to English as is the case with all other undergraduate diploma formats at Columbia?

Dear XYZ, The vote is on the design of the diplomas, not on the language in which they are written. Each school would keep the language it currently has. All Columbia diplomas are in English except for CC, Barnard and Law School diplomas which are in Latin. SEAS and GS diplomas are in English.

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Date: Mon, 12 Apr 2004 21:00:34 -0400
Subject: [No Subject]
Will the Ph.D. diplomas remain in Latin? If so, it seems that the current, traditional design is more appropriate.

Dear XYZ. The vote is on the design of the diplomas, not the language in which they are written. Each school would keep the language it currently has. All the diplomas at Columbia, with the exception of Law and Columbia College and Barnard College diplomas, are in English. Law, CC and BC are in Latin. Your school, TC, would keep an English diploma.

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Date: Mon, 12 Apr 2004 21:33:31 -0400 (EDT)
Subject: diploma votes
Hi, I noticed there was nowhere to vote about what language the diploma should be in. I’d like to vote for Latin. How will that be determined? Thanks, XYZ

Dear XYZ, The vote is on the design of the diploma, not the language in which it is written. Each school would keep the language that it currently has. You school, GS, would keep an English diploma.

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Date: Tue, 13 Apr 2004 11:43:41 -0400
Subject: Latin?
Hello, I did my undergraduate work at Brown and I know that they and Princeton have their diplomas in Latin. Is this common only for undergraduate degrees? Why? I am finishing up my doctorate at Columbia now and all of my Master's degrees have been in English and are not terribly distinctive. Will the doctorate diploma be in Latin? That would be great. Thanks for your time. Sincerely, XYZ

Dear XYZ, All Columbia University diplomas are in English, except the Columbia College and Law School diplomas. Students have mixed feeling on Latin vs. English diplomas. There is no rule on the language of degrees. I will pass your comments to the administration for their consideration.

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Date: Wed, 14 Apr 2004 15:33:19 -0400
Subject: Diploma Redesigning
Will my GSAS diploma be in Latin? I hope so--you'd think an ivy league diploma would at least be in Latin! Thanks, XYZ

Dear XYZ, The vote is on the design of the diplomas, not the language in which they are written. Each school would continue to award diplomas in the same language as they do now. Your school, GSAS, would continue to award English diplomas. When will the new diplomas we awarded?

***

IV. WHEN WILL THE CHANGE BE IMPLEMENTED? (15 e-mails)

Date: Mon, 5 Apr 2004 21:54:37 -0400
Subject: [No Subject]
hello, just wondering, do you know when the new diplomas will be adopted? i'm graduating in December and would love to have the new one. (the old ones really do stink :-)) thanks, XYZ

Dear XYZ, We don't know if, and when, a decision regarding the diplomas will be made. Once the voting ends we will present the results to the administration and take it from there.

***

Date: Tue, 6 Apr 2004 15:36:09 -0400
Subject: Question about Diplomas and Frames
Dear Committee- Hello! I just received the info about the diploma redesign, and just have a couple of questions: 1) I am a graduate of Columbia College, but have not yet framed my diploma. I was planning to purchase the standard frame in the bookstore-- will the ones available this year not fit the old diploma style? 2) I will graduate from the Mailman School of Public Health next year, and am curious about a) has the committee thought about whether the "new" diploma will look strange if hung beside an "old" diploma (for those of us who have more than 1 degree from C.U.), and 2) will the new diploma fit in the old diploma frames offered by the bookstore (meaning, should I purchase 2 frames this year so that my 2 Columbia degrees will match one another in terms of the frame, or will the old frame not work on the new diploma?) Thank you so much for your attention to my questions- I really appreciate it. XYZ, CC '98 M.P.H. Candidate, Spring 2005

Dear XYZ, 1) a new design, if approved, would not be in effect for this ear's graduation. Therefore, the bookstore's current stock of frames should fit your CC diploma. 2) We do not think that a new design would look strange next to the old, just like an undergraduate degree from one university does not look strange next to a master degree from another university. 3) Since we do not know if a new design would be approved for next year's graduation, I can't answer on the purchase of your future diploma's frame. However, I see no reason not to wait with the purchase of a future diploma until near graduation day.

***
Date: Tue, 6 Apr 2004 19:54:23 -0400
Subject: New Diploma for 2004
Dear Diploma Committee, I am very excited about the new Columbia diploma and wanted to thank the committee for their hard work in designing the two choices. Either is a huge improvement over the current one. However, as a prospective 2004 graduate who has looked forward to receiving my MA degree in Columbia's 250th year, you can imagine my disappointment when I read that I would not be eligible to receive this new diploma. Is there any way that the 2004 graduates can petition CU to request that they, too, receive the new design in Columbia's 250th year? I realize that it takes time to print the new design. I don't mind waiting a few months for it to be sent to me. After all, the new design is one that I would hang on my wall the rest of my life. Regards, XYZ@columbia.edu

Dear XYZ, Not only have this May's diplomas already been printed and are ready for graduation day, but any Trustees-discussion on the approval of a new design, will only take place after graduation (the Trustees only meet 4 times a year). It is possible that the Trustees would a) not approve a new design b) decide to have a totally different design c) approve the design but wait until 2006 or later d) move quickly based on the results of this survey. In short, we do not know what will happen, and when something will happen. However, we appreciate your vote and support.

