

# Associated Students of Columbia University

## G.S. STUDENT COUNCIL



Website: <https://gssc.gs.columbia.edu/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/yourgssc/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/yourgssc>

Contact Email: [GSSC@columbia.edu](mailto:GSSC@columbia.edu)

Meeting Location: Zoom, <https://columbiauniversity.zoom.us/j/8473653328>

### GENERAL STUDIES STUDENT COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

**November 30th 8:15PM**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the **General Studies Student Council of Columbia University** will hold a **REGULAR** meeting on **November 30th** at **8:15PM**. The meeting information is noted below. The General Studies Student Council reserves the right to suspend the orders of the day if necessary to conduct business. All General Studies Student Council meetings are held in locations that are wheelchair accessible. Other disability-related accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities upon request. Persons requesting such accommodations should notify the General Studies Student Council Chair at [sat2198@columbia.edu](mailto:sat2198@columbia.edu) no less than three (3) working days prior to the meeting. The General Studies Student Council will make efforts to meet requests made after such date, if possible. Please also contact the General Studies Student Council Chair for any agenda related questions.

#### I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

##### A. Call To Order

##### B. Roll Call (\* → indicates non-voting | ~ → indicates Interim Position)

OFFICERS	STATUS	OFFICERS	STATUS
*President <b>Serengeti Timungwa</b>	P	VP of Finance <b>Simas Chacar-Palubinskas</b>	P
Chief of Finance <b>Alan Han</b>	P	VP of Policy <b>Kambi Gathesha</b>	E
Chief of Policy <b>Stephanie Pierre</b>	P	VP of Campus Life <b>Cole Wagner</b>	P
Chief of Campus Life <b>Emily Robinson</b>	P	VP of Communications <b>Brian Laurito</b>	P
Chief of Communications <b>Siena Iwasaki Milbauer</b>	E	Veteran Students Rep <b>Alejandro Rojas</b>	E
Int'l Students Rep <b>Carol Chen</b>	E	University Senator <b>Jeremy Wahl</b>	P
Senior Class President <b>Rachel Harris</b>	P	Senior Class VP <b>Nick Li</b>	P
Senior Class Treasurer <b>Garrett Gregor-Splaver</b>	P	1st Year Class President <b>Nasser Odetallah</b>	P
1st Year Class VP <b>Han Qing</b>	P	Health & Wellness Representative	
External Events Chair <b>Alex Starzyk</b>	P	Family and Working Students Rep <b>Shatize Pope</b>	P
Alumni Affairs Rep <b>Mike Kim</b>	P	Dual B.A./Joint Program Rep <b>Evan Rork</b>	P
Community Services & Sustainability Rep <b>Faith Grady</b>	P	Treasurer <b>June Lim</b>	P
JTS Rep <b>Josh Brunnlehrmann</b>	P	Student Services/Academic Affairs Rep <b>Andre Moutafov</b>	P

Diversity & Equity Rep <b>Rubaab Poonawala</b>	<b>P</b>	Students w/Disabilities Rep <b>Erin O'Bannon</b>	<b>P</b>
Tech Chair <b>Catherine Sun</b>	<b>P</b>	Social Media Rep <b>Lisa Cardoso</b>	<b>P</b>
*Legislative Assistant <b>Ferdinando Castro Gonzalez</b>	<b>P</b>	*Legislative Assistant <b>Kyle Gordon</b>	<b>P</b>
*Advisor Sean Trulby		Chief Negotiator <b>Katie Peters</b>	<b>P</b>
*Advisor Ashley Johnson		<b>Voting Members: 30 / Quorum: → 20 / Total: 25</b>	

**C. Adoption of the Current Agenda for November 30th, 2021 -> Pass/Rejected**

**1. Motion Passes**

**D. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from November 16th, 2021**

**1. Motion Passes**

**II. REPORTS**

**A. President**

**1. Health and Wellness Representative Appointments**

**a. Wesley:**

- i. Hopes everyone had a great Thanksgiving,
- ii. First year student, sophomore standing
- iii. From Singapore; counseled others and believes that we should have fresh insight with a diversity of opinions; wants to improve the lives of other GS students
- iv. Issues he wants to address:
  1. Academics
    - a. Students in quarantine are unable to attend class and are stressed due to new Covid variant; wants to implement PDF like last year to improve mental health
  2. GS as "Second Class Citizens"
    - a. GS students sometimes feel they are treated differently by administration in housing (need CC/SEAS students to sign GS students in which creates a divide); wants GS students to be able to sign in like everyone else
  3. Housing
    - a. International students are not guaranteed housing
  4. NSOP
    - a. Students are encouraged to join Jumpstart programs but do not receive student ID until they arrive on campus (unlike CC/SEAS students who get it prior to arrive) so they cannot participate as early/as easily

**v. Serengeti:** Could you elaborate on any particular areas you feel your role could support pertaining to Health and Wellness?

