



11th of March, 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	A
Chief of Communications Haya Fine	A
Chief of Campus Life Chaya Droznik	P
Academic Affairs Rep. Nora Zhu	P
First-Generation, Low-Income, and Working Students Representative	
Veteran Students Rep. Nathan Pane	P
Students with Disabilities Rep. Paul Audoin	P
Diversity & Equity Rep.	
Health & Wellness Rep. Mikka Kabugo	A
*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 David Kim	P
*Finance Coordinator Irene Souny	P
*Finance Policy Advisor Brea Sloboda	P
Social Media Rep. Maeve Sheehan	P
Technology Chair Sophia Ho	P
*Content Coordinator Thomas West	A
*PR Coordinator Amélia Pagan	P
*PR Coordinator Jeanne Fontaine	P
Alumni Affairs Rep. Anna Hazolyshyn	A
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	A
Senior Class Vice President Evan Edler	P
First Year Class President Gloria Lee	A
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	A
Voting Members: 27 → Quorum → 18	Total: 19
	19



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C. Adoption of the Current Agenda

1. Motion: **Passes**

II. REPORTS

A. President (Maeve)

- a. As you know, there is a lot going on on campus.
 - i. We have been releasing resources online, more resources to come out in the coming days. We will be discussing that tonight.
- b. Student Leadership Awards are out now! Honorary GS Owl, etc. Nominate your friends!
- c. During midterms, prioritize your health, take care of yourself! Yay snack attacks!
- d. Had to cancel office hours due to midterms, but will have them later this week so if anyone has questions would love to see them then.

B. Policy

- a. excited to announce this semester's MetroCard link will be going live imminently
- b. Award recognizing students by admin
- c. we as council (Policy committee specifically) - recognizing one professor one TA, and one administrator - everyone nominate people!

C. Finance

- a. N/A

D. Communications

- a. Very complicated situation on campus trying to share resources during this time
 - i. Email couldn't be sent because of admin so resharing resources in our friday newsletter
 - ii. We always take suggestions so if you have resources please email us
- b. We try and continue to update our social media pages
 - i. Not just what other committee mentions but also school wide traditions, snack attacks is happening - all meals!

E. Campus Life-Snack Attack Volunteering

- a. Snack attack for midterms, thank you for people that volunteered please do so on Wednesday or Thursday (Fieldtrip and Pizza + kosher options)
- b. Announcing a form to get a subsidized ticket for Gala (on april 26th) deadline for the form is on the 21st of March we don't see any personal info admin does, please feel free to apply if you are eligible



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- c. We hung out w Milvets for foodbank drives let's help them hit their goal consider donating there is a box in the Gs lounge

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Election Task Force (Sophia)
 - a. Cody - third member of ETF, was comms manager for ETF last year, important to have independent elections
- B. Iftar Dinner Presentation (Maeve)
 - a. Planning on doing a shabbat dinner so we thought also to do an Iftar dinner
 - b. Held in the GS Lounge in Lewisohn Hall on Thursday, March 27.
 - c. Looking to host about 100 people
 - d. Discussion:
 - i. Oscar: What is this paying for?
 - ii. Caitlin: Cost of renting the room, 1500 for food, napkins, plates, etc.
 - iii. Chaya: I was wondering if we can do some sort of home-cook style meals?
 - iv. Caitlin: Everything will be halal and properly catered the way we do for say a GSSC Thanksgiving which cost about \$2000 for 125 people.
 - v. **Motion to move \$1800 from the GSSC Student Life line item to pay for dinner: 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.

- A. Jake: Mini Fridge and Microwave
 - a. Used for GSSC specific stuff and a gift for future student councils
 - b. Would help me out for the coffee mornings specifically
 - c. From Amazon, \$225 with screws attached to the fridge
 - d. Other website cost \$540, probably still wouldn't be stolen
 - e. Fridge lock for \$17 just for GSSC stuff
 - f. Everyone calm down x
 - g. Also wants more coffee money
 - i. **Motion for \$25 for coffee grounds and milks from Student Event line item: PASSES**



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- h. Discussion:
 - i. Isabel: Lounge is a communal space and every part of it is communal
 - ii. Jake: It would be communal
 - iii. Ashlynn: Problem with no lock is however many people would put stuff in there
- i. **Motion to table discussion of fridge: PASSES**

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 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)