***

Date: Tue, 6 Apr 2004 20:31:52 EDT
Subject: Question
I am wondering if once our degrees are awarded (I am graduating this May) if we could have our degrees updated with the new design stating our area of study? Thanks.XYZ

Dear XYZ I am sorry, but even if a new design is approved, it will not have any effect on this year's graduation. The registrar's office only handles replacements under the conditions stated in the following website: http://www.columbia.edu/cu/registrar/dgre_faqs.html
http://www.columbia.edu/cu/registrar/dgre_repldipl_form.html

***

Date: Fri, 9 Apr 2004 21:31:13 -0400
Subject: Diploma selection
To whom it may concern, I was wondering if a graduate of 2004 can hold out receiving a diploma until the 2005 change. The current diploma resembles one from elementary school without the calligraphy.
Sincerely, XYZ

Dear XYZ, I am sorry, but even if a new design is approved, it will not have any effect on this year's graduation. The registrar's office only handles replacements under the conditions stated in the following website: http://www.columbia.edu/cu/registrar/dgre_faqs.html
http://www.columbia.edu/cu/registrar/dgre_repldipl_form.html

Matan Ariel, What I was asking was whether I can hold out on receiving a diploma - meaning I wouldn't get one at the time of graduation and wait to receive one when it becomes professional looking and not one from grade school. I am certain this diploma will be changed and I know this affects the 2005 class. I would rather wait till 2005 to receive my diploma then accept what is offered now. Sincerely, XYZ

Dear XYZ This year’s diplomas have been ordered and printed a few months ago. There is no certainty that the diplomas will change, and there is no certainty that if they do change that it will be implemented for the 2005 graduations. I have no control over what the Columbia University administration and Trustees will do. Furthermore, I see in the directory that you are a TC student, the TC registrar’s office has its own contract with Jostens (the diploma vendor). I understand that my answer might not satisfy your concern, but as a student representative on the Task Force for redesigning the diplomas, I have no other answer except to refer you to the official rules on replacing diplomas.
I understand, thanks!

***

Date: Sat, 10 Apr 2004 02:58:12 -0700
Subject: quick question
Are our votes actually going to matter for this year? Or are we just expressing our opinion? Thanks.

Dear XYZ, The results of the vote will not change the diplomas in the upcoming May graduation. However, even if you are graduating, we appreciate your vote and opinion.

***

Date: Mon, 12 Apr 2004 17:55:36 -0400
Subject: New Diploma
Hi! I will be graduating this May--I was wondering if there is any way the current graduating students can get the new diploma. I would be willing to wait until January for it, if I could receive the newer design. Please let me know. Thanks! Sincerely, XYZ

Dear XYZ, I am sorry, but even if a new design is approved, it will not have any effect on this year’s graduation. The May diplomas were already printed in January.

***

Date: Tue, 13 Apr 2004 10:51:16 -0400
Subject: re:diploma designs
Hi Will the new design be applied towards the diplomas we will be receiving next month? XYZ

Dear XYZ, A change in the diploma design, if approved, will not have any effect on the May 2004 graduation. However, even if you are graduating, we appreciate your vote.

***

Date: Tue, 13 Apr 2004 12:07:53 -0400 (EDT)
Subject: when?
To whom it may concern, I am graduating in May and I'm curious whether the new diploma design will be available by then. I hope so, since I like the new one much better (either!). Thanks, XYZ

Dear XYZ, I am sorry, but a change in design, even if approved by the administration and Trustees, will not have an effect on this year’s graduation.

***

Date: Wed, 14 Apr 2004 15:04:09 EDT
Subject: Graduation 2004
Will the diplomas handed out in this upcoming graduation (May 2004) reflect the new or the old design?

XYZ
GSAS?

Dear XYZ

A change in design, even if approved by the administration and Trustees, will not effect this year’s graduation. However, we appreciate the votes of all students, including those graduating in May.
Date: Wed, 14 Apr 2004 21:39:25 -0400
Subject: Question
Hi, I am graduating this may 2004, and was wondering if the new diploma will apply to us, or is this for the next year graduating class. Thanks

Dear XYZ, A new diploma design, even if approved by the administration and Trustees, will not effect this year's graduation.

***

Date: Thu, 15 Apr 2004 01:22:07 -0400
Subject: This year's Graduating Class
Hi,

I am a graduate student and I am really happy to see that the diploma design is being changed. Unfortunately, I am under the impression that this year's graduating class will not see these changes. Is that true? If so, is it possible for students that would like the new design on their diploma to purchase it after the fact? I am not sure if you can answer this, but it seems sad that after spending so much money here, the one thing that I have to show for it looks like an old photocopy. ;)...Thanks for hearing me out. XYZ

Dear XYZ, I am sorry, but even if a new design is approved by the administration and Trustees, it will not have any effect on this year's graduation. The diplomas are printed long before graduation, and the final designing process take a long time too. The registrar's office only handles replacements under the conditions stated in the following website: http://www.columbia.edu/cu/registrar/dgre_faqs.html and http://www.columbia.edu/cu/registrar/dgre_repldipl_form.html

***

Date: Thu, 15 Apr 2004 12:13:08 -0400 (EDT)
Subject: question
Hi.

When will the new diplomas come into effect? For what graduating class? Thanks, XYZ

Dear XYZ, We do not know when a change in the diploma design, if approved, will be implemented. We do know, however, that no changes will be made to this year's graduation.

***

IV. GENERAL QUESTIONS (36 e-mails)

Date: Mon, 05 Apr 2004 08:54:11 -0700
Subject: One of your Poll pages needs editing.

I noticed an error on http://www.columbia.edu/cu/diploma/history.html, which says that the diploma was designed about a century ago and "has not been unchanged since." Either is has been unchanged or it has not been changed. The double negative can't be correct.

Kindly,
XYZ '87C

Date: Mon, 05 Apr 2004 09:18:40 -0700
Subject: More editing errors
Oy. Please forgive my meddling, but there are a lot of errors on http://www.columbia.edu/cu/diploma/history.html in addition to the one I noted in my last email.

The statement that "the medical school changed their diplomas" is incorrect because the medical school is singular. "The medical school changed its diplomas" is correct.

The next sentence says the medical school uses "a very different design than the standard diploma." Things differ from one another, they do not differ than one another. It should say "a very different design from the standard diploma."

The paragraph about the law school's diplomas says "shortly after the medical school changed their diploma the law school redesigned their diplomas as well." Here again, the two occurrences of "their" need to be changed to "its".

On a more nit-picky level, the statement that "This design is similar to the standard diplomas" is also wrong because a design cannot be similar to a diploma; it can only be similar to another design. The text should read "This design is similar to that of the standard diplomas."

