

GENERAL STUDIES STUDENT COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 28, 8:15 PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the *General Studies Student Council of Columbia University* will hold a *REGULAR* meeting on **March 28, 8:15 PM**. 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 President 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 Executive Board for any agenda-related questions.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Call To Order

B. Roll Call (* → indicates a non-voting member; *P* → *Present*, *T* → *Tardy*, *E* → *Excused Absence*, *U* → *Unexcused Absence*)

OFFICERS	STATUS	OFFICERS	STATUS
*President Maya Platek	P	Senior Class President Garrett Gregor-Splaver	E
VP of Policy DeAngelo Hunter	P	Senior Class VP William Grugan	P
VP of Finance Jennifer Odum	P	First Year Class President Jule Boudreaux	P
VP of Communications Faith Grady	E	First Year Class VP Jemima Kingdon-Jones	P
VP of Campus Life Katherine Zimmermann	P	JTS Rep Joshua Brunnlehrman	P
Chief of Policy Kyle Gordon	P	International Students Rep Altynbek Tilepbergnov	P
Chief of Finance Su Lee	P	Dual BA & Joint Program Rep Jack Gonzalez	P
Chief of Communications Oliver Neale	P	Alumni Affairs Rep Aliya Steele	P
Chief of Campus Life Robert Mueller	P	Community Service & Sustainability Rep Ally Woodard	P
University Senator Bruce Goumain	E	External Events Ashley Tan	P
Diversity and Equity Rep Marie Febrillet	E	*Outreach Associate Haya Fine	E
Health and Wellness Rep Allison Darne	P	*Communications Coordinator Kevin Gunaratna	U
Student Services & Academic Affairs Rubaab Poonawla	P	*Legislative Assistant Savanah Shulkin	P
Students with Disabilities Rep Rachel Papirmeister	P	*Legislative Assistant Zarria Simmons	P
Veteran Students Rep Gaetan Evina Biloa	P	*Policy Coordinator Daniel LaFata	E
Family & Working Students Rep Freida Candido	P	*Commuter Students Representative Sean Reilly	P
Treasurer Kris Packauskas	P	*Campus Life Coordinator Lily Penn	P
Senior Class Treasurer Rebekah Cornish	P	*Finance Coordinator Sylvester Benson	P
Chief Negotiator Eric Yu	P		
Social Media Representative Melanie Wells	P	*Advisor Jawad Cipriani	
Technology Chair Serena Kwan	E	*Advisor Sean Trulby	
		Voting Members: 31 / Quorum: → 21 / Total: 26	

C. Adoption of the Current Agenda for March 28, 2023

Motion Passes/Fails- **PASSES**

D. Adoption of the Meeting Minutes from March 21, 2023

Motion Passes/Fails- **PASSES**

II. GS TOWN HALL

A. Welcoming remarks

Good job on the survey

Introduced themselves

Survey being analyzed and Deans will report data once analyzed

Raise money for scholarship

How can we get to know you? Opportunity for dining with the dean/ice cream with the dean.

Career advice/ideas are welcome to talk to deans about

GSers for life !

B. Questions:

1. What is one resource on or off campus you wish more students knew about?

- a) Vice Dean (VD): The idea that there are people available to answer your questions when you have them. My door is open and I'm accessible – if there's a question about anything all you have to do is come and ask. Oftentimes when I share that students are kind of puzzled, but we are here as your resource! I wish it were more known how accessible GS is as a school. We are here to help you reach your goals at Columbia
- b) DRM: Dean Delva couldn't be here tonight but she really wants people to know about the academic resource center, offer various classes, hosts Jump Start, University Studies, Resource center for when you are studying in a particular class, use this tool when you are struggling, reach out when you need help!

2. What are some of your personal goals for GS

- a) VD: goals: Overseeing the financial aid office is at the top of my list. It's not something I have perfect control over, but me and DRM are striving everyday to enhance their educational experience and help out with financing. There isn't a day that goes by without us thinking about how to help provide these resources. Generally, I am thinking about how we are managing the support services to reach your goal and how we can do better and improve. It may be with the admissions operation, how we deliver information. HR finance related topics. Improve over time.

C. Questions from the Audience:

1. Kat Zimmerman (Junior in Trinity Dual BA and VP Campus Life): Could you talk about the new President we have just been introduced to and her role in GS?

- a) Dean RM: New dean of Columbia will start July 1st, she was here for a week (the first week of classes for the spring semester), President stated she values Columbia GS non traditional students, her mother finished or started school at the age of 30, she had a glitter in her eye when speaking about GS. She is an economist, president of London School of economics. In her book she has a chapter on education and speaks about the importance of education throughout life, not just a traditional

approach. Dean RM found her warm and approachable. She starts July 1st. New president who will come in with new ideas!

