



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 14TH 8:15 PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the *General Studies Student Council of Columbia University* will hold a *REGULAR* meeting on *November 14th 8:15 PM*. 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 President 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 Executive Board for any agenda-related questions.

I. Order of Business

- A. Call to order
- B. Roll Call

Officer	Status
President Nasser Odetallah	P
VP of Policy Savanah Shulkin	P
VP of Finance Simas Chacar-Palubinskas	Z
VP of Communications Oliver Neale	P
VP of Campus Life Kat Zimmermann	P
Chief of Policy Jonathan DuCloud	P
Chief of Finance Eric Yu	P
Chief of Communications Melanie Wells	E
Chief of Campus Life Olivia McAlpine	P
Student Services & Academic Affairs Rep. Oscar Wolfe	P
First-Generation, Low-Income, and Working Students Representative Freida Candido	P
Veteran Students Rep. Brian Williams	P
Students with Disabilities Rep. Alec Rodriguez Stangle	P
Diversity & Equity Rep. Madison Cabellos-Rivera	P
Health & Wellness Rep. Malika Ali	P
*Commuting Students & Students with Families Rep. Walter Koike-Sieira	P
*Policy Coordinator Alina Kreynovich	P
*Policy Coordinator Chelsey Giraldo	P
*Policy Coordinator Marquise Johnson	P

Officer	Status
Treasurer Michael Galvin	P
*Finance Coordinator Rychard Tymakhovych	Z
Social Media Rep. Isabel Tenney	P
Technology Chair Jacob Resnick	Z
*Content Coordinator Evan Edler	E
*Communications Coordinator Caroline Nicholson	P
*Communications Coordinator Anatta Tantiwongse	Z
Alumni Affairs Rep. Clara Kruijtzter	P
International Students Rep. Aoife Houlihan	E
Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) Rep. Ilan Cohen	E
Community Service and Sustainability Rep. Jemima Kingdon Jones	E
Senior Class President Faith Grady	P
Senior Class Vice President Nick Feibel	P
First Year Class President Lily Canter	UN
First Year Class Vice President Ayşe Lara Selçuker	E
Dual BA & Joint Program Rep. Taylor Moniz	P
*Campus Life Coordinator Haya Fine	P
University Senator Bruce Goumain	E
Voting Members: 27 → Quorum → 18	Total: 19



- C. Adoption of the Current **Agenda** for November 14 th, 2023
 - 1. Motion Passes/Fails- Passes
- D. Adoption of the Meeting **Minutes** from October 31st, 2023
 - 1. Motion Passes/Fails- Passes

II. REPORTS

A. President

1. General Updates

- a) Today: presentation for the student activities fee, campus life updates & presentations
- b) Important votes & conversations coming up next week's meeting & last meeting of semester
- c) EBoard & Deans had meeting last week
- d) Student advisory dining committee met today
 - (1) Ask for manager in moment when there is a problem
 - (a) Has been negative incidents of people posting things instead of just speaking to staff about it - communicate with staff instead - they will fix it right away
 - (2) Potentially exciting events and things planned
- e) Launched metrocard program - going well
 - (1) Given out decent number of cards
 - (2) People say it's helping
 - (3) Getting more cards coming in in the next few days

B. Policy

C. Finance

D. Communications

E. Campus Life

1. Past and upcoming event updates

- a) Shoutout to Taylor for a very successful Dual BA coffee event (about 30- 35 people were in attendance!)
- b) Postponing some of the events for this weekend (Speakeasy and plant n' paint), organizers are sick

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Student Activities Fee Proposal

- 1. Proposal to increase the student activity fee
- 2. What are we trying to do?
 - a) Trends over the last ten years
 - (1) Student activity fee has increased by 3.16%, student life fee has increased 30.98%, tuition increased about same, _____ increased about the same (disproportionate that student activity fee not increasing)



