



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:

<https://columbiauniversity.zoom.us/j/91508578336>

GENERAL STUDIES STUDENT COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

February 1st 8:15PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the **General Studies Student Council of Columbia University** will hold a **REGULAR** meeting on **February 1st** 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	E	VP of Policy	
Chief of Policy Stephanie Pierre	E	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	E
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	U	*Legislative Assistant Kyle Gordon	P
*Advisor Sean Trulby		Chief Negotiator Katie Peters	P
*Advisor Ashley Johnson		Voting Members: 30 / Quorum: → 20 / Total: 26	

C. Adoption of the Current Agenda for February 1, 2022 -> Pass/Rejected

1. Motion Passes

D. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from January 25, 2022

1. Motion Passes

II. REPORTS

A. President

1. Thank you to campus life committee
 - a. For spearheading the merch!
 - b. Please try to coordinate picking up your merch
2. Announcing Appointments
 - a. Vice President of Policy
 - i. E-board this past weekend went through several interviews with great candidates. Everyone was impressive
 - ii. E-board has decided to present as nominee Nasser Odetallah
 1. Nasser will present in new business
 2. We'll vote during Executive Session
 - b. First Year Class President
 - i. Because Nasser is nominated to the VP role, his original role would become vacant
 - ii. So E-board is nominating Faith Grady as First year class President
 - iii. Faith will also present in new business and we will deliberate in executive session
3. Proposal of Subcommittee on the Implementation of Student Trustees on the Board of Trustees
 - a. Believes that creating a subcommittee would be the best way to have Policy work on this
 - b. Subcommittee would still sit under policy
 - c. We'll vote on it later in New Business
4. Administrative Town Hall
 - a. With administrators including Dean Rosen-Metsch
 - b. Allows students to ask questions, better understand administration, and open up the floor for suggestions
 - i. GSSC members and GS students can submit questions they'd like to be ask in advance
 - c. Still looking for a date; will depend on Deans' schedules

B. Policy Committee

1. No Updates

C. Communications Committee

1. No Updates

D. Finance Committee

1. No Updates

E. Campus Life Committee

1. Roughly completed a schedule for the coming semester
 - a) Not discussing in detail now, but looking forward to the programming that will be coming
 - b) Thankful to the committee for their work
2. Glass House Rocks Budget Proposal
 - a) Glass House Rocks in moving forward
 - b) GS will handle merch while CC/SEAS/Barnard will handle scheduling and entertainment
 - (1) We're paying for hats, knick knacks, and temporary tattoos designed by Rae Harris and Liam McGrane
 - (2) We'll also be sponsoring a movie showing of *Hackers*
 - c) Allocate budget of \$7,500 (don't plan to spend it all but want there to be wiggle room)
3. Valentine's Day Lounge Party Announcement
 - a) Event restrictions on indoor dining are being lifted
 - b) Reserving Lounge on valentine's day for GS Flamingo Mingle
 - (1) Organized activities, sweet treats, speed meeting/dating
 - (2) Motion to budget \$1000 for the event (likely will not spend all of it, but want to have more on hand to manage the event)

F. University Senator

1. No Updates

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion of Vice President of Policy Nomination
1. Nasser: Joined GSSC because he wanted to help GS students feel supported, happy, and proud to be in GS; tries to listen to student concerns and advocate for them (worked on this last semester with regard to Columbia Dining)
 - a) Believes most important job would be to support the current policy committee members in their work
 - b) Main priorities:
 - (1) Working on bettering Columbia Dining
 - (2) Permanent PDF expansions
 - (3) Wants GS to have a voice in the expansion of CC and SEAS
 - (4) Tuition pricing for full time students
 - (a) GSers get flat rate at 17 credits but CC/SEAS flat rate is equivalent to 15 credits so wants to lower ours to be equal
 - (5) Financial Aid
 - (6) GS Student Life Fee

