



4th of February, 2025

GENERAL BODY MEETING

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Call to order
- b. Roll Call

Officer	Status
*President Maya Platek	P
VP of Policy Oscar Wolfe	P
VP of Finance Eric Yu	P
VP of Communications Isabel Tenney	P
VP of Campus Life Caitlin B. Anderson	P
Chief of Policy Marquise Johnson	P
Chief of Finance Adam Platek	P
Chief of Communications Haya Fine	P
Chief of Campus Life Chaya Droznik	P
Academic Affairs Rep. Nora Zhu	P
First-Generation, Low-Income, and Working Students Representative Janel Perez	
Veteran Students Rep. Nathan Pane	P
Students with Disabilities Rep. Paul Audoin	P
Diversity & Equity Rep. Jessica Kim	P
Health & Wellness Rep. Eleanor Robins	
*Students with Families Rep. Michael Spalter	P
*Policy Coordinator Peihan Ge	P
*Policy Coordinator Ashlynn Alexander	P
*Policy Coordinator Galia Labowitz	P
*Student Body Liaison Rex Park	P
Student Services Rep. Alec Rodriguez Stangle	P

Officer	Status
*Commuting Students Rep. Walter Koike-Seira	P
Treasurer Venska Pongoh	E
*Finance Coordinator Irene Souny	P
*Finance Policy Advisor Brea Sloboda	P
Social Media Rep. Maeve Sheehan	P
Technology Chair Sophia Ho	E
*Content Coordinator Thomas West	P
*PR Coordinator Amélia Pagan	P
*PR Coordinator Jeanne Fontaine	E
Alumni Affairs Rep. Anna Hazolyshyn	P
International Students Rep. Apolline Ancel	P
Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) Rep. Jake Resnick	P
Community Service and Sustainability Rep. Aoife Houlihan	P
Senior Class President Taylor Moniz	P
Senior Class Vice President Evan Edler	P
First Year Class President Gloria Lee	P
First Year Class Vice President Inés Caldara	P
Dual BA & Joint Program Rep. Jorge Ballesterio	P
*Campus Life Coordinator Carina Rudolph-Math	P
University Senator Bruce Goumain	P
Voting Members: 29 → Quorum → 19	Total: 24



C. Adoption of the Current Agenda

1. Motion **PASSES**

II. REPORTS

- A. President–GSSC Bonding, Office Hours, New Role Applications, Floor Updates (Maevé)
 - a. Going to ask in Exec. about what activities we want for our bonding activities
 - b. Opening my office hours to the general public, will be featured in the newsletter
 - c. Please sign up for one on one's!
 - d. We will be opening up some positions due to turnover from last semester!! Tell your friends
 - e. During Communications from the Floor, some council members will come to the podium and share some things that you are working on
 - i. A great way to update the community and your other council members
 - f. If you need an excused absence, please email me, you have a set number of absences a semester but if you go over it's more favorable if you have been communicating
- B. Policy (Haya)
 - a. The Stakeholder Committee had its first meeting of the semester this past Sunday!
 - i. Really happy with how it went
 - b. Will be talking about MetroCard program later
- C. Finance (Haya)
 - a. Spend the money!
- D. Communications (Maevé)
 - a. Read Isabel's newsletter...
- E. Campus Life (Haya)
 - a. If you are a senior on council and are planning on graduating in May or October please raise your hand so our senior prez and VP can get that number
 - b. We have more baseball game tickets for seniors!
 - c. If you haven't gotten your senior yearbook photo yet please go schedule those as we will be running out of times/slots soon.
 - d. Also, just generally keep your eye out on the senior newsletter
 - e. We are actively looking for volunteers for glass house rocks
 - i. on Feb. 27 @ 8 PM
 - ii. Volunteers also get free merch!

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. GSSC's MetroCard Funding (Haya)



GSSC

- a. I know I said we were done with metrocard stuff for the semester but I lied...
- b. The need for the program far outnumbered the need
 - i. Around 240 ppl applied for the program
- c. People are consistently reaching out to us about the need for more cards
- d. We want to double the scope of our metrocard program
 - i. We invested \$5,000 first semester, so we want to double that
 - ii. We want to increase the funding from \$5,000 of our unallocated money to help fund the metrocard program a second time
 - iii. With this our program will be 10 times larger than CC's version and 20 times larger than SEAS
- e. The first reason to do this is because people need it — and that should be reason enough, people are in need of this assistance
- f. the other reason is because maybe you're asking how this won't hurt our chances at a university wide program, but I'm hoping that us doubling this will make them see that there is a great need for this program
 - i. this is just meant to be a band-aid, which will hopefully get us closer to our ultimate goal of a university-run administration of the program
- g. Motion to allocate \$5,000 of our unallocated funds to the MetroCard program
 - i. Discussion
 - 1. Eric: I think we should discuss this later in exec session
 - 2. Oscar: I disagree, I think we should talk about it now so it will get covered
 - 3. Eric: Just because we need to talk about where we're taking this money from
- h. New Motion to increase policy line item by \$5,000**
 - i. Questions
 - 1. Jake: This feels like when we needed to pay for the disabled student's graduation ramp last year. Why don't we force the Columbia administration to do it?
 - a. Isabel: We will! The point of this is to provide more pressure
 - b. Oscar: This is the mechanism to do exactly what you're saying. Administration knows what we want. I view this as not only giving people the things they need but also as a way to make administration pay attention to what we're doing
 - 2. Anna: My concern is that by providing this band-aid, how are we going to be sure that the councils aren't going to have to be the one's to step up and do the job the university should be doing?



