



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

December 8th 8:15PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the **General Studies Student Council of Columbia University** will hold a **REGULAR** meeting on **December 8th** 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 Josh Brown	U
Chief of Finance Ryan Wee	P	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	P	Veteran Student Rep Tony Costanzo	P
Int'l Student Rep Rhe-Anne Tan	P	Senator Jeremy Wahl	E
Senior Class President Safia Southey	P	Senior Class VP Roberto Uribe	P
Senior Class Treasurer Michal Chertock	P	1st Year Class President Kambi Gathesha	P
1st Year Class VP Rachel Harris	P	Health & Wellness Representative Savannah Melcher	P
Special Events Chair Jason You	P	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 Claire Kang	P	Treasurer Alex Ariunbold	P
JTS Rep Josh Brunnlehrmann	P	Student Services/Academic Affairs Rep Bern Gostelow	P
Equity & Inclusion Chair		Students w/Disabilities Rep Joan Bolanos Martinez	P
*Tech Chair Dylan Lee	P	Social Media Rep Brian Laurito	P
*Legislative Assistant Katya Sharma	U	*Legislative Assistant Jené Stefaniak	P
*Advisor Sean Trulby			
*Advisor Ashley Johnson		Voting Members: 27 / Quorum: → 19 / Total:	

C. Adoption of the Current Agenda for December 8th, 2020

D. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from December 1st, 2020

II. REPORTS

A. President

1. Food Pantry Presentation

a) "The Columbia Food Pantry started out in hopes of making sure that no Columbia student goes hungry, or w/o a meal. In 2017 we opened our first location on campus. This past spring we opened two more locations on campus. Because of the pandemic we had to change up somethings:

(1) Over the summer, during the shut-down, we came up with a new way to make sure our recipients were still getting food. We sent out a weekly email and saw if our recipients needed a delivery that week (wherever they were located within the 5 boroughs.)

(2) In order to receive food, or become a recipient, students are able to register using our [website](#) and order whatever food we have in stock.

b) We're shifting into an online campaign system to raise more awareness that we exist and are here for students with food insecurities.

c) For anyone who wishes to make donations, you can donate directly to us. You can donate food items that aren't open, as well as monetary donations -- which do tend to help us a bit more."

2. Election Commission Appointment Committee

B. Policy Committee

1. Policy Updates

- a) CARES Act
 - (1) Presentations to Student Councils
 - (a) Feedback from SIPA: CARES grants may not cover Intl Students; why not consider a \$250 discount on tuition for everyone?
 - (b) Because CARES goes through FAFSA, international students may not receive CARES money, which would be hugely detrimental to our students.
 - (2) Gathering of contact information for additional councils
 - (3) Media strategy
 - b) Media Subscriptions for GSers
2. Constitutional Amendments
- a) Amending Constitution to Replace Binary Pronouns with Gender Neutral Pronouns
 - (1) Bylaw amendments will come later down the line
 - b) Amending Constitution to Add Referenda Clause
 - (1) CCSC and ESC have been able to conduct referenda through their referenda clause, but GSSC has been unable to thus far - ideally, this clause will address that problem
3. Covid-19 Academic Policy
- a) Permanent Learning Options for Students with Disabilities
 - (1) Seems there may be proper avenues to guarantee either recorded classes, and perhaps even live remote instruction for students with disabilities
 - (2) Waiting to be connected to folks at ODS
 - b) Permanent Learning Options for Students with Families
 - (1) Plan on reaching out to student councils at Stanford to gain insight on how they were able to implement widespread class recordings and get their faculty on board
 - c) GSSC Feedback on F20 Semester
 - (1) Dean Rosner would love to hear from GSSC members about their personal pros and cons for this past semester.
 - (a) GSSC members send personal pros and cons of this semester to Serengeti, or Dean Rosner directly.
 - d) GS Senior Thesis Stipend
 - (1) \$250 for Seniors writing a Senior Thesis
 - (a) We're advocating for this, because a lot of GS students aren't writing senior thesis.
 - (b) The deadline to apply for this grant is on Monday.