1. Would push for stronger PDF options, especially for core classes (as current PDF is not for core classes)

2. Encourage more GS students to receive booster doses of the vaccine, especially those with underlying conditions, to make Columbia a safer place for everyone
  3. Feels there is an invisible line between CC/SEAS and GS, wants us to be more included (such as for clubs that take place in dorms)
- vi. Erin:** There's a limited amount of time to get things done during this semester. How would you handle going into the Spring if this variant is an issue then? Would you advocate for more hybrid/online classes?
1. There's a chance that Omicron will be an issue in the spring semester; would want students to have the option to take classes online as well as in person --> should work with professors/admin to make sure this option is available to everyone
- b. Bruce:
- i. First year student studying Neuroscience and Economics
  - ii. French Airforce veteran; was Diversity representative for the officers in their unit
  - iii. Very excited about this opportunity especially after a couple months here and realizes the importance of connection and strength of being together
  - iv. Wants to reinforce cohesion and a sense of belonging on campus
    1. Working on an app, "Social Lions", to prevent social isolation/loneliness among Columbia students
    2. Wants to ensure that everyone has the correct information and who to reach out to when needed, especially on the GS website and SSOL portal
    3. We are assigned an academic advisor but not one for health/mental health; would like to rectify this
    4. Feels we can build a GS community through events that connect them with health representative at Columbia
  - v. Interested in hosting weekly runs, yoga, and other fitness events working with Dodge
  - vi. Creating network of accountability partners for students to ensure that everyone has someone checking up on them
  - vii. Wants to create a monthly Health and Wellness newsletter for the Columbia community
- viii. Faith:** Could you tell us more about the "Social Lions" application you're building?
1. There are many channels that put out info about clubs that aren't connected; the point of the app is to centralize the information so that everyone can find clubs they'll be interested in and people to connect with
2. ECAC Updates
    - a. ECAC is the Election Commission Appointment Committee; appoints the Election Commission chair who will nominate others for the commission

- b. Serengeti will be chair; Rachel will also sit on the council; Campus Life will be represented by Nick Li, Comms will be represented by Brian, and Andre will represent
      - i. Everyone must be a Senior to ensure no bias
- 3. Policy Committee Leadership Update
  - a. Kambi will be excused for the rest of the semester due to personal issues
  - b. Stephanie will be stepping in as interim VP of Policy
  - c. Will also be looking for someone to step in as Chief of Policy
- 4. Updates from Meeting with the Deans
  - a. We discussed dining issues, issues with current academic environment
    - i. Dining: Andre and Nasser will be continuing the conversation as there is more work to be done
    - ii. Academic policy: We brought up the issues students have relating to Covid and more potential accommodations
      - 1. The deadline to PDF has been extended to the last day of classes, but it will not apply to core or major classes
      - 2. Small improvements such as these can make a large difference for students

#### **B. Policy Committee**

- 1. No Updates

#### **C. Communications Committee**

- 1. No Updates

#### **D. Finance Committee**

- 1. No Updates

#### **E. Campus Life Committee**

- 1. GSSC Volunteers for Holiday Mugs
  - a) The mugs will be delivered to Barnard College tomorrow and will be delayed from
  - b) Will need volunteers to put packs of Swiss Miss in mugs all evening **tomorrow night (Wednesday)**
  - c) There will be 550 mugs and 1000 packets of Swiss Miss
  - d) **On Thursday**, need volunteers to bring mugs from Barnard to Butler Plaza at 3 PM
    - (1) Distribution will happen from 5:00 to 5:30 PM
  - e) **Serengeti:** A signup sheet could be useful?
    - (1) Emily: Because of how hours fluctuate, we'll send a message out on Slack
  - f) **Katie:** Will there be a point person watching Slack? Or who posts when everyone is finished?
- 2. Snack Attack Volunteers
  - a) Sign up sheet will go up before meeting next week
- 3. Updates on Upcoming Events
  - a) Hanukkah event on December 2nd
  - b) December 4th: Lerner Pub for Seniors in Ancell Plaza

- c) Thursday, December 9th @ 7 pm Nasser has set up Board Game study night
- d) NYC Tours on 4th and 11th
- e) December 10th: Senior Party in Ansell Plaza