The next error is more glaring. It says that the School of Mines' "diplomas was extremely large." Again, it mixes singular and plural. Either the "diplomas were" or the "diploma was."

"If you would like to find out more on how the diplomas changed" should say "how the diplomas have changed."

There are three errors in the statement that "the Columbia University Archives, Columbiana, stores many original old diplomas." First, the word "Columbiana" refers to the university's artifacts and not to the office that holds them; it is called the Columbiana Library. Second, the archives and the Columbiana Library are not the same thing, even if they serve similar functions. Third, the statement mixes singular and plural by saying that the archives "stores" old diplomas. I suggest "the Columbiana Library stores" instead.

I have no idea what the phrase "a permanent diploma-displays" in the next sentence means.

I'll stop here, but I urge you to edit the page. Columbia has invited virtually all of its students to look at this page, and a lot of alumni like myself will do likewise. While an isolated error or two can be overlooked, there are just too many here.

As I said, please forgive my meddling. I just want to help my alma mater put her best foot forward.

Kindly,

XYZ, '87C

Dear XYZ, I apologies for the errors. We will make sure these are fixed as soon as possible. Thank you for pointing these out to us.

***

Date: Mon, 05 Apr 2004 15:13:08 -0400
Subject: diploma design questions

I had a few questions:

1) Would the new diploma be smaller or larger than the old diplomas (i know the new one is said to measure 11x14, but I'm not sure what is the old size)?
2) Are the diplomas for the PHD and other degrees (BA/MA) CURRENTLY the same or different? If so, what is different (ie. size, layout, etc)?

3) I noticed quickly when I looked at the diplomas a while back, that the seal on the new diplomas didn't have the "same look" as the new diplomas (the ink seemed raised in the older diploma). Is this a mistaken observation on my part, and the seals will be done in the same way? If I am correct, is it possible to recommend that the seal be done in the same quality as the first diploma?

Thank you so much.
Yours,
XYZ

Dear XYZ

1) The current design is 10.5 X 12.5. The new design would be larger.

2) Currently, the design of ALL diplomas except Law School and Medical School diplomas are the same.

3) The seal is to keep its look, but be larger. In order to have an actual larger seal, the plate with the real, larger seal will only be created if and when the Trustees approve the change in the diploma. The seal in the proposal is a suggestion of size and location.

Date: Mon, 05 Apr 2004 15:33:13 -0400
Subject: Re: diploma design questions

Dear Matan Ariel,
Thank you for your quick reply. I think this is a great idea which the task force has put forward, and a nice touch that the entire community is invited to "vote" on it! It will be interesting to see how all this plays out. Best wishes and good luck,
XYZ.

***

Date: Wed, 31 Mar 2004 07:43:44 -0800 (PST)
Subject: GSAS Diploma Change?
Dear Sir or Madam,

I'm wondering if the proposed changes to the CU diplomas will also affect GSAS? If not, how might we put this on the agenda?

Thanks in advance for your help,

XYZ
MEALAC & CCLS, GSAS

Dear XYZ

All Columbia students, including GSAS students, are asked to vote. If there is a majority for changing the diplomas, and if the University Trustees approve the change, the GSAS diplomas will be changed.

Voting will start Monday, and an e-mail with the link will be sent out in a few days.

***

Date: Thu, 1 Apr 2004 09:39:04 EST
Subject: (no subject)
As a Teachers College doctoral student, does our doctoral degree design differ from a doctoral student in the graduate school of arts and science??

*No, the design of the GSAS and the TC diplomas is the same.*

***

Date: Thu, 01 Apr 2004 10:07:14 -0500
Subject: Dipolma

Since I will not be able to visit the building to see the diploma will you post the suggested image on the web or maybe allow it to be viewed by a web cam?

*Dear XYZ*

The website will have images of the diplomas' design. For security reasons, these images will be corrupted in a way that will prevent forgery, but they will allow you to see the design.

***

Date: Tue, 6 Apr 2004 10:30:13 -0400
Subject: Re: Vote on your DIPLOMA today!

[XYZ],
I won't vote for any new or old format of the diploma. The big problem is not the diploma format, it's the old motto: "God is my light." Columbia ought to be (and in many ways is) a place that encourages tolerance and diversity. Using a Christian biblical reference in its motto is inconsistent with that aim. I will cherish and take great pride in my diploma always, but will likewise view the inclusion of that motto as incongruous with the education I've received there. thanks,

XYZ
GS Class of ’04.

***

Date: Tue, 6 Apr 2004 16:34:11 -0400
Subject: Redesign Initiative

Hi,

I have one question. I attempted to get this information from the website, but the links were not activated. Here is my question...what is the motivation or what events led to the proposal to redesign the diplomas? I guess I have a second question...is it customary to have different diplomas for PhD and MA students?

Thanks,
XYZ

Reasons for the Initiative
Student Complaints: The initiative was brought before the Student Affairs Committee of the Columbia University Senate after graduating students complained about the appearance of the diplomas. The committee was surprised to find that most students at Columbia never see their diploma until graduation. The Student Affairs committee agreed that there is much room for improvement in the appearance of the diplomas.

250th Anniversary: While we respect the tradition of the last 100 years, we believe that as Columbia celebrates its 250th year, we can create a new tradition that represents the prestige of our institution.
Change in Administration: As a symbolic gesture to the Columbia University community, we seek to create new diplomas that illuminate the proactive and innovative initiatives supported by the new administration.

We have been asked to explore the issue of different designs for doctoral students, so we are asking the student body. Each university has a different policy regarding diplomas.

***

Date: Tue, 6 Apr 2004 18:45:21 -0700 (PDT)
Subject: designs for diploma
Dear Planners,
I can see that a lot of effort went into setting up this voting and attempting to get input for the designs from many quarters. I do not wish to seem rude or disrespectful, but I am disappointed with the quality of the design choices for diploma. As a design professional, I must question why the committee did not seek the help of a high quality professional graphic artist for something as important as this? This is, after all, the twenty-first century; could we not have at least one contemporary design in the mix?
Thank you,
XYZ
Ed.D. student in Organization and Leadership, Teachers College
XYZ@columbia.edu

Dear XYZ

I am sorry you feel disappointed with the proposals. As a task-force, faced with so many design possibilities, we had to limit the final voting options to a minimum. We realize that not everyone can agree on designs and that personal taste differs from one person to another.

