



Associated Students of Columbia University

G.S. STUDENT COUNCIL

Website: <https://gs.columbia.edu/student-life-student-council>
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/generalstudiesstudentcouncil/>
 Contact Email: GSSC@columbia.edu

Meeting Location:

Lerner Hall

2920 Broadway, Satow Room, New York, NY 10027

GENERAL STUDIES STUDENT COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

July 28 8:00PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the **General Studies Student Council of Columbia University** will hold a **REGULAR** meeting on **July 28** at **8:00PM**. 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 crt2144@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 Josh Brown	P
Chief of Finance		VP of Policy Serengeti Timungwa	P
Chief of Policy		VP of Campus Life Ohad Klopman	P
Chief of Campus Life Liam McGrane	U	VP of Communications Pao Durán	P
Chief of Communications Noélly Flôr	P	Veteran Student Rep Tony Costanzo	P
Int'l Student Rep Rhe-Anne Tan	U	Senator Jeremy Wahl	P
Senior Class President Safia Southey	P	Senior Class VP Roberto Uribe	P
Senior Class Treasurer		1st Year Class President	
1st Year Class VP		Health & Wellness Representative	
Special Events Chair		Family and Working Students Rep	
Alumni Affairs Rep		Dual B.A./Joint Program Rep	
Community Service/Sustainability Rep		Treasurer	

JTS Rep		Student Services/Academic Affairs Rep	
Equity & Inclusion Chair		Students w/Disabilities Rep	
*Tech Chair		Social Media Rep	
*Advisor Sean Trulby			
*Advisor Ashley Johnson		Voting Members: 11 / Quorum: → 8 / Total: 10	

C. Adoption of the Current Agenda for July 28, 2020

D. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from July 21, 2020

II. REPORTS

A. President

1. The Deans

a) Introduction remarks by DRM:

- (1)** Planning: all students at GS are welcomed back to campus, columbia residential housing will meet. Additional institutional aid for the school has been given, more than it has ever been.
- (2)** No decisions have been made so far in terms of the CARES act.
- (3)** GS is working to create opportunities for networking and student life on campus

b) Answering student questions

(1) Housing

- (a)** Will students whose in-person classes only begin on October 19th be able to only move into housing around that date or will they have to move by September 8th?

(2) Financial Aid

- (a)** Could you explain why the tuition increased despite the circumstances?
 - (i)** Tuition in GS is charged per credit. The decision to increase tuition went from 4% to 2% considering the current circumstances (there was a lowering of the increase that was planned). Additionally, the increase in financial aid was taken into consideration when making this decision.
 - (ii)** Increase in costs due to testing, facilities and other campus related resources.
 - (iii)** The additional financial aid was targeted at full time students because most students reported in the financial aid forms that they intended to take 13+ credits (enrollment patterns).
- (b)** How will the \$1.5 million increase in FinAid be disbursed? Will there be any accommodations for part-time and half-time students similar to the \$1.5 million increase in financial aid for full-time students?

- (i) The total FinAid Budget is 32.1 Million.
- (ii) Focusing on the credit ranges...how we're dispersing this is based on credit load and need.
- (iii) For students that are part-time...our FinAid begins dispersing at 6 credits or more. You aren't eligible for aid starting from 0 to 5 credits. This is per semester.
- (c) Columbia University received about \$12 million in aid through the CARES Act. Given that some universities are starting to disburse these funds, students were hoping for an update on whether Columbia was going to accept this aid.
 - (i) Columbia University applied for the CARES Act
 - (ii) The university seems to be committing to using this money for FinAid.

(3) International Students

- (a) Will international students be able to maintain their visa active if they only have an in-person class starting in October? And will their in-person class have to be a 3-credit course for them to maintain their status or can it be a 1-credit one?
 - (i) We're looking at this closely, and working with ISSO to see what the governmental guidelines are.
 - (ii) Our understanding is that you can only take 1 credit....***
 - (iii) You still need to maintain 12 credits to maintain your visa.
 - (iv) Lot
- (b) Currently, international students must continue to purchase Columbia's mandated health insurance plan (which costs over \$3000) for Fall 2020. However, some students are spending the semester in their home countries and have existing coverage. Reportedly, communications from ISSO and Columbia Health have suggested that only way to be exempted on that basis is to "definitively" prove they will remain outside of the US for the Fall semester is to suspend one's visa (i.e. produce an I-20 with a start date later than 01/01/21). This is a steep tradeoff, is there any way to better facilitate health insurance exemptions for internationals?
 - (i) We're tracking and working with our colleagues on this and we think it requires more conversation.
 - (ii) We will keep more of our GS students informed. We plainly don't have a blatant

response for this, however we will keep in conversation about this, because we see that it has become such a concern this year.

(a) GSSC will be in contact with the admin about this topic and continue to follow up.

(4) Campus Life

(a) The library is very much a part of life for any Columbia student. Having a reliable setting to study in peace is critical to success, especially when many of our classes may be online. What are the plans to adapt the libraries for students so that we can be safe while utilizing this resource?

(i) The GS Lounge is expected to work at a 50% capacity in order to maintain social distancing.

(ii) Community compact contract will be signed by all students to form commitment towards health guidelines

(iii) The lack of on campus spaces for students to study disproportionately affects GS students because they often live further away from campus compared to CC and Barnard students

(iv) COVID testing for students will be made available to any students coming on campus. How it is distributed is yet to be determined.

(b) Some students are concerned about the \$1202 Student Life Fee given that student life events will significantly decrease in the Fall semester. Could your office elaborate on why the student life fee increased? What will the \$1,202 go towards?

(i) It is currently in discussion with the admin and will be discussed with GSSC further.

(ii) If you're curious as to how these fees are broken down, you can view it here:
<https://gs.columbia.edu/content/undergraduate-tuition-and-fees>

(5) Other

(a) How will the meal plans work under this situation? Will the prices per swipe be reduced given that students will not be able to stay and eat as much as they'd like?

(i) Dining halls will not be open. If they are, it will be grab and go and if so, there is no

plan in decline when it comes to dining plan prices.

(b) When, where, and how will students be notified of positive coronavirus cases within the Columbia community?

(c) ***Further public comment questions can be viewed in the video found here:
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=3321077504644644>

2. Rollover Discussion

B. Policy Committee

1. Tuition Freeze

C. Communications Committee

1. The Website

a) Work on the website has gone from 0 to 100 since the beginning of summer. It's not 100% up to date just yet, but anyone can visit and check it out at gssc.gs.columbia.edu

2. GSSC Club Informational video

a) We're working with the Campus Life Committee to create a demo video to send to other GS student organizations that wish to promote their student clubs through GSSC's media platforms.

(1) This is to increase awareness of some clubs students have the options of joining, since we won't be having CU's annual club fair.

D. Campus Life Committee

1. No Updates

E. Finance Committee

1. No Updates

F. University Senator

1. No Updates

III. NEW BUSINESS

A.

B.

IV. STANDING BUSINESS

A.

1.

B.

1.

C. Meetings

D. Office Hours

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 r.flor@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