



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

Meeting Location:
 Remote Online, Zoom Link:
<https://columbiauniversity.zoom.us/j/7210329403>

GENERAL STUDIES STUDENT COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

April 5th 8:15PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the **General Studies Student Council of Columbia University** will hold a **REGULAR** meeting on **April 5th** 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 jane.jeong@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 Jane Jeong	P	VP of Finance Louis Cheng	P
Chief of Finance Ryan Wee	A	VP of Policy Serengeti Timungwa	P
Chief of Policy Jerome Brackins	P	VP of Campus Life Liam McGrane	P
Chief of Campus Life Sofia Trujillo	P	VP of Communications Pao Durán	P
Chief of Communications Noélly Flôr	A	Veteran Student Rep Tony Costanzo	P
Int'l Student Rep Rhe-Anne Tan	P	Senator Jeremy Wahl	A
Senior Class President Safia Southey	P	Senior Class VP Roberto Uribe	P
Senior Class Treasurer		1st Year Class President Kambi Gathesha	P
1st Year Class VP Rachel Harris	P	Health & Wellness Representative	
Special Events Chair Jason You	A	Family and Working Students Rep Sofia Wyszynski	P
Alumni Affairs Rep Cole Wagner	P	Dual B.A./Joint Program Rep Nicholas Li	P

Community Service/Sustainability Rep Simas Chacar-Palubinskas	P	Treasurer Alex Ariunbold	P
JTS Rep Josh Brunnlehrmann	P	Student Services/Academic Affairs Rep Bern Gostelow	A
Equity & Inclusion Chair Sydney Bowen	A	Students w/Disabilities Rep Joan Bolanos Martinez	P
*Tech Chair Dylan Lee	P	Social Media Rep Brian Laurito	P
*Legislative Assistant		*Legislative Assistant Jené Stefaniak	A
*Advisor Sean Trulby			
*Advisor Ashley Johnson		Voting Members: 24 / Quorum: → 15 / Total:	

C. Adoption of the Current Agenda for April 5th, 2021

D. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from March 30th, 2021

II. REPORTS

A. President

1. Urgent GSSC Election Changes

- a)** Jane recommends voting to allow candidates to run unopposed
- b)** Kambi asks for clarification regarding candidate who didn't go to rules meeting
 - (1)** Rachel says she was under the impression that running unopposed meant she didn't have to go
 - (2)** Kambi backs this
 - (3)** Jane: we can strongly recommend the EC consider the circumstances and hold an additional rules meeting--no guarantee this will help as they're an independent body
 - (4)** Serengeti told to cease all forms of campaigning, debating, etc. due to running unopposed so feels its unfair to be penalized for not going to rules meeting
 - (5)** Josh: we still have election rules to follow and why do we need to overall?
 - (a)** Jane: the rules state that the EC should create a special election in April or May but logistically--because this is a short semester and our school year ends before May (unprecedented)--this probably can't happen; candidates can't get out platforms, etc.
 - (i)** Safia says, "The special election *must* take place in the Fall semester;" the April/May recommendation was made because high level positions wouldn't be filled until the special election in the Fall (making appointments, the election itself, etc. difficult)
- c)** Joan: Is it fair for the candidates to run unopposed? Then candidates could essentially win with just one vote. Should we extend the current eboard's time until we can fix it?

