



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

GENERAL STUDIES STUDENT COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

October 5th 8:15PM

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

Diversity & Equity Rep Rubaab Poonawala	P	Students w/Disabilities Rep Erin O'Bannon	P
Tech Chair Catherine Sun	P	Social Media Rep Lisa Cardoso	P
*Legislative Assistant Ferdinando Castro Gonzalez	P	*Legislative Assistant Kyle Gordon	P
*Advisor Sean Trulby		Chief Negotiator Katie Peters	P
*Advisor Ashley Johnson		Voting Members: 30 / Quorum: → 20 / Total: 27	

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

1. Motion seconded
2. Motion passes

D. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from September 28th, 2021

1. Motion seconded
2. Motion passes

II. REPORTS

A. President

1. Alumni Relations Meeting Update
 - a) Yesterday, Serengeti Timungwa and Nick Li and Mike Kim present
 - b) Assessing how we can assist that office in providing more program opportunities that are useful for GS'ers beyond limited industries (finance, consulting)
 - (1) We'll be creating a survey gauging what industries students are interested in meeting alumni from that will run in the GS and Senior class newsletters
 - (2) Will need volunteers to organize/search for GS alums in fields that students indicate interest in; potential to bring folks into campus events (virtual for now) and/or create mentorship opportunities
 - c) Collaborating with Dual BA students who aren't on campus yet to include them in our events and programming
 - (1) Carol: What proposal for working with the Dual BA programs?
 - (a) Let's meet to identify potential stakeholders, unified messaging
 - d) Any interested GSSC members: slack Serengeti so a meeting can be set up
 - e) Nick: Alumni Relations wants to keep in mind Dual BA/Joint students and the circumstances they've had due to the pandemic (limited time on campus)
 - f) Alan: Inter-campus connectivity between Dual BA/Joint students has been challenging; trying to bring other campuses into the conversation (This is Sciences Po specific, as they have three campuses)
2. Appointment Process for New Health and Wellness Representative
 - a) Former Health and Wellness Representative had to resign due to scheduling conflicts
 - b) We have a list of applicants who were really good from the previous round that we'll reach out to about the position. They can then present

to GSSC as opposed to going through a whole application process again.

- (1) Siena: Let's be mindful in our communications on this, just to be aware that these folks were rejected before, so being gracious in the ask back.

3. GSSC Retreat

- a) Need more responses on survey so that we can get input from everyone.
- b) Try to close survey this weekend so we can reserve spaces/activities
 - (1) Have us break into small groups?
- c) Question about what people feel comfortable spending: We have a fiscal duty to GS students that we are not using crazy amounts of student money so the insights from the survey are important
 - (1) We'll possibly provide two (differently priced) options that we can decide on based on what folks are comfortable with

4. GSSC Swag

- a) Couple more volunteers needed to go through vendor list; we want to get the ball rolling on that so we can get swag this semester!
 - (1) A phone call can be more helpful than an email when sorting through vendors
- b) Simas: We are limited by the University in terms of the vendors we can use for merchandise. There's an official list of around 20-24 vendors
- c) Faith: Willing to help out by going through official vendor list (in Zoom chat); already working on a similar project for Campus life committee so happy to expand project to also fit this need
- d) Katie: Someone could go to the bookstore and check out the vendors' products there to narrow down what vendors products seem like the best fit
- e) Serengeti: Custom Ink makes good stuff in their experience
- f) Nick: The vendors also have different options for the quality of clothing that scale with pricing

B. Policy Committee

- 1. No Updates
- 2. Council (question from Serengeti), what are some main issues that you think we should be looking at?
 - a) Slack Serengeti and Kambhi
 - b) Also you can speak up here in the general meeting
 - (1) Erin: Accommodations. The food pantry's limited hours (pandemic-caused?) presenting challenges for students. Access for students with wheelchairs--accommodations for getting them to class on time. Is GSSC petitioning for Pass/Fail options (especially for students who have to quarantine)?
 - (a) Serengeti: We haven't yet made attempts to petition for Pass/Fail. Doesn't necessarily seem like that would be a fruitful effort because we couldn't even get admin to provide Pass/Fail option for this summer's fully remote courses. But can definitely touch base with the policy committee and voice these concerns.