***

Date: Tue, 6 Apr 2004 22:41:58 -0400
Subject: D I P L O M A
Greetings,
I am concerned about an aspect of the 'Roman Design' of the new Diplomas which may or may not have been brought to your attention. The 'C' and 'U' are of uneven sizes in the display and are really quite noticeable. These letters should be changed for the final version of the Diploma, aside from this problem, the rest of the design is fine. If this boxed-in lettering doesn't look right, a better option would be to just use plain lettering for those two letters to match the rest of the font on the Diploma.
THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING US TO VOTE!!!

Sincerely,
A Concerned Soon-To-Be Graduating Student

Dear Soon-To-Be Graduating Student

Thank you for voting and for your comments. If and when a design is selected, we are sure to have more meetings and discussions with the administration.

***

Date: Tue, 6 Apr 2004 23:10:55 EDT
Subject: Question on Diplomas
This is a very difficult task. The diplomas do not enlarge when clicked on. I cannot make out the original version at all because, to prevent forgery, the type has been completely obliterated. I can't tell where in the two new versions it says Columbia U. and where it says the specific college from which the award was granted. (I realize that TC has a separate issue).
Sorry to be difficult. Just thought I'd provide feedback on why I am unable to vote.

Thanks so much. XYZ: XYZ@aol.com

Dear XYZ

I am sorry or the confusion. The largest line in each proposed new diploma is where “Columbia University” goes. The name of the individual school goes at the bottom right of the proposed designs, in a format of “Dean of the School of XYZ” (under the line) and that dean’s signature (above the line).

The images are supposed to enlarge when clicked on. Maybe your computer prevents pop-ups. If you are around campus, you can see the diplomas without the gibberish and blockings in the locations specified on the site.

Date: Wed, 7 Apr 2004 09:02:11 EDT
Subject: Re: Question on Diplomas
This is why I love going to school at Columbia: amazing and responsive people like you. Thank you for your quick response. I'll check out the diplomas at school and cast my vote. I'm looking forward to hanging the winner on my wall. XYZ

PS. I think you're right about the pop-up blockers preventing full view of the diploma. I finally got it to work.

***

Date: Wed, 7 Apr 2004 07:54:52 -0400 (EDT)
Subject: voting accessibility request
Hello,

I am a student at Barnard College and I would like to vote on the diploma design. However, I am blind and cannot see the proposed designs on the voting page. In the history section of your website, there is a very nice and detailed text description of the current design. Could you please provide me with a similar sort of description of the two proposed designs so that I can participate in the voting?

Thanks so much and I look forward to your response in the very near future.

XYZ

Dear XYZ

Thank you for you interest. Here is the description of the two proposals:

Design B: This “Times New Roman”-style design has fonts that are similar to a Times New Roman font. The words “Columbia University” have been separated to a line of their own, and are no longer in the same line as “The Trustees of Columbia University”. This makes the words “Columbia University” stand out more. The letters ‘C’ and ‘U’ are within squares of the color Columbia Blue, with leaf-like ornaments surrounding these letters. The next 2 center items in the diploma are the recipient’s name and their name of the degree. The university seal is now larger and centered at the bottom of the diploma. The signatures of the University President and the Dean are on both sides of the seal.

Design C: This design has a similar layout as far as content and layout. The difference is in the fonts. This is an “Old English”-style design. The entire headline of “Columbia University” is now written in Columbia Blue, and all of the text is curved and Old English fonts.

Both designs are offered with a faint watermark/etching of Alma Mater in the background of the text.
I hope this helps you. Please contact me again if you have any additional questions.

***

Date: Wed, 7 Apr 2004 14:00:04 -0400
Subject: [No Subject]

Why is there no display in the business school???

Dear XYZ

The task-force contacted many schools and departments, including the business school, asking for assistance with the display. Due to security reasons, the diplomas must be locked behind glass windows or under the responsibility of an administrator.

We would be more than happy to provide copies to any administrator or dean with a display location.

***

Date: Wed, 7 Apr 2004 15:20:31 -0400 (EDT)
Subject: broken links

Dear webmaster,

off of the voting page (Vote!), the links (leading to diploma history and the redesign initiative) are broken their URLs include /vote/ while they should not.

ie:
http://www.columbia.edu/cu/diploma/vote/history.html instead of
http://www.columbia.edu/cu/diploma/history.html

hope you can fix it so that others can more easily get at this info.

best regards,
XYZ
student, SEAS class of 2005
XYZ@columbia.edu

Dear XYZ

Thank you very much for pointing this out. I will ask the webmaster to fix this ASAP.

***

Date: Thu, 8 Apr 2004 10:24:43 -0400
Subject: My vote

Hi, I'm a Teachers College student ('04) and TC's publications manager. I voted, but I also have some comments. The Roman design is the best: clear, classic and easy to read. However, the type treatment for "Columbia University" is distracting and hard to read--it is difficult to read Columbia University as a unit of text, likely because it's in two different colors and the initial capitals are in a very different font. I would suggest looking at ways to adjust it. On the Old English template, for example, the Columbia University is one unit (all same type face) and it also stands out (in blue). Overall, I think the new designs are a great
improvement and I appreciate the University putting time into the process--wish I could get one! Thanks, XYZ

Dear XYZ

Thank you very much for you comments. Once the voting is over, we will discuss all the results and comments with the administration.

***

Date: Thu, 08 Apr 2004 23:12:27 -0400
Subject: comment

To whom it may concern:

I just voted online for design C from my student account (xyz) and now seeing the design in the library I'm struck by fact that the Old English type is fairly illegible. Any way you could compromise, and go for something simply easier to read?