- (a) Wants a referendum for whether or not we should increase it
 - (7) Advising Deans
 - (a) Is there a way we can help on our end?
 - (b) Make communication between advising deans and students easier
 - (8) Mental Health and CTS
 - (9) Constitutional language for GSSC; making more accessible
 - (10) Work-study session in NSOP
 - c) Shout out to Campus Life committee for a wonderful experience; looking forward to building a similarly great relationship with Policy committee
- B. Discussion of First Year Class President Nomination
 - 1. Faith: Fortunate enough to already be on Campus Life
 - a) Transitioning from Community Services and Sustainability to First Year Class Pres: Worked to make GS events more sustainable last semester
 - b) Looking forward to working to plan/host specific events
 - c) Proud of first year class; enjoyed getting to know everyone; knows there are already events being hosted outside of GSSC (ex. Picnics in Central Park) and would love to let GSSC plan more events
 - d) Alex: Is technically a first year but doesn't feel like one because she already has 60 credits. What would Faith's interpretation of a first year be and how would you incorporate everyone?
 - (1) We have unique first years (never been to college, already has a degree, coming in with a certain amount of credits) → there's a difference between "freshman" and "first year"
 - (2) Wants everyone to feel welcome; hoping to spread awareness that events are open to anyone who thinks of themselves as a first year
 - (a) Planning events with Rae for joint "Senior/Freshman" events
- C. Glass House Rocks Budget
 - 1. Motion to allocate budget of \$7500 (campus life committee member reminded that it is \$7500, not \$6000)
 - a) Serengeti: What's the biggest expense?
 - (1) Answer: Main merch distributable (hats with Rae's logo design)
 - (2) Faith: This also includes an increase in # versus the Christmas Tree Lighting mugs (500 to 650)
- D. Valentine's Day Lounge Party Budget
 - 1. Motion to allocate budget of \$1000
 - a) Motion Passes
- E. Motion to create Subcommittee on the Implementation of Student Trustees on the Board of Trustees
 - 1. Emily: What does this look like? What do we hope to accomplish?
 - a) Serengeti: BoT is essentially a huge body that decides every major function at Columbia (acquiring new buildings, reappointing the President, increases in tuition, expansions of schools); what decisions they don't make they can advise on (e.g. the TA strike). So we need student representation on the board, because there is no student input when these big decisions are made. There is apparently an alumni

trustee, but we don't know how they serve as an intermediary between students and the board. The meetings are quite private.

- b)** So the role of the subcommittee would be to network and develop relationships that allow us to make this ask (reaching out to other student councils as student rep would represent all undergraduates, reach out to admin). Because of how much work there is in this endeavor, a subcommittee seems like the logical option.
- 1. Emily: Do other institutions have student trustees (a precedent)?
 - a)** Serengeti: The New School, Barnard (has two student representatives); Cornell has student representatives
- 2. Brian: Past efforts for this at Columbia?
 - a)** Serengeti: To my knowledge, no past efforts. A sense that people think nothing will change, which is why it can be hard for the University to improve. Just because we are old, doesn't mean we can't be innovative.
- 3. Carol: Wondering is this specific to the GS student body or trying to start this for every student in the university?
 - a)** Serengeti: This would be for the entire student body, and realizes that she is here to represent the GS student body. But that doesn't mean we can't advocate for a change that would benefit GSers and other undergraduates. But having a student rep would definitely help to remind BoT that we (GS) are here.
- 4. Cole: Would be good to have student rep but Cole believes it'd be hard to make the case for a student rep; wonders if the policy committee would be better off focusing their efforts on a clear, present issue that is directly relevant to GS student
 - a)** Serengeti: Thinks of certain issues as structural. Wonders how many of these issues come from Board of Trustees without student representation; Board has its own mandate of maintaining the financial health of the institution but believes that we should still be included; thinks that's why a subcommittee would be helpful
- 5. Garrett (from Zoom): "It's the long game. In an ideal world we'd have representation on the board already. Good idea to at least explore how we might go about it"
- 6. Simas: Questions regarding the Board of Visitors which can make recommendations to Board of Trustees – could that be a way to make this change/get more influence?
 - a)** Serengeti: Hasn't heard of the Board of Visitors having much impact in the case of important decisions; feels as if most of the major discussions we wanted to give input on have come down to the Board of Trustees. Can explore this but why not have a two pronged front
- 7. Jeremy: Thinks its a good idea, worth at least the formal work/investigation of putting together a subcommittee; if we are industrious with political capital, we could do it; the CUNY system also has a student trustee (maybe SUNY as well); student organization across schools has produced positive results (birth of student senate, student workers strike, etc); There is a great deal of precedent in Columbia's history for this. But in order to fully accomplish this goal, we will need to link arms with students from the other schools. Common model: undergraduate and graduate rep? Jeremy advises Trustees regularly in his roles so why not bolster student voices?

- a) Serengeti: Potentially call on Jeremy as a resource; good points about student organizing
- 8. Nasser: His understanding is that Board of Trustees level is where they view it as running a non-profit; is there some kind of legal problem where because we benefit from Columbia, would there be some kind of conflict of interest in administering the endowment? Knows that in some smaller nonprofits have members who are representatives but non-voting
 - a) Jeremy: Think of it as a for-profit board of investors; they have a mandate that they are bound to to protect the bottom line of the institution; there are different levels of membership → student members could be non-voting
 - b) We should at least talk about it; create undergrad block before reaching out to others
- 9. 23 in favor, 2 against: Motion passes
 - a) If we ever wanted to change rule that abstentions have to email the President to explain reasoning, we would need a constitutional amendment, definitely a possibility in future

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 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