2. Davey: I'm here to represent my club GS Alliance – on the topic of President Shafik, all the Columbia LGBTQ clubs received an email from the LGBTQ club (Stonewall) at LSE that warned us about her perspective on the LGBTQ community. Is there a channel where we can discuss our concerns with her?
 - a) Dean RM: If you want to send an email to her I encourage you to. Dean may also bring concern forward to speak to these issues.
3. Gaeton (name may be spelled wrong): Has the administration thought about creating a bachelor of science degree?
 - a) DRM: Bachelor of Arts to be more comparable with Columbia College.
 - b) VD: Long history that goes back to the founding of GS. first and original agree and it had to do with the fact the requirements were identical. Under review of the prior dean the decision was made that the bachelor of arts was the proper degree.
4. Deangelo: You (DRM) have a long relationship with GS after being an alumna and dean for a while – i guess my question is phrased from the student body perspective – with your long relationship with GS and your current goals how do you feel about certain student body members can work towards Successes (advocacy efforts of students)
 - a) DRM: Advocacy, social movements, being trained as a sociologist know that this is very critical. My approach has been to partner and work together with students towards the same goals. I would imagine with the Student Council here that addressing financial aid is at the top of your list as well – I'd be surprised if it wasn't. I've worked closely with university senators, vp's of policy, etc. When I came in as Dean walking in the door the students had just created the food pantry here, and I heard the food insecurity was at the top of the student concerns list, and we documented how a large number of students were food insecure so we dedicated a certain amount of money to help this cause. We also knew the food pantry wasn't the only solution and was only putting a bandaid on a problem that needed more comprehensive solutions. Dean Rogers working with Scott Rite (?) developed (with student input) the low income, low cost meal plan. Now we see a lot more GS students on the meal plan than we had in previous years. The attention to that issue sprung from the students themselves and they made sure that we were aware of those issues. Students have also brought up other issues such as one about a credit pay cap. Everyday we're racking our brains about what we can do when we're raising money and looking at different initiatives. Your voice is incredibly important to moving things ahead. Certain issues need to be addressed. We know about debt and we know and understand your struggles. We want to help students figure out their path to make this work.

5. Jule: Can you speak to housing? People who need housing are not getting it. What is the situation?
- a) We are putting in effort to expand access to housing , we have doubled the number of beds over the past 10 years. The challenge is the available apartments in CC. We have worked with private landlords to increase beds. We have 200 beds that have added to this issue. We know we do not meet demands. Our policy is not just getting more beds, it's what kind of housing. We concentrated on building community within these units, clusters. Almost 800 GS students across 78 buildings. Goal is to find opportunities to add beds while building community.
6. Jack (Dual BA rep): I was just wondering how you guys are keeping up with the heads of administrations in the different dual BA programs?
- a) DRM: we keep in close contact at all different levels. We regularly talk with the deans there and the heads of the universities.
 - b) VD: We talk a lot with Jessica, she's the person who arranges all the dual ba details. Maintaining connection and deep partnership with the universities we have our dual BA programs with is essential. We have regular visits with the academic advising team, but the planning team does most of the meetings. We haven't been able to do it as much during covid but usually we have regular meetings with the presidents of each school.
7. Savannah: Students want to help with financial aid. Is there a program in place where people who are thinking of donating could talk with students in GS? Because I think there's a lot of interest in trying to do something like this, and having an opportunity to have students share their stories would be really valued
- a) Students shouldn't feel pressure to worry about this. We have an amazing alumni affairs and development team. Students come to alumni events/development events to tell stories to encourage donations. For students who would like to be a part of this we can put you in touch with Jill. The experience is limited by not having the resources to go through school fully so this is why we need donations.
 - b)
8. Tony: A lot of students when they first get in their first question is how am I going to afford this school? But for me the question was how am I supposed to afford the books? I know there's the FLI program but I was wondering if there's another way to get core books for free?
- a) We have a working group working with low income students in ways to enhance and improve support for this, including textbook, but also academic access. If you can't afford books, that is a challenge. Dean encouraged Tony to speak with him about these issues because it's good to have these dialogues. Concerns are real and we hear them but we are working on this issue.