#### F. University Senator

- 1. No Updates

### III. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. New Student Starter Pack

- 1. First Year stuff:
  - a) First year newsletter coming out TBD on when exactly
  - b) There's a tour happening this Saturday (12/4) and next Saturday
- 2. Starter Pack/Goodie Bag
  - a) Feels that we don't usually get merch/swag that is equivalent to what CC/SEAS/Barnard get during orientation
  - b) Welcome pack will help students feel welcome to GS
    - (1) Don't want GS to feel invisible
  - c) Could help new students (starting in Spring) notice how GSSC is working on their behalf
  - d) Handing it out would be around January 14th
  - e) Contents of packs (all GSSC-branded):
    - (1) 2 pencils
    - (2) 2 pens
    - (3) Sticky notes
    - (4) Gummy Bear Pack
    - (5) Folder
    - (6) Pocket Notebook
    - (7) Tote Bag
    - (8) Printed Welcome Message
  - f) Good idea to print a welcome message to promote GSSC about upcoming elections and have a map to help guide students on their first times on campus
  - g) Aiming for 300 students (150 from spring and 150 from the fall), spending ~\$10 per student
    - (1) Mechanical Pencils: \$.55 each for 600 total (\$330 + shipping)
    - (2) Pen:
    - (3) Sticky notes: \$0.68 each for 600 total (\$408 + shipping)
    - (4) Gummy bear packet: \$1.23 each for 300 total (\$369 + shipping)
    - (5) Paper folder: \$2.42 each for 300 total (\$726 + shipping)
    - (6) Pocket Spiral Notebook: \$1.20 each \$360 total
    - (7) Tote Bag: \$1.97 each \$591 total
  - h) Letters: would love to coordinate with the comms team to draft a letter to be included in the goodie bag,
    - (1) Doubles as a promo
    - (2) Include a map that highlight useful spots on campus for GS Students
    - (3) Include websites, QR codes, and Resources for incoming students

- (4) Estimated Cost: \$100
  - i) Total Costs:
    - (1) \$3013.73 costs for items
    - (2) \$100 Print costs
    - (3) Total ~\$3100 for Starter Packs
    - (4) Asking for \$3500 from first year budget but realistically only spend \$3100
- 3. **Motion to allocate \$3500 from the First Year Budget to pay for starter packs**
  - a) **Nick:** Relevant points -- met with Dean Rosen-Metsch a few weeks ago; Dean Rosen-Metsch acknowledges that we need more merch; Each year, students get varying amounts of merch so we should try and research why it's been so different each year and we could pull from whatever team has done this in the past instead of from GSSC funds
  - b) **Kyle:** Good to level the playing field for all students; To Nick's point, last year he received a similar folder when are accepted
  - c) **Simas:** Agrees with Kyle; for logo: [Visualidentity.columbia.edu](http://Visualidentity.columbia.edu), we have a crest that CC does not have → reach out to GS Communications regarding
  - d) **Emily:** This is advertising for us; would help GS students be aware of what GSSC does; how many pages in the notekeeper?
    - (1) 60 front and back
  - e) **Rubaab:** Why January 14th?
    - (1) Will double check what makes the most sense for new students and Fall students
  - f) **Evan:** Has this been discussed with admin?
  - g) **Serengeti:** Would be helpful to collaborate with admin on this; we give \$20,346 to the Dean of Students transfer fund so we could try and repurpose some of that for a proposal such as this
    - (1) The first year budget usually goes toward first year events; working with admin could help lower the contribution coming from first year budget
  - h) **Nasser:** Different populations of GS get different things and that's an issue; it seems the GS student life office does different things each semester; would like support in looking into how that works; Knows a lot of first years recognize that we are sometimes treated differently even internally → wants to be consistent across semesters
    - (1) Thinks we should approve the current budget and *then* try and have admin pay for part of it
    - (2) **Serengeti:** We could fund this and then not spend all of the money based on communications with admin
  - i) **Motion Passes: 23 in favor, 1 opposed**

#### IV. **STANDING BUSINESS**

- A. No Updates

#### V. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

This time is reserved for any General Studies Student Council Members to make announcements on items not on the agenda. A time limit of three (3) minutes per

speaker and (25) twenty five minutes total shall be observed. **NO** action will be taken and the total time limit for this item shall not be extended.

- A. **Alex:** How do we get a new flag in front of Lewisohn?
  - 1. GS Communications would probably know about it
- B. **Emily:** Update on Metro cards, will arrive some time on Thursday or Friday and application is open for the subsidized metro cards
- C. **Faith:** If you're ordering anything from UPS, it cannot be delivered to Lewisohn because UPS will not cross the grad student picket line

#### **VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

This segment of the meeting is reserved for persons desiring to address the General Studies Student Council on any matter of concern that is not stated on the agenda. A time limit of three (3) minutes per speaker and ten (10) minutes per topic shall be observed. The law does not permit any action to be taken, nor extended discussion of any items not on the agenda. The General Studies Student Council may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed, however, for further information, please contact the General Studies Student Council President at [sat2198@columbia.edu](mailto:sat2198@columbia.edu) for the item of discussion to be placed on a future agenda. (Brown Act §54954.3)

#### **VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

This closed session is reserved for any General Studies Student Council Members to discuss and possibly take action on voting in the nominees for various, posted, council vacancies. The public, and the nominees, will be asked to step out of the room while the council conducts this business.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**