



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

November 9th 8:15PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the **General Studies Student Council of Columbia University** will hold a **REGULAR** meeting on **October 26th** 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	P
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	E
Chief of Communications Siena Iwasaki 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	P	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	P

Diversity & Equity Rep Rubaab Poonawala	P	Students w/Disabilities Rep Erin O'Bannon	E
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: / Quorum: → / Total:	

C. Adoption of the Current Agenda for November 9th, 2021 -> Pass/Rejected

1. Motion Passed

D. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from October 26th, 2021

1. Motion Passed

I. REPORTS

A. President

1. GSSC Meetings Format Update
 - a) First in-person meeting since 3/7/2020!
 - b) We will be meeting in a hybrid format from now on.
 - c) Tuesday, November 23rd's meeting will be on Zoom
 - d) Last meeting Tuesday, December 7th
2. Call to Action for ECAC Members
 - a) Election Commissions Appointment Committee
 - b) Need to be appointed before the last meeting of the semester
 - (1) Last spring we had some challenges setting up the committee and we want to avoid that this time around
 - (2) We want to rally people into running and voting this time around! Get the most GSSC voices in the process, make sure we don't have any unopposed elections!
 - c) Elections commission will be chaired by Serengeti, vice-chaired by Rachel, and then a graduating senior from each committee (can be more than one from each committee)
 - (1) Only seniors to avoid conflicts of interest
 - (2) Work of the committee is very important!
 - (3) Work with comms to get the elections chatter started early
3. SGA Binder Update
 - a) Seven GSers have applied, we have planned to supply for 10.
 - b) Are not hearing of influx from other schools so we do not foresee a need to increase our budget
 - c) Will probably end up spending only \$245

B. Policy Committee

1. No Updates

C. Communications Committee

1. Follow Our New Facebook Page!
 - a) <https://www.facebook.com/Columbia-University-General-Studies-Student-Council-101384362363078>
 - b) Will be continuing to push out new FB page on social media

- c) Please follow the page yourselves and let folks in your network to follow the new page too!

D. Finance Committee

- 1. No Updates

E. Campus Life Committee

- 1. Tree Lighting Update
 - a) First 4-school event greenlit by admin
 - b) Dec 2nd at 7pm
 - c) Events include: 1000 donuts, carols, Dean speaking
 - d) We want to increase GS engagement on this
 - (1) Hopefully a big comms blitz to let GS folks know so they can get involved/attend

F. University Senator

- 1. General Update
 - a) Jeremy- (Student Affairs Committee) SAC Update
 - (1) Comms and transparency committee: Updating the current website
 - (2) Working with Ferdinando and ISGB to reorganize and revitalize; continuing to develop new programming
 - (3) Pushing forward with the student quality of life survey that SAC designs and put out
 - (4) Meeting with university administrators and executive committee to ensure communication on the grad strike and what we can do do respecting the strike
 - (a) Limited due to the scope of the senate's mandate
 - (5) Met with dean rogers to push for basic structures of health and wellness improvements
 - (6) Other broader work: COVID-19 situation, dining hall issues
 - (a) Were able to get documented student concerns on dining and student accommodations thanks to Serengeti's prompt in the newsletter, which was great to share with the administration
 - (b) Serengeti response: Happy to hear the Senate is thinking about doing some sort of town hall, appreciate the work on the transparency/communication of Senate

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. Seniors Party Proposal

- 1. Proposing a bigger budget for senior party
 - a) Usually senior class holds lerner pubs throughout the semester, but haven't been able to because of COVID-19
 - b) Fri Dec 3rd
 - c) \$10,000 for the budget
 - (1) Want to leave wiggle room for the potential space costs, alcohol (have to use Columbia catering)
 - (2) Since we want alcohol for the event, and due to limitation of catering, we might need more budget
 - (3) Anything that is left over will be returned to the budget

- d) Motion to propose \$10,000 for senior party
- e) Question from Ferdinando: is the budget just for alcohol?
 - (1) Nope! The budget will be used for renting, university staff fees, catering, public safety costs
- f) Question from Evan: How much did regular Lerner pubs cost on average?
 - (1) Lerner pubs funded by a 4-school fund
 - (2) This semester the allocation is \$6000 (can vary based on the year)
- g) Question from Carol: What is senior night?
 - (1) It's a party! Usually there are not a lot of senior events in the fall semester, so because we are not able to host events this semester, this will be our main party this semester.
- h) Comment from Cole: We weren't able to do the pubs, and we couldn't host a welcome back party in Sept that would have had a similar budget and atmosphere, so this event is a good chance to get a similar event to happen (especially for folks graduating in Feb)
 - (1) Response from Simas: \$10,000 is not as big as it sounds. Most student groups host their events at Lerner which is funded by the semester facility fund. Other events are often subsidized, but as student government, we don't use that fund. And everything on campus has an associated cost and there is no alternative for alcohol/catering. So this is a pretty reasonable budget.
- i) Questions: Serengeti- how many seniors do you anticipate to attend the event
 - (1) GS-specific
 - (2) 100-150 (breaks down to ~\$66 a person)
 - (3) 80 people graduating in February.
- j) Motion to allocate \$10,000 to senior class party passes