C. Communications Committee

- 1. No Updates

D. Finance Committee

1. No Updates

E. Campus Life Committee

1. Events
 - a) Tree Lighting on the 9th
 - (1) 8 PM, streamed on Facebook and YouTube, a four school initiative.
 - (2) <https://fb.me/e/3msAJ1Jak>
 - b) Alumni Panel on the 10th
 - (1) Alumni Conversation in Finance at 7 PM, moderated by Grace Wagner (GS). Four GS alumni working in finance right now will be speaking on the panel.
 - (2) Click [here](#) to register for this event.
 - (a) *You can only receive the zoom link for the event if you register.*

F. University Senator

1. No Updates

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Constitutional Amendments

1. Binary pronouns to gender neutral pronouns
 - a) Need % of council, or in this case, 23 members, to pass amendments
 - b) *Motion to accept this constitutional amendment to replace binary pronouns with gender neutral pronouns. -> **PASSES***
2. Referenda Clause
 - a) There has been a lot of conversation as to whether our diplomas should be in Latin or not.
 - b) Discussion:
 - (1) The public suggests that we tweak this amendment, so that it can stand out and make a difference. They feel that keeping it the way it is will ultimately be a waste of time and GSSC's impact.
 - (2) The VP of Policy thinks that perhaps we can tweak the language to make it more detailed.
 - (3) Once we vote on this, it doesn't go into effect until next fall.
 - (4) If there is no motion to do this, nothing gets amended. This is simply an introduction.
 - (5) *Motion to introduce Referenda into our Constitution -> **PASSES***

****5 Minute Recess****

B. Tuition Strike

- 1.** The strike is asking for a reduction in tuition by 10% minimum, supporting people of west harlem, defunding public safety by 50%, the university investments being respectful to the referenda.
- 2.** Discussion:
 - a)** Council members share different opinions:
 - (1)** Some of these problems are not in direct relation to these students. In terms of defunding public safety...some of these people are members of the Harlem community...how is that supporting them? It's doing the exact opposite. Are we willing to advise 30% of the GS student body (Int'l students) to go on strike? This risks their visa statuses and their future as Columbia students.
 - (2)** We have a diverse student body at GS and it's always difficult discussing these topics, but still necessary in order to find out whether this is the best option for GS overall.
 - (3)** If GSSC were to support this, it would not be the same thing as encouraging students to go on strike. Our support or lack of is distinct from that. We also need to take into consideration why these demands have been made what they are.
 - (4)** One option here is to make our own document.
 - (5)** In terms of the public safety issue: A lot of universities are looking into amending some of their guidelines and how they run. I think that the difference is that Columbia doesn't show any sign of doing the same thing; no new training or guidelines. Also, the amount of people that are signing this petition should tell us that we should take into consideration what is going on and how we can support, instead of turning a blind eye to it.
 - (6)** We also need to take into consideration the people at GS that are possibly being affected that caused this to be drawn up.
 - (7)** Reassessing is not the same language that "defund" Public Safety. I really believe that GSSC may come with our own agenda and proposal regarding this issue.
 - (8)** I also want to say that my concerns with Clause 4 are based on pragmatic circumstances (the fact that we have a Dual B.A. program with Tel Aviv) as opposed to my personal position on BDS.
 - b)** Public Comment:
 - (1)** This petition has things that absolutely need to happen. If we see this strike and respond a little bit too ambitious, it could be something that administrators look at and shrug off.
 - (2)** I understand that there's a huge discussion about the public safety comment and I think that the point about them also being part of the Harlem community makes a lot of sense and is worth looking into in the future.
 - (3)** There are a lot of issues with supporting this and I warn GSSC of supporting something that is still very controversial.

- (4) You can push for more training, but you do not have to defund them...
 - (5) I think that Clause 4 is way out of the range of a Tuition Strike. I think it shouldn't be something that students are tricked into voting for and that it shouldn't be something that hinders my voting for a reduction in tuition.
 - (6) As a Jewish student, I find some of these points to be completely dangerous. If the council decides to vote on this petition then Clause 4 should be excluded.
 - (7) My sister plans on going to this school. I do not feel comfortable voting on an issue that will decrease public safety and increase anti-Semitic incidents.
3. *Motion to make a subcommittee to further discuss this petition and table this discussion.* -> **PASSES**

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 janejeong@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**