



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

December 7th 8:15PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the **General Studies Student Council of Columbia University** will hold a **REGULAR** meeting on **December 7th** 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 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 Bruce Goumain	P
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	P

		Moutafov	
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		Voting Members: 31 / Quorum: → 20 / Total: 29	

C. Adoption of the Current Agenda for December 7th, 2021 -> Pass/Rejected

1. Motion passes

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

1. Motion passes

II. REPORTS

A. President

1. GSSC Operations
 - a. Last meeting of Fall 2021 semester!
 - b. Congrats on making it through the semester and work that's been done.
 - c. Next meeting 1/26
 - d. Will have an ECAC meeting during Winter Break
2. P/D/F Grading Policy Successfully Amended
 - a. Members from across committees helped draft and edit; thank you all for stepping in
 - b. Students have already said it's helping
3. End of Semester Remarks
 - a. Thank you to all the committees for their hard work and dedication
 - i. Campus Life has done a fantastic job helping students readjust to in-person social events, especially with the changing policies
 1. One example was Tree Lighting!
 - a. Thank you for volunteering
 2. Rae and Nick for putting together Lerner Pub
 - a. Working within strict guidelines but great turnout
 - ii. Comms has done a good job updating socials, website, etc.
 - iii. Finance ensuring GS is well represented and GSSC is able to help GS students

B. Policy Committee

1. Dining Updates
 - a) (Nasser & Andre): Met with Vicki Dunn (VP of dining) last Th
 - (1) Discussed takeaway containers, token, comms with GS population
 - (2) Discussion of reduced GS meal plan
 - (3) Lots of info and context, many deadlines/decisions were taken out of Dining's hands
 - (4) Flex/Dining Dollars

- (a) Not up to Dining as swipes are how Columbia tracks who is entering the dining hall to turn over information to the city
- (5) For comms, urged that student groups (like GSSC) do a lot to get information out to students
- (6) Columbia Dining is revamping the Uris to-go dining area
 - (a) Need Columbia ID but can access it with Flex points and Dining Dollars as well as the meal plan
- b) Met with Dean Rodgers today
 - (1) He will sort out the communications issue so that we do not have a repeat of the issue with tokens
 - (2) Will speak more with Columbia Dining to remedy these issues

C. Communications Committee

- 1. No Updates

D. Finance Committee

- 1. Current Standing and Looking Ahead
 - a) End of semester fiscal update
 - (1) Have executed or have pending transactions: \$278,810.69
 - (a) Includes allocated funds for four school events and bacchanal
 - (b) Notable line items for spend include Snack Attacks (Finals Snack Attacks is in progress-18,020.45 more than expected because of inflation and single-packaging needs due to pandemic; this is why discretionary budget is a good resource)
 - (c) Senior class; \$21,479 pending, \$13,014 available
 - (i) does not include \$8,500 allocated
 - (d) First year class \$12,075 left
 - (2) Financial situation is strong; we have built in budgetary resilience
 - (a) Have funds to enlarge planned events if previous years return for a joint commencement
 - (3) Current levels of spending would be unsustainable in normal conditions (had significant rollover from previous school year)
 - (a) For example \$50,000 to senior class which would usually be \$25,000
 - (b) Discussions about merch for students; this would be tight under our current budget, and impossible under normal budgetary circumstances
 - (c) Funding comes from Student Activity Fee; if we want more funding for the future, we would need to increase it from the \$98 it currently stands at (deserves consideration)
 - (i) We can do nothing
 - (ii) We can increase student activity fee through general body vote
 - (iii) We can also put matter to a vote by referendum in election (alongside GSSC elections)

E. **Campus Life Committee**

1. Study Break Games Night
 - a) Games night study break
 - (1) Thursday at 7, Nasser hosting
 - (2) Will have games, candy, etc.
2. GS Party Update
 - a) Friday (Rae and Nick in Ancell plaza)
 - b) Please promote and come!
 - (1) Available to **ALL** GS students (regardless of class year)
3. Upcoming Neighborhood Tour
 - a) Saturday; Union Square holiday market and surrounding neighborhood
4. Snack Attacks Update
 - a) Final snack attacks
 - b) Dec 13-16; 20-2
 - c) Guaranteed food for 175 people for the first day; scaling down after that as people leave campus
 - d) Really appreciate volunteers; Emily will email a sign up sheet to all of council
5. Many thanks to all committee members for all their work this semester!