- (b) Simas: Joint Committee on Instruction between GS and CC means that Pass/Fail is complicated
- (2) Joshua: There are non-recorded classes which are really difficult for people who have to miss class due to quarantining. We can use this to argue for Pass/Fail because non-recorded classes make it difficult to perform at the same quality when missing classes due to required quarantines
- (3) Stephanie: Could we have a consistent hybrid option for classes and/or activities. But that's not available, so each professor is deciding their individual capacity to do Zoom. Some professors are better at it than others. Lack of consistency. So if someone does need to quarantine, it becomes a problem. Could there be a third party to help professors and classrooms to have a consistent Zoom presence (taking pressure off professors)?
 - (a) Rachel (in Zoom): There were students whose job was to help with Zoom classes over the summer.
- (4) Katie: Columbia made every classroom Zoom accessible so the technology is there. There's no reason not to make classes hybrid
- (5) Erin (in Zoom chat): Parents whose kids get sick with covid also have limited options if they have to stay home and take care of their kids (with Zoom classes so inconsistently available)
- (6) Faith: The note-taking is usually an accommodation for students with disabilities--wouldn't be alternative to hybrid
- (7) Josh: Because University doesn't have a standard policy on whether or not classes should be available on Zoom, we need to push for a standard (either hybrid or P/F)
- (8) Simas (in Zoom comments): Some tenured professors are against Zoom recordings because they are worried about intellectual property/students' banking lectures. And tenured professors have a lot of latitude in terms of decision making.
- c) Serengeti: Will touch base with Stephanie and the policy committee to work on these issues. Thank you all for sharing.

C. Communications Committee

1. Send VP of Communications your photo/blurb
 - a) These will be used for our social media and the member directory on our website
 - b) Please include:
 - (1) A professional/semi-professional photo of yourself
 - (2) A short blurb (around 5 sentences) that includes
 - (a) Major
 - (b) Academic Year (Freshman, Sophomore, etc.)
 - (c) Approximate Graduation Year
 - (d) Any interests (Hobbies, fun facts about yourself, etc.)
 - (e) Goals for your position (What are you hoping to accomplish this year?)
 - c) Please submit your bios by Saturday evening (wants to have all the bios ready to go before starting to post so there are not weird gaps in the posts)

- d) Serengeti: If you don't feel comfortable having a photo up it is totally okay and just let us know, but make sure to send us your personal bio

D. Finance Committee

- 1. No Updates

E. Campus Life Committee

- 1. MilVets Halloween Mixer Budget Proposal
 - a) Planning a MilVets mixer with the MilVets organization
 - (1) Event outside on Butler plaza or Dodge plaza
 - (2) 50 people to meet covid restrictions
 - (3) Will also have a bunch of side events to reach a wider # of people
 - (a) Pumpkin-painting session (separate zone, over Zoom)
 - (b) Scavenger Hunt
 - (c) Decorating the GS lounge
 - (d) Renting a film (streaming a public domain horror film)
 - (e) Holding a social media costume contest (raffle)
 - (4) Budget request to cover event: \$2000
 - (a) \$1400 is already covered: decorations, food, pumpkins, candy, giftcards, etc.
 - (b) \$600 is surplus budget so newer Campus Life committee members can engaged with people outside this event specifically
 - (i) Will return whatever isn't spent
 - (c) Katie: Local grocery stores could potentially donate pumpkins that were going to be thrown out anyway? We'd need to look into it
 - (i) Emily: We have contacts at local grocery stores
 - (ii) Erin (in Zoom chat): Wonders if where they work can get GSSC some discounts (vendor discounts)
 - (5) Please email Cole & Emily with any suggestions/ideas

F. University Senator

- 1. General Update
 - a) First student affairs committee meeting a few weeks ago. This Friday will be the second.
 - b) This past week Jeremy's been able to sit down with trustees and advocate for student issues with regard to Covid and dining halls. Went well and will keep an eye on it.
 - (1) Reach out to Jeremy if you have any concerns
 - c) Main focuses going forward: Diversity and equity, health and wellness, communication and transparency
 - (1) Communication/Transparency initiative: Revamping Student Senate website

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Health & Wellness Representative Appointment Process

1. Motion to appoint new Health and Wellness Rep by using previous applicants; circulating their applications to the rest of the GSSC; present for entire council for longer period of time (like an interview with the entire council)
 - a) Faith: Potentially reopen for students who can now apply as their set in their schedules?
 - b) Joshua: What's reasoning to give them more time to talk?
 - (1) Serengeti: Because e-board wouldn't be interviewing them so it feels more fair to give each candidate more time
 - c) Motion passes
- B. MilVets Halloween Mixer Budget Proposal
 1. Motion to approve Milvets Halloween Mixer Budget Proposal (\$2000)
 2. Motion seconded
 3. Nick: Clarifying that this budget is solely for the Halloween mixer
 - a) Serengeti: Yes
 4. Motion passes

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.

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 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