XYZ

Dear XYZ

Thanks for voting. Regarding the “readability” of the design, we actually had people asking for more illegible fonts. We decided to go with these fonts for design ‘C’ because they were the best compromise between an Old English style and the ability to read the text. However, I will pass your comments to the Task Force. If you feel that you prefer to change your vote, you may do so as long as voting takes place. Only the last vote will count.

***

Date: Fri, 9 Apr 2004 13:48:33 -0400
Subject: Re: Vote on your D I P L O M A

does the link work?

Dear XYZ

The site should be up. If you are having problems logging-in and voting.

***

Date: Fri, 9 Apr 2004 15:40:43 -0400
Subject: Diploma voting

Hi,

I want to vote. I would like to look at the designs though and I'm not sure that I will want to vote right away. I don't want to lose my vote. Since it's only one vote per person, and UNI is required, I wanted to verify that I could enter my UNI to look at the choices, not vote, and enter my UNI again at a later time to actually vote.

Thanks!
XYZ

Dear XYZ
You may vote, and change your mind and vote again, as many times as you wish. Each new vote will nullify the previous ones, and only your last vote will count.

***

Date: Sun, 11 Apr 2004 18:36:41 -0400
Subject: Diploma vote

This is a terrible representation of what the diploma options are! The current one can't be read, and what is the purpose of having gibberish to read instead of a real, hypothetical example?

This is really unfortunate and severely disappointing.

XYZ
Health Science Campus
Nurse Anesthesia Program

Dear XYZ

In order to protect the integrity of the diplomas and to prevent forgery, the images online have been corrupted. They are there to help voters remember the choices when casting the vote. You may see the actual designs in the following Medical Center Campus locations:

** School of Nursing **
* Georgian Building
* 617 W. 168th St.
* Second Floor

** Presbyterian Hospital **
* PH 15 East
* Room 1512 – bulletin board

** School of Dental & Oral Surgery **
* 630 West 168th St. 7th floor
* Vanderbilt Clinic - across from patient waiting area

** School of Public Health **
* 722 W 168 St., 10th Floor
* Outside room 1030

***

Date: Sun, 11 Apr 2004 23:19:48 -0400
Subject: diploma

Hi,

I have always been curious about whether the undergraduate diploma specifies which school at Columbia, like CC, Barnard or GS, the student attended.

Thanks,
XYZ

Dear XYZ
The only place where the name of the school is mentioned, is next to the name of the Dean. In your case (GS), it would say “Peter Awn, Dean of the Faculty of General Studies”.

***

Date: Mon, 12 Apr 2004 10:29:32 EDT
Subject: Re: Last day to vote on new CU diploma design...

can we view a copy of the diploma design on line?

Once you log-in with your CUID and password, you will get to the voting page. This page has corrupted and gibberish images of the current and proposed diplomas.

***

Date: Tue, 13 Apr 2004 01:05:15 -0400
Subject: Fwd: D I P L O M A voting extended till Friday April 16

Hi.

i already entered and voted, is that all you have to do for this survey thing?

Dear XYZ

If you voted, there is no need to vote again. Thank you for participating.

***

Date: Tue, 13 Apr 2004 18:24:50 +0200
Subject: Doctoral Diplomas

If doctoral students vote "yes" to having a different doctoral diploma design, and that is the majority opinion, will we get to vote on alternatives or will a different design be selected automatically for us? Obviously, it would be great if we had the option to choose.

Thanks!

XYZ

Dear XYZ

I do not have an answer for you. Once the results of the university-wide poll are in, we will meet with the administration advocate the popular decision.

***

Date: Tue, 13 Apr 2004 13:29:30 -0400
Subject: diploma voting

Will the CC diploma, which hasn't changed in 250 years, remain the same no matter how I vote on the standard diploma?

Dear XYZ

The CC diploma has changed several times in the past 250 years.
The design of the CC diploma is the same as the standard design except for the fact that it is written in Latin. This standard/CC design has been consistent for about 100 years. Columbiana, the University Archives in Low Library, stores many of the university’s old diplomas.

If the overall vote turns-out to support a new design, and if the administration and Trustees accept the recommendation of the Task-Force, the design of the standard/CC diploma will change. Therefore, your vote does matter. Please note that any potential change will not effect this year’s graduation.

***

Date: Wed, 14 Apr 2004 12:36:14 -0400
Subject: where are the physical displays?

Please let me know where I could see the existing and proposed new diplomas?

Dear XYZ

A full list of display locations is listed on the website. If the diplomas are not found at the location, please let us know.

http://www.columbia.edu/cu/diploma/

***

Date: Wed, 14 Apr 2004 13:50:41 -0400
Subject: emba needs pdfs if possible

Hi, for global EMBAs who are not up at school until next month (or at all), it would be helpful if you could provide pdfs of the designs on the website. Is this possible? Otherwise, it is difficult for us to vote. Thanks,

XYZ

Dear XYZ

The website does have images of the diplomas. However, as you will notice, these images have been corrupted to prevent forgery. In order to see the diplomas you must use your CUID and password and log-in. You can log-in and vote as many times as you want, only your last vote will count.

Date: Wed, 14 Apr 2004 19:03:54 -0400
Subject: Re: emba needs pdfs if possible

Thank you!!

***

Date: Sat, 17 Apr 2004 13:16:58 -0400 (EDT)

Hello,

I'm sorry but I didn't get a chance to vote on the diplomas. If at all possible, I would like to add my voice in this matter. I would prefer about all to keep the diplomas in Latin. The etching of Alma Mater sounds intriguing. But I don't really care much about making the University seal larger/centered. But it might be nice to make a standard unique distinguishing feature for each school (maybe in the form of an additional seal or picture off to the side). Gold lettering would probably depend on the background color of the paper. And in some sense, though it is a bit of a nuisance, it's nice having a non-standard size diploma--makes us different and special.
Dear XYZ

Unfortunately, we are unable to manually add votes to the poll. However, your comments will be added to the report that will be sent to the administration (omitting your personal information).