9. Ashley: I am a graduating senior in dual ba with science po. I'm just wondering because we've been having conversations about the latin diplomas and I was just wondering if you have any updates on that?
 - a) VD: In the survey 44% indicated they would strongly prefer to have a latin diploma, about 13% (?) indicated that they would slightly prefer, and another 13-14% said they didn't have a preference. We have the data to back it up and are now thinking about the alumni population and their opinion on the issue.
 - b) Ashley: It would not be anything for this upcoming class?
 - c) VD: No it would not be available for this upcoming year because it's a bit of a process to make this change . In order to move it would be challenging and we will not have the option to do either a latin or english diploma. Your diploma is the diploma received at graduation, so alumni would not be able to change their diploma. Gathering evidence from Alumni population to conclude this decision
10. Ally: The recent changes in admin can be seen as a turbulent force, but how can we see this out smoothly? Support this?
 - a) DRM: We're going to have more meetings this summer. The best way you can support us is by being the same amazing students you are now. Between your performance in the classroom, the awards you win, tour community service, etc. Kindness and citizenship important
11. Robert: Since we have separate colleges at this school what can we do to foster a sense of community and a relationship between the 4 schools beyond joint school events?
 - a) DMR: When she was a part of GS the school didn't didn't have much of an identity. However now it is much more integrated. Academic integration is almost full. Our challenge is making your identity a part of GS but also feeling a part of the undergraduate community. Committee responsible for Undergrad curriculum: majors, policy purposely, etc. Club activity, taking leadership roles, writing for spectator
 - b) Robert: Many of us are now in the process of applying for summer internships and jobs. I encounter many misconceptions about students at GS daily. What can the admin do to clear up these misconceptions?
 - c) VD: Your points are all incredibly valid. These challenges have existed for a long time, and they've been improving a lot over time. But I understand that you want it to be better right now. The first point is correcting misinformation when you hear it. We've worked incredibly hard everyday to show everyone what GS is, not in comparison to CC but to show what makes us unique and distinct. There's no other college in the world like GS But this idea that we are unique makes it easier for us to be misconceived. It's not on you to fix this problem, but you do have to speak up and say that it's not right and let us know what we can do to help combat these misconceptions. But I'm optimistic about it because I've seen how much better it has gotten over the years.

12. Kat: If students have other questions is there another way they can reach you?
 - a) DRM: council can send them to us. We certainly are available to talk too – many students have sent me emails. We are very open in general. I also just want to take a moment to thank the student leaders in this room because we know how much work goes into events such as gala and even student council meetings.
13. Kyle (Chief of Policy): I was just hoping to touch base on a vote that happened last year that was about the integration of GS and CC into the school of arts and sciences? I just want to have some clarification on what the vote was and what the implications are?
 - a) DRM: Last year there was a task force of arts and sciences between them and CC, faculty trustees and CC alumni, produced a report. Faculty of Arts and sciences, we share the same faculty with CC and graduate school. Meeting at the end of the year and there were 3 or so things that were out forth: One, recommended was the PPC, faculty governance to look at faculty governance of the curriculum. The subcommittee has been meeting this year and the work is ongoing, Two GS student representatives participated in meeting with the subcommittee, but have not submitted recommendation, which is how faculty is involved.
 - b) Kyle: I just want some more clarification on the integration of the two schools? More faculty input on curriculum?
 - c) DRM: governance subcommittee looks at different ways the curriculum is evaluated and development recommendations are still in progress.

III. REPORTS

A. President

1. General Remarks
 - a) Wonderful town hall
 - b) Meeting with EFGS Eboard last week
 - (1) Liam: Point of Personal Privilege
 - (a) Stephen has to go, can we jump to ETF stuff

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Elections Task Force

1. ECs will present next week
 - a) One is in France, the other is in New Jersey
2. We're excited for elections, will keep you all updated!
3. The Info Session is NEXT THURSDAY! (April 6)

V. REPORTS (Cont.)

A. Policy Committee

1. Legislative Form
 - a) First off, passing around this amendment form, if have suggestions please submit through this form, can also post in slack channel
2. GS Awards Nominations
 - a) These awards go to faculty member, TA, or administrative assistant
 - b) Voting will be april 11th

B. Communications Committee

1. No updates

C. Finance Committee

1. Co-Sponsorships at our next meeting
 - a) Going to be moving motions to allocate funds
 - b) Two requests discussed in executive session

D. Campus Life Committee

1. No updates

E. University Senator

1. No updates

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. ETF Updates (Cont)

1. Will be using 1000 dollars of budget (that was allocated)
 - a) \$500 is for video projects, good cinematographer (cartier, nike, vogue, etc).
2. Info session: Thursday, April 6, will send out more details to GSSC tomorrow
3. Other updates:
 - a) The reason we elected Liam is because we cannot talk to Steven about the elections (constitutionally)
 - b) Jennifer: We need the exact timeline because we are planning the summit. We are waiting for a timeline.
 - (1) Will be putting out in the next couple days

B. Motions to reallocate funds on the 2022-2023 budget

1. Now that the year is almost over, we want to move around some money so no accounts go negative while other accounts have a surplus
 - a) **Motion: Reallocate \$1,160.20 from the students events budget to the Spring orientation budget**
 - (1) MOTION PASSES
 - b) **Motion: Reallocate \$7,200 from the student events budget to the snack attacks budget**
 - (1) MOTION PASSES

VII. STANDING BUSINESS

A.

VIII. 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.

- Allison: Reminder, GS FLI group due friday march 31st.
- Gen WEEK coming up, want more GS participants
- First FLI formal on saturday

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

This segment of the meeting is reserved for all non-Council members desiring to address the General Studies Student Council on any matter of concern. 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. (Brown Act §54954.3)

- Mr Gonzalez & Ms. Perez
 - Student group from Venezuela
 - Groups also at other ivies; they're coming here
 - Asking for \$700-\$1,000 to host this event → the other ivy leagues are already confirmed to come for this
 - Questions? no!

X. 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.

XI. ADJOURNMENT