F. **University Senator**

1. No Updates

III. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. GSSC Statement in Support of the SWC Strike

1. Current strike statement was sent out to GSSC
2. Motion to approve the current iteration of the statement of solidarity with the GSSC
 - a) Faith: Concerns addressing the publication of a statement; about to enter into a "mass notice of credits not being awarded to GS students;" a lot of students will need to add a semester if they cannot have these credits awarded; worried that this might put us on the bad side of administration
 - (1) Nasser: New information from multiple sources that will be discussed in executive session regarding credits pertaining to core classes; college level classes need a certain amount of contact hours for the credits to be awarded and that has not been met yet
 - b) Rae: CCSC released a statement, they talk about credits and how this is affecting students; we could potentially use a similar frame/language to discuss how the strike is continuing to impact GS students
 - c) Joshua: CCSC reiterated how the strike affects students without explicitly supporting or disavowing the strike--stated that it's unfair how the University has allowed this to happen
 - (1) We could potentially do something similar in order to avoid getting on the university's bad side
 - d) Katie: I think the current statement is strong, showing how TAs need help; as far as being worried about being on the admin's bad side, we would have to always worry about this

- (1) Potentially helping GSers who want to go on to be grad student workers in the future
 - (2) Our strike is not aggressive toward administration, will not have us end up on the admins bad side
- e) Garrett: We should take into consideration the circumstances surrounding the strike as it currently stands (we don't know what the plans are for the future)
- f) Simas: Has done research on right to strike rules
 - (1) Quoted the National Labor Relations Board
- g) Kyle: Does not want to operate off of incomplete information
- h) Nasser: Concerned about GS student body's response
 - (1) Timing could potentially be received poorly by GS students regardless of what happens with classes that are being impacted
 - (2) Given the timing, unsure GS student body would want us to put out this statement
- i) Rae: Has heard comments from students who are not in support of the strike; could make a statement about how the strike is impacting our student body and the ways in which we are advocating for our constituents
- 3. Faith: There is a statement already drafted about the impact the strike has had on the GSSC; has not been circulated to the rest of Council
- 4. Motion A: To pass the current proposed statement in support of the SWC
 - a) 8 in favor
 - b) 18 opposed
 - c) **Motion fails**
- 5. Motion B: To table the current proposed statement in support of the SWC and write a separate statement that reflects the circumstances that are going on to be voted on during the break period
 - a) Siena: Are we redrafting to focus more on the impact on undergrads? Thinks this would make sense for what the GSSC does; doesn't want us to forget we're discussing a labor dispute--if we're going to focus on GS students, also do not lose sight of the surrounding context
 - b) Evan: As we cannot vote on the current statement before break, do we have time to draft another one? Is this essentially saying if we want to say anything at all?
 - (1) Erin: Agrees with Evan
 - c) Nick: Acknowledging the context of the labor dispute, our role is still to represent the student body; we do not know where the student body stands but we're within our rights to draft statement to address impacts on the GS student body
 - (1) We did have emergency email voting last year; could use that again after seeing how things unfold in the next few days/weeks
 - (2) Let's reframe to more directly support our students
 - d) Ferdinando: To table this could mean we'd have to wait until February; if we keep pushing based on new updates, we'll never put anything out; would be best if we do emergency voting like Nick suggested