***

Date: Sat, 17 Apr 2004 13:46:41 -0400 (EDT)
Subject: Bare-Breasted Alma Mater?
The new diploma designs feature a bare-breasted Alma Mater, which isn't the worst thing on earth, but is hardly close to the bronze statue on Low Library's steps. Let's hope this wasn't some sort of gag. Will this really be the Alma Mater on our diplomas?
Thanks for your time.
XYZ

Dear XYZ,

Thank you for your concern. While it might seem, to the naked eye, that Alma Mater is Bare-Breasted, she is in fact fully dressed. This is true both for the Columbia Seal and the proposed etching.

yes it is pretty funny looking though - thanks I am not like really worried - why would I care? but it is really not such a stretch of own's imagination to see it otherwise.

thanks have a good day and by the way - personally I have rethought the choices and I am for the old style.
Take Care, XYZ

***

Date: Mon, 19 Apr 2004 15:34:31 -0400
Subject: vote

I know the voting has ended, but can I see the different designs via email?

Dear XYZ

I am sorry, for security reasons the images of the diplomas were only accessible after log-in to the voting site. Now that the voting is over, we no longer offer the online images.

V. TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES (32 e-mails)

Date: Mon, 5 Apr 2004 21:17:09 -0400
Subject: Access

Hi, I've tried voting for the new diploma design but the system does not seem to recognize my CUNI. I am a Masters student in the School of Arts and Sciences.

My CUNI is: XYZ

Thank You,

XYZ

Dear XYZ
I apologize for the inconvenience. I am told that the problem was fixed and that you should be able to vote now. Please let me know if you have any additional difficulties.

***

Date: Mon, 5 Apr 2004 17:12:23 -0400
Subject: I do not use Columbia e-mail

And therefore have no idea what my account or password are. I cannot view the diplomas, much less vote. Please Help.

XYZ

Dear XYZ

The vote is only available for current, registered students. I can’t find you on the directory. Can you please send me your school affiliation and a name of a dean that can confirm your student status?

Date: Tue, 6 Apr 2004 15:35:38 -0400
Subject: RE: I do not use Columbia e-mail

I was able to resolve this problem through the Academic Computing Center. Thanks for your willingness to help and for the work you did.

XYZ

PS -- I liked the Roman one best! Contemporary, but with gravitas, not aping pretentiousness like Old English, nor as boring as the plain vanilla. As the recipient of a TC Masters diploma, I can honestly say that the most attractive thing about it is the frame. Thanks for pursuing the redesign.

***

Date: Mon, 5 Apr 2004 13:03:58 -0400
Subject: FW: Vote for your D I P L O M A

This email states:

"Images of the proposed designs are online."

Where exactly are these images? Thanks.

Dear XYZ

I apologize, due to technical difficulties the site was up for voting only after 3:30pm. We have extended the voting period by an extra day to compensate for the voting time lost yesterday (until next Tuesday).

Please click on the link below to log-in to the voting page, where you will be able to see gibberish images of the proposals.

***

Date: Tue, 06 Apr 2004 09:34:29 +0000
Subject: some CU students are out of town

Dear Diploma email person
You list a dozen sites at CU with diploma samples. What would be wrong about putting the design choices on-line? Why oblige anyone to go find the sites? I write from the perspective of someone who finished coursework in 2000 and is now finishing up dissertation etc., in effect, a distance ed student. I am rarely on campus [twice in 4 years]. http://www.columbia.edu/cu/diploma/ should include pictures. I went there expecting to see them.

- XYZ

Dear XYZ

Images of the diplomas ARE online. They are available after log-in. Please select your school from the list, then enter your ID and password to get to the secure voting page. Please notice that the images online have been corrupted or altered to gibberish, but the layout and style are still visible.

***

Date: Tue, 6 Apr 2004 08:59:58 -0400
Subject: access to page

Hello,

I have been trying to gain access to the diploma page. I put in my uni paw2103 and my password, but the site still denies me access. I am assuming that my password is the same as my email password. Any help you can give me is appreciated. My information is as follows.

School: Teachers College
Uni: XYZ

Thank you,

XYZ

Dear XYZ

You are not listed as a current student. The vote is only available for current, registered students. If there is a mistake with the directory information, please give us your dean's information so that we may confirm your student status.

Date: Wed, 7 Apr 2004 12:38:53 -0400
Subject: RE: access to page

Hi,

I am not exactly sure what 'dean's information' refers to, but I am an In-Step student in Music Education in the Arts and Humanities department. I take classes throughout the year and summer according to the In-step schedule. The next time I register for classes is the 18th of April for the summer semester.

Thank you,

XYZ

Dear XYZ
Sorry for the inconvenience. You should now be able to log-in with your university user-id and password.

***

Date:   Tue, 6 Apr 2004 16:03:56 -0400
Subject: [No Subject]

The views are unclear making it difficult to get an idea about which degree is best.

XYZ

Dear XYZ

For your connivance, the designs are clearly displayed in various locations on both campuses. Please refer to the list on the main page of the website (www.columbia.edu/cu/diploma). The images online are meant to help voters choose the design they mean to vote for.

***

Date:   Tue, 6 Apr 2004 17:40:27 -0400 (EDT)
Subject: voting

Hello,

I am a dual degree student in the School of Public Health and the medical school (P&S). I will be receiving both degrees this spring, but am currently registered as a medical student. I received a message from the SPH student affairs office that I should be able to vote on the new diploma; however, when I try to log in to the page, I am not permitted to view it (I assume because my registration is now in P&S).

Is there a way to bypass this to allow me to see my options and vote for the design of my diploma?

Thanks,

XYZ

Dear XYZ

I am sorry for the inconvenience. You should now be able to vote as a Public Health student.

***

Date:   Tue, 06 Apr 2004 17:49:31 -0400
Subject: Urgent question re diploma....

I definitely want to submit my vote. but tell me, how do I get to see an online version of the diploma ??

XYZ

Dear XYZ

Please click on the link below and follow the instruction to reach the voting page. There, after using your CUID and password, you will be able to see a corrupted version of the current diploma, and gibberish versions of the proposed diplomas. The site also has a list of display locations for a clear view.

