



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

March 9th 8:15PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the **General Studies Student Council of Columbia University** will hold a **REGULAR** meeting on **March 9th** 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 Louis Cheng	P
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	E
Chief of Communications Noéllly Flôr	P	Veteran Student Rep Tony Costanzo	E
Int'l Student Rep Rhe-Anne Tan	L	Senator Jeremy Wahl	P
Senior Class President Safia Southey	P	Senior Class VP Roberto Uribe	P
Senior Class Treasurer		1st Year Class President Kambi Gathesha	L
1st Year Class VP Rachel Harris	P	Health & Wellness Representative	
Special Events Chair Jason You	L	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 Simas Chacar-Palubinskas	P	Treasurer Alex Ariunbold	P
JTS Rep Josh Brunnlehrmann	P	Student Services/Academic Affairs Rep Bern Gostelow	P
Equity & Inclusion Chair Sydney Bowen	P	Students w/Disabilities Rep Joan Bolanos Martinez	P
*Tech Chair Dylan Lee	E	Social Media Rep Brian Laurito	P
*Legislative Assistant		*Legislative Assistant Jené Stefaniak	P
*Advisor Sean Trulby			
*Advisor Ashley Johnson		Voting Members: 24 / Quorum: → 16 / Total: 26	

C. Adoption of the Current Agenda for March 9th, 2021

D. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from February 23rd, 2021

II. REPORTS

A. President

1. Election Updates
 - a) Information is going out this week so keep an eye on your email if you're thinking about running
2. Graduate Student Union Strike
 - a) History on Graduate Workers
 - (1) Nearly 20 years of Graduate workers wanting to unionize with Columbia historically being opposed
 - (2) 2016 won a decision to be counted as workers at private universities and unionized
 - (a) Columbia refused to recognize for a year
 - (3) Strikes in 2017 and 2018
 - (a) Negotiations began in 2019
 - b) Ongoing negotiations
 - (1) Progress has been made on key issues
 - (a) Protections for international student workers (tax and legal advice)
 - (b) Small increases on childcare
 - (i) Doubled subsidy
 - (c) Extended COVID funding
 - (2) Few articles left
 - (a) Healthcare
 - (i) Dental and vision support
 - (ii) Columbia has offered \$150,000 emergency fund (about \$44 per person)
 - (b) Recognition of all student workers
 - (i) Including hourly workers
 - (c) Tuition waivers for Masters and Undergraduate student workers

- (d) Better protections against sexual harassment, discrimination
 - (i) Columbia currently has control over arbitration proceedings
 - (a) Want 3rd party arbitrator
 - (b) Extend protections beyond Title IX categories to *any* power based harassment
 - (e) Fair living wage
 - (i) Pushing for increase in hourly-wage for Undergraduate, Masters, and Ph. D workers
 - (3) Believes there are similarities between how GS and Masters/Ph. D students are treated
- c) Solidarity
 - (1) Individually, talk with instructors/TAs and express support
 - (2) GSSC could potentially put forward resolution
 - (3) Picket lines begin on Monday 3/15 (virtual and physical)
 - (a) Students can get in involved, hold teach-ins (on GS experience, community work)
- d) Serengeti: Who within administration is meeting with reps?
 - (1) Rarely Provost
 - (2) Main bargainers: Lawyer, a few Deans, head of HR
 - (3) "Open bargaining" so open to anyone interested (dates on website:
<https://columbiagradunion.org/bargaining-sessions-rsvp/>)
- e) Joan: What is the ask from GS/GSSC?
 - (1) GS students: When other parts of Columbia speak up, it puts more pressure on administration. Support from undergrads would help, turn up to pickets, speak with TAs
 - (2) GSSC: Potentially pass a resolution in support of the strike, spread awareness
 - (a) Serengeti says in the past we've drafted resolutions, written letters to express support
 - (i) This might be more student facing (for newsletter, socials, website)
- f) Simas: There are few endowed funds for GS, Columbia is highly reliant on tuition. Have there been discussions on where additional money for Grad students would come from? Tuition?
 - (1) Their numbers suggest a 0.01% increase in operating costs
 - (2) The money could come from general purpose parts of the endowment fund
 - (3) Admin hasn't taken a pay cut which could help pay
- g) Cole: Is what you are bargaining for equivalent to what is being offered at peer institutions?
 - (1) Non-financial goals: fighting against power imbalance
 - (2) Financial: stipends are lower than (or similar to) peer institutions while living costs in NYC are higher; taking that into account, it's

normal for Graduate student workers to spend around 40% of their stipend just on rent

- h) Jane: Do you have a list of demands (useful for drafting resolution)? Do you have a personal story of what it's like to be an international Graduate worker under these conditions?
 - (1) List of demands on website, along with response to Provost's letter
 - (2) Testimonial: Staying here during pandemic instead of subletting apartment has cut source of income, kept Graduate Students from leaving/coming back
 - (a) List on testimonials on website
- i) Nick: Can you give insight on why Columbia wouldn't budge (especially with legal precedent on your side)?
 - (1) Columbia put forward proposal for sexual harassment reform then rescinded, challenged recognition of unionization
 - (2) Believes reasons are power-based; core who make decisions for university and this is seen as a challenge to power
- j) Liam: Thank you Yarran for being succinct with answers
- k) Jane: I think this is right; I'll ask council if anyone has a motion to adopt a resolution in support

B. Policy Committee

- 1. GSSC Excellence in Teaching Awards
 - a) Survey will be out for another week until next Tuesday (3/16)
 - b) Will be a way to thank faculty who have been supportive; can nominate helpful TAs, professors, administrators

C. Communications Committee

- 1. No Updates

D. Finance Committee

- 1. No Updates

E. Campus Life Committee

- 1. No Updates

F. University Senator

- 1. No Updates

III. NEW BUSINESS

A.

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