- (1) Jane: Let's leave it until after the motion
- d) Rachel: Should the EC be here so we can discuss with them?
 - (1) Jane: We're not allowed to talk to them except through Safia so we're making decisions ourselves and then making recommendations to EC
- e) Jane: Vote on whether GSSC members who are running should recuse themselves
- f) Joshua Brunnlehrman: Request to go over Constitution and Bylaws to find a possible solution
 - (1) https://drive.google.com/drive/u/2/folders/1ZRjnL_4iiZ-hW5Q-cBxWfTNUKLRQ2AIX
 - (2) Article III: Elections (Under Bylaws)
- g) Rhe-Anne: Discussion regarding future candidates and how to proceed.
- h) Simas: How to proceed for candidates for submission of platforms, seems rushed given candidates have been told they can't run
 - (1) Consideration to overrule the requirement to vote by last day of classes and move to right before/after commencement
- i) Safia: Clarification to move date of intent to run form, so no matter what we have to vote to change the by-laws.
 - (1) Safia:
 - (a) a. In the event of an uncontested race for Student Body President or University Senator, a special election will be held for the position two weeks following the receipt of the challenging candidate's Intent to Run Form by the EC.
 - (b) b. Intent to Run Forms will continue to be accepted until two weeks before the last day of classes. After this time, the special election must take place during the fall semester. c. In the event that a candidate fails to receive 100 votes in a two-candidate election, a special election will be held for the position following the receipt of any additional candidate's Intent to Run Form by the EC. The winner will be determined by a plurality vote.
 - (2) This by law would need to be amended if we chose to do this
- j) Serengeti: What happens if we still don't have any intent-to-run forms by the two week period? Then we enter Spring semester without a Student Body President as well as most of Eboard. How do meetings occur then?
- k) Cole: Even if we vote to override the bylaw about unopposed candidates, do we still want to permit it due to conflict of interest?
- l) Rhe-Anne:
 - (1) We are going to vote on the original problem which was candidates running unopposed, and then we plan on allowing candidates running unopposed.

- (2) The second motion is to on top of allowing candidates to run unopposed, we want to shift deadlines back by two weeks to address Rachel Harris's specific case.
- (3) Jane response: Second major policy proposal will be adjusted for all candidates and not just Rachel's specific case.
- (4) Rhe-Anne ***motions*** to recuse candidates affected by the outcomes of the changes to the GSSC Election By-Laws from both the discussion and from the vote. **PASSED**
 - (a) Seconded by Safia
- m) Nicholas: Will these overrides be permanent amendments in the Constitution or are they just for this year for these circumstances?
 - (1) Jane: This will just be for this year due to special circumstances
- n) Joshua: Also we should amend the bylaw regarding permitting candidates to miss rule meetings, or holding another rules meeting
- o) Simas: Under article III, section 2 subsection C, the selected date must be announced 5 weeks prior to the election, and any changes made to the date should be announced to the candidates 12 hours prior to the campaigning period.
 - (1) Response: We'll see what we can do to amend that as well.
- p) Joshua: Discussion of difference between unopposed vs. appointment
- q) Nicholas: Logistics for an unopposed election
 - (1) What would that look like?
- r) Jane: Voting to override the following bylaws: **Candidate Eligibility, No candidate may run unopposed**
 - (1) Joan: Motions to extend the mandate of the current Eboard until after we figure out the purpose that we have right now
 - (a) Motions fails to be seconded
 - (2) Safia: Motion to amend the by-law under candidate eligibility 3E that no candidate may run unopposed and temporarily hold that rule so that candidates can run in that position for the upcoming year. **PASSED**
 - (a) Seconded by Rhe-Anne
 - (b) Discussion
 - (i) Joshua: Do we have quorum if we suspend those who are in the running due to previous discussion
 - (3) Joshua: If we word a bylaw clause that essentially overrides all bylaws that might affect the function
 - (a) We make the articles in the bylaws that explicitly work for this semester's elections such that if there is a conflict in language in between the two that this article overrides other bylaws.
 - (b) Jane's rendition: motion to allow the EC to override any by laws that constrains their adjustment for candidates affected in this year's election.
 - (c) Jane's other rendition: Motion to allow the EC to adjust the election timeline including but not limited to rules meetings, platform submission, campaigning period,

debate preparation and date, election dates, endorsement deadlines, for all affected candidates

(d) 4. motion to allow the EC to override any by laws that constrains their adjustment for candidates affected by this year's (Spring 2021) election

(e) Three motions: **PASSED**

(i) Motion to amend the by-law under candidate eligibility 3E that no candidate may run unopposed and temporality hold that rule so that candidates can run in that position for the upcoming year.

(ii) Motion to allow the EC to adjust the election timeline including but not limited to rules meetings, platform submission, campaigning period, debate preparation and date, election dates, and endorsement deadline, for all affected candidates.

(iii) Motion to allow the EC to adjust timeline to override any by laws that constrains their adjustment for candidates affected this year's election spring '21.

B. Policy Committee

1. No Updates

C. Communications Committee

1. No Updates

D. Finance Committee

1. No Updates

E. Campus Life Committee

1. No Updates

F. University Senator

1. No Updates

III. NEW BUSINESS

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 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 Chair at jane.jeong@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