***

Date:   Tue, 6 Apr 2004 19:14:39 -0400
Subject: voting

I am trying to vote, however it asks for a user name and password. What username and password are we supposed to use?

Dear XYZ

Please use your CUID and password (the same you would use to access other Columbia University online features such as CubMail). According to the directory, your ID is cmk2101. If you do not remember your password, follow the instructions on this page:


***

Date: Wed, 07 Apr 2004 00:47:24 -0400
Subject: voting question

Hi,

I tried to vote and was unable to. Can you clarify what is the uni and password. I tried my email and email password, and then my password for my academic accounts. Neither worked. Thanks.

XYZ

Dear XYZ

You are listed as a professor and employee. The vote is only available for current, registered students. If there is a mistake with the directory information, please give us your dean’s information so that we may confirm your student status.

Dear XYZ

Sorry for the inconvenience. You should now be able to log-in with your university user-id and password.

***

Date: Wed, 07 Apr 2004 09:37:06 -0400
Subject: Trying to vote...

Hi,

My UNI and password do not work for the voting initiative. Please advise.

Thanks,

XYZ, TC ’03

Dear XYZ

The vote is available only for current-registered students. According to your e-mail, you already graduated in 03. If this is a mistake, please e-mail us again and I will ask ACIS to look into this.

Date: Wed, 07 Apr 2004 09:57:07 -0400
Subject: Re: Trying to vote...
Thanks, Matan!
I must have received the "Vote" e-mail, erroneously.

Best,
XYZ

***

Date:    Wed, 7 Apr 2004 14:55:10 EDT
Subject: (no subject)
Hi,

I'm trying to log in to vote; but the page is not accepting my log in. I am wonder if there's a different user ID & password??

XYZ
XYZ@columbia.edu

Dear XYZ

The vote is only available for current, registered students. If you believe there is a mistake with our information, please include your school affiliation and the name of an administrator that can verify your student status.

Date:    Wed, 7 Apr 2004 16:02:43 EDT
Subject: Re: log in problem
I am currently enrolled in TC, Dept of Clinical & Counseling Psychology.

My name is XYZ.

my Columbia email is XYZ@columbia.edu

Dear XYZ

According to Acis, you should be able to vote as a TC student. If you are having problems with the password please go to:

http://www.columbia.edu/acis/tools/

to reset your password.

***

Date:    Fri, 9 Apr 2004 22:34:55 -0400
Subject: diploma vote
I can’t cast my vote. When I get to the login dialog box, I enter my cunix and password and it keeps displaying the same dialog box without granting me access. I don’t have any problems login in to cubmail or pine though. I’ve tried multiple times on several days. I e-mailed acis about this and I’ve received NO response so far. I’m really interested in voting. What should I do?

Dear XYZ

I am sorry for the inconvenience.

Some TC students have been having trouble accessing the site because they are listed as employees. On Monday morning I will contact the TC registrar’s office to confirm your student status and then ask Acis to give you access to the vote. I will let you know as soon as the problem is fixed.
Dear XYZ

You should now be able to vote.

Date: Mon, 12 Apr 2004 07:41:42 -0400
Subject: RE: diploma vote
Thank you so much! I did.

***

Date: Tue, 13 Apr 2004 09:31:25 -0400
Subject: diploma website

I have not been able to get into the website for the diploma although I have tried several times from different terminals on campus. Is there another way to get into the website?

XYZ

Dear XYZ

When you say you are not able to get to the site, do you mean you are unable to log-in, or that you do not see the webpage at all?

You should be able to get to the site by clicking on the link below, or copy-paste it to your browser window.

http://www.columbia.edu/cu/diploma/

As a GS student, you should be able to log-in using your CUID and password. Please let me know if the system does not allow you access to the voting page.

***

Date: Tue, 13 Apr 2004 10:05:38 -0400
Subject: Re: D I P L O M A voting extended to Friday April 16

I've tried to vote on several occasions... the system won't let me access the site. I can enter my UNI and password and then it just clears the screen and asks for the UNI and password again.

- XYZ
XYZ@columbia.edu

Dear XYZ

The vote is only open for current, registered students. The system identifies you as an employee. Can you please give me the name of your academic dean so that I verify your student status?

Date: Tue, 13 Apr 2004 10:14:45 -0400
Subject: Re: D I P L O M A voting extended to Friday April 16

XYZ in General Studies.

I'm not registered this semester.

- XYZ -
Dear Dean XYZ

I am a member of the Diploma Task Force. This week we initiated a university-wide vote on a possible new design for the diplomas. One of your students, XYZ, is not registered this semester and the system does not allow him access to the vote.

Does your office consider him a student? I understand that some schools provide student-status even if the individual is not registered to any class. Can you confirm this is the case for Mr. XYZ?

Dear XYZ

I am sorry for the inconvenience. According to ACIS, you should now be able to vote as a GS student.

***

Date: Tue, 13 Apr 2004 11:01:37 -0400
Subject: can't log on to vote

I would like to vote, but can't. Tried logging-in with my cunix account and password. Is that what it's asking for?

Dear XYZ

The vote is only open for current, registered students. According to the directory, you are a member of the TC staff, not a student. If this is a mistake, please let us know and, once confirmed with the TC registrar's office, we will add you to the list of eligible voters.

Dear XYZ

I apologies for the inconvenience. According to ACIS, you should now be able to vote as a TC student. Your user name is yas8. They recommend that if your password does not work, you should follow the instructions on this page:

http://www.columbia.edu/acis/tools/

***

Date: Tue, 13 Apr 2004 14:40:44 -0400 (EDT)
Subject: login problem

Hi

I am trying to vote from http://www.columbia.edu/cu/diploma/vote/index.html as SEAS graduate, but the system doesn't accept my CUNIX user/password tologin after I click on "Go vote!"

Do I need to get another user/password?