B. Hanukkah Party Proposal

- 1. Same day as tree lighting, but earlier in the day (around 5:30), at Dodge tent
- 2. Have an opportunity to share the candle lighting as a GS community
- 3. Proposal \$400 for event
 - a) \$100 for candles
 - b) \$300 for food
 - c) Have a lot of wiggle room and do not expect to spend this much. All extra funds will return to the pool
 - d) Assuming that around 50 people will come
- 4. Motion to allocate \$400 for the Hanukkah Party Proposal
 - a) Question from Serengeti: Do you anticipate the \$300 for food will be enough?
 - b) Answer: It won't be a full dinner, it will be more snacks (not catered, just buying from a grocery store!)
- 5. Motion passes

C. Friendsgiving Dinner Budget Proposal

- 1. Proposal for revitalization of GS Friendsgiving
- 2. Grab and go in the lounge (same as Snack Attacks)
 - a) Food from Morton Williams
 - (1) Mash potato, veggies, and a slice of pumpkin pie

- b)** Pickup in lounge around noon
 - 3. Budget proposal of \$600
 - a)** \$17 a meal for 30 meals, plus admin costs
 - 4. Question: Simas- will food be determined by first come first serve?
 - a)** Yes, because this is basically an event for those who are still on campus studying
 - 5. Question: is the 30 number based on past estimates, do you think it will be enough?
 - a)** Roughly it should be enough as it has not been highly attended before
 - 6. Faith: There will also be a Tue Thanksgiving dinner from Student Life, just speaking to quantity
 - 7. Josh: Is the event grab and go or are there a get together and eat outside event?
 - a)** It is grab and go for now, as there is limited time to make arrangements for gather events
 - 8. Motion to propose \$600 for GS Friendsgiving
 - 9. Motion passes
- D. Metrocard Purchase Proposal**
 - 1. Two components:
 - a)** First would be for tours and outside of campus trips that campus life would like to give over this semester and the spring semester. These would be round-trips (any student can use it, no specific criteria)
 - (1)** 2 trip card is \$550 total budget
 - b)** Other type of card is not related to campus life, instead an initiative that has been done in the past with varying success. For our commuter community.
 - (1)** Past failing was that it was weekly metro cards
 - (2)** Instead I would propose the 16-trip/8-round trip card (more expensive than weekly cards, but more flexible and suited to commuter lifestyle)
 - (a)** \$44 a piece (if we get 50, \$2200 total)
 - (3)** Motion to spend \$2750 total metro budget (\$550 for round trips, \$2200 for 16-trip)
 - (4)** Question from Rachel: how do we choose who gets the cards
 - (a)** For the round trip tickets it will be a first come first serve
 - (b)** For the 16 trips you will have to apply through student life on the subsidy forms
 - (5)** Question from Nick: is there also 8 trip metro cards which might be helpful for finals week/increase # of people we can give cards to
 - (a)** Yes there is, this is a possibility, which will be half the cut of the 16 trip card (so could theoretically do 100 8-trip cards for the same amount of budget)
 - (b)** Suggested 16 because it allows for more flexibility so that its not just limited to traveling to take finals
 - (c)** Not sure if there will be that much demand to lower it to 8 to meet high demands
 - (d)** The cards themselves are not refillable (but buying in bulk means you don't have to pay the \$1 new card fee)

- (6) Question from Kyle: Former commuter, what are student life's usual parameters for eligibility?
 - (a) Hopefully not distance, it should be purely based on financial need
 - (b) Serengeti: Entirely need based, same system for subsidizing gala tickets or sweaters, it is purely financial need-based
 - (c) Rachel: It is also honor-based; people need to be honest about what their needs are when they apply
- (7) Serengeti: You can amend your own motion if you change your mind on an aspect of your motion, or others can propose a different motion that addresses the same issue. For example, would support amending to have it be 100 8-trips
- (8) Rubaab: If there is a surplus, what would happen to surplus
 - (a) We can use them for next semester (metro cards expire about 2-3 years after they are issued)
- (9) Faith: Do we know how many people applied to them in the past
 - (a) It was a pilot program, so couldn't find those #s. I would suggest we try with a smaller #, but we have to do at least 50 for bulk purchases.
 - (b) Nasser: Since the tickets can be used later, if we do have a surplus, we can extend it to be used for shopping period (not just finals) because that's also a demanding period for students

c) Motion Passes

- E.** Motion for Finance Committee to issue payment for event space for Hanukkah Tree Lighting
 - 1. Motion Passes
- F.** TA Strike Effects
 - 1. Interview request from Spec about effects of TA strike on GS'ers
 - a) Haven't responded because of the short turnaround
 - b) But did want to mention it if you can aggregate your responses, peers responses, that would be helpful for our policy team that is drafting a statement of support currently
 - (1) So please email or text Kambi with any thoughts
- G.** Motion to allocate \$300 for GSSC holiday retreat
 - 1. Motion passes

III. STANDING BUSINESS

- A.** No Updates

IV. 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.** Andre: Policy committee is looking for as much evidence on grievances as possible (dining, strikes), please feel free to send your own or others contact info or email or thoughts to Andre or anyone in the policy committee

- B. Faith: We are working to get designs finalized
 - a. We will now be doing nicer sweatshirt, tshirt, travel mug and dropping the backpack and totebag
 - b. Please let Faith know if you need to change your sizing

V. 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)

VI. 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.

VII. ADJOURNMENT