GSSC

- a. Maya: I think this is only reinforcing how urgent and needed this is. It's not that this topic hasn't been talked about with university admin or that it's not being talked about at the senate level, because it is. We need to show admin that there is a significant need. It is in spaces that it didn't exist last year and we hope to use this momentum to further push that
- b. Oscar: We can't vote to make admin do anything. It's a recognition that we're in a better position to do this act than we ever were before because we have so much support behind this idea. We need to capitalize on this moment that we as GSSC have created. We think that this is the most likely admin has ever been to do this
- c. Isabel: A lot of it is the way we promote the additional \$5,000. The way we're going to do that is by saying we need more money and the support of admin in the future. It's not just something we're going to include in the newsletter, it's something that's going to be taken to a larger level.
- d. Eric: I'll just add a bit of color on the money. All of this needs to be funded by someone or some type of money. And that's not going to be GS money because we don't actually have that much money. Every single dollar is used on financial aid for us. In that sense each school has their own money and endowment (even if Columbia university has a massive endowment) it's not just a magic pot that we can pull money and do certain initiatives with. Admin hears us and they're willing to listen, there just is this bureaucracy that takes time to work through
- e. Maya: Exactly on those lines, we're trying to switch this system so it falls under university admin instead of just specific schools. This is the start of something to make things a little more centralized so people don't face as many discrepancies depending on the school they're in. Unfortunately it does take some time to see that change because it's reshaping the way they deal with this type of money. But It's very important that we keep making a stand on it.

ii. Motion: **PASSES**



B. Snack Attack Presentation (Maeve)

- a. Planning on repeating what we did last semester with snack attacks
- b. Going to have snack attacks for midterms and finals
- c. Midterms 100 meals, Finals 100 meals and 100 snacks, taking place in the GS lounge as we always do
- d. Requesting \$10,000 from Snack Attacks line item, spent just under that last semester

e. **Motion to move \$10,000 from the Snack Attacks line item to Snack Attacks: PASSES**

- i. Discussion
- ii. Adam: More useful to order pizza or do meals instead of snacks, allocate much less to snacks and instead do more meals
- iii. Caitlin: Snacks last semester only cost about \$2,000, too expensive to do mass catering, I agree meals are more beneficial but we have gotten very positive feedback about having the snacks
- iv. Jake: Kosher?
- v. Caitlin: Yes and there will be gluten free and vegan options for those with dietary restrictions.
- vi. Michael: Needs more advertising and postage, people didn't know what was going on, I think snacks are great
- vii. Caitlin: Going to try and push it more on social media, there will be more lead up time for advertising. Everyone will definitely know about the options this semester
- viii. Maya: What are the dates for midterms?
- ix. Caitlin: March 10 - 13, week before break and most midterms
- x. Adam: More emails to be sent in the morning? Every day? People don't check social media
- xi. Isabel: Can't send emails every day, administrative issues last semester, I have tried to send constant update emails and that we are not allowed, only one mass email a week, we will be super prepared this time around
- xii. Maya: Also, because we did the meals for the second week of finals last semester, some people weren't aware, we can adjust as needed
- xiii. Anna: When you're on the council and hear these things are happening, let people know it's happening! Also a helpful way to advertise these things!!
- xiv. Caitlin: It costs nothing to share an Instagram story
- xv. Nathan: Leeway with snacks?



GSSC

- xvi. Caitlin: We have to order from Amazon, bulk amounts, limited in the amount you are able to mass buy on Amazon, so you have to order far in advance, we try and give variety
- xvii. Nathan: Is it possible to let people choose what they want ordered?
- xviii. Caitlin: People on council can send an email requesting a specific brand of nuts?? If they need but people usually usually find what they're looking for

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.

A. Overview of Work on Council

- a. Taylor: Lerner Pub is next week on Thursday!! We need volunteers to help work the door. We're also going to be giving away a few tickets to senior cruise for some lucky individuals who are nominated by their peers. Merch should be delivered soon! Cap and gown sale Feb. 18 in the bookstore!
- b. Michael: I'm currently looking for students with family because there is no established group. So far we've located 39 people, which is good because they're very hard to reach. It's also a very difficult group to get engagement from because they're very busy with their families. At the base level we don't necessarily have to be physically involved, we can just be a general interest and advocacy group. We've got a meeting next week with everyone that they are all invited to, so hopefully people will show up.
- c. Eric: I have a project for any of you guys who want to take it on. I think it'd be good to get ideas for events outside of council if ppl have ideas, like a *drink night* or something.
 - i. Isabel: Actually we do have something like that. It's the Feedback Form.
 - ii. Eric: Oh, never mind scratch all that

VI. 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



GSSC

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)

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