Dear XYZ

As a PhD student, the system recognizes you as a GSAS student, not a SEAS student. Please try to choose GSAS as your school. If you have additional problems, please contact us again.

***

Date: Tue, 13 Apr 2004 15:02:59 -0400 (EDT)
Subject: sr488: unable to log in for vote

Hi,

I'm unable to log in:

I'm a graduate student in electrical engineering.

My email address is xyz@columbia.edu. I tried logging in with the cu login and password but it failed. I'm using the Mozilla Firebird browser.

Pls look into the problem.

regards,
XYZ
5th yr PhD student,
Dept of Electrical Engineering

Dear XYZ

As a PhD student, the system recognizes you as a GSAS student, not a SEAS student. Please try to choose GSAS as your school. If you have additional problems, please contact us again.

***

Date: Tue, 13 Apr 2004 15:25:50 -0400
Subject: Problems with Voting Site

Dear Diploma Voting Team,

I have tried to access your voting site from three different terminals, both public and private, but have not been able to log into the voting site. I would like to vote before the deadline on the 16th of April, if you could give me any hints on how access the site.

Thanks,

XYZ

Dear XYZ

I apologies for the inconvenience. You should now be able to vote. If your password still does not work, ACIS recommends that you follow the instructions on this page:

http://www.columbia.edu/acis/tools/

***

Date: Thursday, April 08, 2004 5:18 PM
Subject: Fw: Password

Hello,

I am trying to vote for the new Columbia University diploma at www.columbia.edu/cu/diploma, but I may have forgotten my password. My Student ID number is 123456789 and I am a doctoral student in the AEGIS program.
I believe my username is XYZ; I thought my password was my ID number.
Please send me my username and password.
Thank you,
XYZ

Dear XYZ

I am unable to find you in the directory. Your ID should be the same as the beginning of your Columbia University e-mail address (i.e. ab1234@columbia.edu). The password should also be the same as you use for gaining access to the e-mail system.

If you still have log-in problems, please include the name of your school (GSAS, TC, etc) and the name of your academic dean so that we may verify your student status. The vote is open only for current, registered students.

Date: Tue, 13 Apr 2004 16:16:05 -0400
Subject: RE: password

Hi Matan

I am currently enrolled at TC as a doctoral candidate. I am in the AEGIS program.
The Registrar's office at TC can verify my registration.
My TC/Columbia e-mail address is XYZ

Please advise.

Dear XYZ

I apologies for the inconvenience. According to ACIS, you should be able to vote as a TC student. They recommend that if your password does not work, you should follow the instructions on this page:

http://www.columbia.edu/acis/tools/

***

Date: Tue, 13 Apr 2004 23:54:28 -0400
Subject: Re: DIPLOMA VOTE EXTENDED
Hello,
I cannot open the link. I am afraid there is some error. Could you please send the link again. Thank you very much.
Sincerely,
XYZ

Dear XYZ

Please try this link. If clicking on it does not work, please copy-paste it to your browser.

***

Date: Wed, 14 Apr 2004 16:45:11 +0100 (BST)
Subject: class of 2005

HI
I am a Global EMBA who has finished the NY classes and will not be around campus to see these diplomas. Is there anyway I can see them before I vote?
Kind regards,

XYZ

Dear XYZ

The vote is only open for current students. If your school has you listed as a student, you should be able to log-in and see gibberish versions of the diploma online.

If the system does not allow you to log-in, please give me the name of your academic dean, so that I verify your student status.

Date: Wed, 14 Apr 2004 18:56:01 +0100 (BST)
Subject: Re: class of 2005
I am a current student - just finished first year of EMBA Global 05 now in second year and I can not log on

Dear XYZ

I am sorry for the inconvenience. According to ACIS, you should be able to vote as a Business student. Your ID should be XYZ. If your password does not work, we recommend following the instructions on this website:

http://www.columbia.edu/acis/tools/

Date: Wed, 14 Apr 2004 22:10:33 +0100 (BST)
Subject: Re: class of 2005

Hi
I have tried to log on and I use my XYZ id to go onto BOLD but I do not have a social security number and cannot change my password.

Can you please activate a new password as I can't get in to the system to change my password or to collect a copy of the old one due to the social security number
Regards
XYZ

Date: Thu, 15 Apr 2004 08:03:40 +0100 (BST)
Subject: Re: class of 2005

Hi
I do have an id which IS XYZ. - I CANNOT get through the "forgot your password" section as I don't have a SOCIAL SECURITY CODE.
Can you give me someone to contact INSIDE COLUMBIA PLEASE

Dear XYZ

I am waiting for an answer from ACIS. I am a student representative on the Task Force, and don’t have immediate access to such information.

Date: Thu, 15 Apr 2004 08:50:59 -0400 (EDT)
From: consultant@columbia.edu

Subject: Re: class of 2005
Any student without a US SSN is assigned a temporary one by their admissions office. That's the number they need to use.
Dear XYZ

This is the answer I got from ACIS:

"Any student without a US SSN is assigned a temporary one by their admissions office. That's the number they need to use.

XYZ
Computing Support Services
AcIS"

I recommend contacting your Dean of Students or Dean of Admissions. I copied this e-mail to several deans of your school. Hopefully, they might know how to help.

Date: Thu, 15 Apr 2004 13:21:44 -0400
From: [Dean of Students]
Subject: Re: class of 2005
Thank you -- I will have someone contact her with instructions on changing her password.

XYZ

***

Date: Wed, 14 Apr 2004 11:56:02 -0400
Subject: Diploma vote
I received an error when I press the "cast your ballot" button for the Diploma redesign poll. When I tried it again, the system indicated that my vote has been registered already. In any event this was my vote selection in case your system didn't capture it properly.
User ID: XYZ
Roman Design
Alma mater in the background: Yes
Separate design for Doctoral Diplomas: No

XYZ

Dear XYZ

The system is encrypted so that we do know what each individual student voted. I have no way of identifying your vote, and I can't add votes manually. However, the site should allow you to vote multiple times, and we will be given only the last vote. Please try to vote again.

I am sorry for the inconvenience.

***