- e) Carol: For those of you who have been in GS, what has the historical precedent been? Is this our place? Is there a way to informally understand the student body's population?
 - (1) Serengeti: I was VP of Policy last year; issued many statements that addressed university issues/"politics"; we can't tackle every issue out there but the strike is negatively affecting every GS student and feels we should advocate as the student government
- f) Nasser: Understands Policy's frustration over how much work they've put into this; would strongly encourage waiting to see what is happening and how it impacts GS students
 - (1) If we do something about this over winter break, we should be honest about the things impacting our discussion/process
 - (2) It's okay to wait to have a more informed position; when the drafts started, we had the information to put out a statement but now things are still evolving and we need to better understand the impacts
- g) Serengeti: In the future, we can put in comments before the meeting by commenting on the document/meeting with the committee
 - (1) We have emergency voting so if things are escalating in such a way that we feel strongly about the impact on the student body, we can do an email vote
 - (2) Eboard could also potentially vote on this at our Eboard meetings
- h) Andre: If we delay, it makes it look like the student body is divided; it also makes us look hesitant; if we wait too long, we won't be able to release a statement at all
- i) Simas: Appreciates what Policy Committee has done; Does not think it looks bad to take our time and take into consideration the diversity of student viewpoints we represent
 - (1) Need to consider if the cost of potentially alienating certain constituents is worth it
 - (2) There has been an increase in the aggressive tone of the SWC;
 - (3) We can focus on the direct impacts on the GS student body
- j) 20 in favor; 4 opposed; 4 abstentions
- k) **Motion passes**

B. Teachers College Building Renaming

1. Motion to issue a statement in support of renaming Thorndike Hall to Edmund Gordon Tower
2. 28 in favor (19 in person, 9 on Zoom)

3. **Motion Passes**

C. Student Well-being Survey

1. Motion to adopt the survey to be sent to the student body
 - a) Emily: Important to recognize the diversity of population/programs (let's include a question about program: Dual BA, JTS, etc.); also, instead of distinguishing between Arts/Humanities, we could just ask what each person's major is
 - b) Rachel: What would the information be used for? Could we not take emails?

- (1) There will be a monetary incentive so we need to know who exactly responded
- (2) There is a note that this is confidential
- (3) The information would allow us to understand what the student body is feeling on a number of issues; info is open to all GSSC members
- c) Kyle: Survey would provide helpful info on how strike is affecting students (tying back to conversation we previously had about gauging student experiences in reference to the strike)
- d) Erin: How will this data be collected/displayed? Will it be exported to Excel?
 - (1) Emily: It exports to Google Sheets which we can export to Excel
- e) 28 in favor (19 in person, 9 on Zoom)
- f) **Motion passes**

D. GSSC Tablecloths

- 1. Budget of \$750
 - a) Columbia Comms team have not yet replied on this matter
 - b) Would not expect to even use half of this money but like to make an order on this ASAP
 - c) Realistically should cost about half of this amount
- 2. Motion 1: Allocate \$750 to use Option 1- Current GSSC Font
 - a) Evan: Do we need these?
 - (1) Serengeti: Most student groups have these for events; it would be nice for the Council to have
 - b) Nick: How many tablecloths?
 - (1) There will be 2 branded; it costs a little under \$300 for 2 but we need to hear back from GS Comms about whether or not we need to purchased unbranded (that's why we have the excess)
 - c) 8 in favor (5 in person, 3 on zoom)
 - d) **Motion for option 1 fails**
- 3. Motion 2: Allocate \$750 to use Option 2- Columbia University Font
 - a) 23 in favor (14 in person 9 on zoom)
 - b) **Motion passes for Option 2**

E. Proposed Gala Themes

- 1. Alex: We will do a surprise reveal of our Gala Theme in March when the tickets will be released, voting will be commenced in executive session

F. Metrocards Update

- 1. Emily: We previously voted to get metrocards for finals; we've had 35 students apply for the metrocards
 - a) We can decide if we want to distribute all of them
 - b) **Motion to allow for all 35 metro cards to be given out**
 - c) **Motion passes**
- 2. Not able to purchase a full 500 for our tours; change of program period I'd like to propose we provide weeklys while folks are figuring out their schedule (50 weeklys)
 - a) $1650 + 275 = 1925$ dollars + 10 dollar processing fee (1935 dollars)
 - b) 28 total in favor (19 in person 9 on zoom)
 - c) **Motion to allocate \$1935 passes**

- G. Motion to approve finance committee setting aside funds to pay for gift cards for folks who complete policy committee's survey

1. 28 total in favor (19 in person 9 on zoom)
2. **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