GSSC

- (2) SAF (student activity fee) remains stable and SLF (student life fee) increases, this is directly regarding the amount of \$ that's allocated to GS students
- (3) Per point tuition rates are steadily increasing every year
- (4) Student Activity Fee currently: \$98
- b) PITCH- \$98 → \$120 (\$240 per year)**
 - (1) Proposed fee is 8.75% lower than CC & SEAS 23-24, 5.83% lower than Barnard 23-24
 - (2) YOY increase of 22.45% - this would be in line with the annual rate of increase of the student Life Fee & per point tuition since the last time SAF was increased
 - (3) This was proposed to school leadership and deans, received positive reception from these people and now is being brought up with us (GSSC)
- 3. Why is it important?
 - a) \$1.3 million dollars to the six governing boards from the 4 undergrad councils through FACU
 - (1) Vast majority of clubs rely almost entirely on FACU for funding
 - (2) GS: 22.9% of undergrad population (among all 4 schools) - but contribute 7.8% of FACU: per student contribution is significantly lower than all peers (CC, SEAS, Barnard) GS students have gone from 25% to 30% of the undergrad student body
 - (3) 1/2 - 1/4 of GS are dual-BA (same age) -> more involvement in student life
 - (4) Unable to demand more when we are not contributing to student life funding
 - (5) Assert selves as equal part of Columbia community: need to take responsibility for greater portion of funding for morningside heights undergrad community
 - (6) Important to pull fair share when it comes to funding
 - b) Impact of inflation
 - (1) \$98 in 2015 has the same buying power as \$126 in 2023
 - c) GS undergrad community straining - Fundamental changes in GS community
 - (1) Fewer students spending more than 2 years at GS
 - (2) More traditionally aged students enrolled at GS (dual-BA)
 - (3) Greater integration into broader undergrad community
 - (4) Positive undergraduate experience benefits GS & is something we should strive to protect
- 4. Summary
 - a) 1) invest in a thriving and healthy undergrad comm at GS
 - b) 2) enable GSSC to remain an active & positive feature of the GS undergrad community
 - c) 3) pay our fair share as GS'ers integrate more & more with traditionally-aged undergrads
- 5. Questions
 - a) Other hurdles? Yes: admin, deans - but we've received much positive feedback from them on this
 - b) Where does this money go exactly / how will it affect things?
 - (1) More money into our budget = more activities



GSSC

- (2) More money into our budget = more money to student groups = allow more conversations with governing boards (continuing to encourage GS involvement in student groups - we must invest into the existing system -> have bigger seat at the table -> further advocacy for GSers in student groups
- (3) Budget straining: covid surplus drained
- (4) We can't really dictate where this money goes - but maybe half to FACU, half stays inside our budget
 - (a) Money staying internal has direct benefit
 - (b) Money to FACU still is beneficial
 - (i) We are not currently giving enough money to support the number of GS students in student groups - almost everyone involved minimally
 - (ii) GS specific student groups also supported through FACU
 - (iii) The system mandates all four council buys in; when we are not giving our fair share -> system experiencing tremendous strain: all EBoards of all councils struggling with funding for FACU
 - (a) CCSC & ESC are overcompensating for us & they are running out of money for this
- c) How much money does this generate roughly?
 - (1) Hard question to answer because GS students are on different credit numbers (part time students don't pay the full fee)
Simas: Roughly, it would probably generate around \$60k per academic year (maybe higher), note how much was cut from last year. In short, a lot more money to work with but not approaching where we were during the pandemic
- d) Is this for all programs?
 - (1) Yes, this could go to any kind of program (not just student life in the general sense, but also programs like the MetroCard.) We could also bring back certain traditions that that the pandemic put off like the rooftop event & giving more money to first year events
 - (2) There were cuts on every line item around the board, important to add money back and give a little bit of 'wiggle room' \$--maybe enough to create a new kind of four school event. ESC and CCSC often do things together that GSSC does not have the capacity to join based on our own budgetary limitations. GS(SC) doesn't have a 'big' fall event the way that other undergraduate schools do
 - (3) University is increasing their personal costs so it gets harder just to collaborate
- e) What are the fees for other councils & why have ours not been consistently increasing?
 - (1) CCSC is about \$264 (per year), Barnard is \$250 (SGA's may be going up as well). Other schools increase their fees much more regular than GS does.
 - (2) All the councils are having a discussion about this matter this year



GSSC

- (3) Barnard is about the same size as us but a little bigger, CC is much much bigger, but ESC has $\frac{2}{3}$ of our student body and pays a lot more than we do, other councils have larger ticket revenues
 - f) Why has this not been increasing year-over-year before?
 - (1) The short answer was 'no', COVID gave a bump in revenue to be spent so it wasn't relevant at the time
 - (2) Priorities of the school have changed including change in leadership
 6. Motion to increase the SAF to \$120 per term for 24-25 academic year & to forward recommendation to administration of GS
(Considering the different socioeconomic conditions of the GS student body and communicating this kind of issue/figuring out how to alleviate it)
- B. First year kickball
1. Discussion/presentation moved to next week

IV. STANDING BUSINESS

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.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

This segment of the meeting is reserved for all non-Council members desiring to address the General Studies Student Council on any matter of concern, 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. (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