- A. Madison: Thank you to everyone showing up for everyone who feels distressed. Thanks for allowing me to speak again for change to be made.
 - a. Did everyone see Kendrick Lamar's superbowl performance? Did we like it, etc.?
 - b. Person performing waving Palestine and Sudan flag
 - c. What do MLK, etc. all have in common? All on FBI and terrorist watchlists based on what we deem as crucial movements today.
 - i. They chose to speak out against wrongdoings
 - d. Speaking on behalf of POC, Jewish and non-Jewish allies
 - e. Received statements from fellow POC students who were scared of what they have to lose
 - f. One of the biggest reasons I am here is to talk about the council's decision to not post, co-collaborate and to delete the supported post? Question posed to the room, no answers.
 - g. Question posed to Maya: Are you on the campus access advisory committee? Were you elected, is it diverse?
 - i. Yes, nominated, yes
 - h. Decision to allow NYPD and ICE on campus
 - i. Lobbying for NYPD and police presence is going to affect students of color
 - ii. Students of color are one of the most affected groups on campus
 - iii. How do they feel in this climate?
 - i. I want to finish by saying thank you
 - i. Quote from Fred Hampton: "Violence or non-violence... against fascism... murder freedom fighter but not murder freedom..."



- B. Brian: No student should be fearful on campus. Columbia takes part in the research library initiative, we have access to NYU and CUNY libraries if you do not feel safe on campus!
 - a. Milvets has partnered with different clubs and organizations with a food drive
 - b. If you see this flyer around, please donate food and non-perishables!!!!
- C. Rachel: Served on 2022-23 on campus, very rough, we got through it.
 - a. Lack of transparency from GSSC
 - i. Minutes, agendas, etc. we are often the last to post on Instagram about events.
 - ii. Wondering about what is happening with our money - budget cuts to gala???
 - b. Isabel: We were not invited to collaborate on ESC and CCSC post and didn't have the option to work with them on it. Campus life events are updated on the newsletter and there are often many four campus events that are not shared with us until the last minute. Our minutes and agendas are currently being updated but we didn't receive access to the website until the end of last year. As far as the budget and the matter of the by-laws, a lot of things we are trying to work through at the same time. None of it is intentional, apologies for the lack of web page updating, I have struggled with uploading them.
 - c. Rachel: Where are all the recordings? Only from 2021
 - d. Isabel: I'm very sorry that we are behind, idk what happened to the ones from the past four years, we do not have access to those. Campus life stuff and the joint stuff with other councils is a lot of work for mostly just me and I am doing my best!
 - e. Rachel: I am confused, what about the rest of the comms team?
 - f. Oscar: Isabel is doing phenomenal! We have posted our budget!!! Only council to post our budget publicly
 - i. We negotiate against other councils. We have our budget public, everyone sees it, they can't see other ones.
 - ii. If you're worried about councils posting, then you should contact them.
 - g. Rachel: Please lower your voice.
 - i. Valentine's event?
 - h. Caitlin: There was an issue with the eventbrite link, could not post it ASAP
 - i. Maya: Thank you for your time and coming up here and bring it to our attention
 - j. Rachel: if there was a shift in how public our budget is, was there a notice to the student body?
 - k. Eric: this is gonna sound like I am deflecting, we don't need to make this decision public, if I didn't we will not be publishing the budget for this year and if new year they do that is their choice, none of the council publish their budget and 1/3 of our



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budget goes to other club and associations, everybody downplay their budgets and negotiations are difficult

- l. Maya: please feel free to send us more questions by coming again or feedback form or emails
- m. Marquis: you can always email the policy email if you have concerns about how GSSC is running, this is a different way for you to make your concerns heard, there are resources to make sure your voices are heard, Oscar or the VPs
- n. Maya: I host office hours if you have other issues we can talk for extended periods
- D. Malica: Thank you to Madison for sharing her thoughts and I wanted to share the testimonies of students of color on campus
 - a. When people come up here to ask questions to GSSC, I hope that it is not taken as a personal attack because it is a council. As Rachel asked communications as a whole, it is never meant to be on one person. It is everyone on this council's responsibility.
 - i. People coming here to speak should be treated with respect.
 - b. Reading one of the testimonies from a student
 - i. Black queer fem student at Columbia, hard to find belonging, excited about opps. and resources, microaggressions in the classrooms and dorms have underscored the way this institution was not built with students like me in mind.
 - ii. To have police and ICE on campus is a lot of generational trauma that a lot of people in this room would not understand.
 - iii. There are rumors going around that there are significant cuts to the GS gala? Where is the money going?
 1. Marquise: Tenting, we are foregoing the tenting
 2. Eric: When we passed the budget publicly, we wanted to put 40k less than what we spent last year, because 200k of our budget for one night didn't seem like the smartest way to spend the money. I've allocated that money into co-sponsorships, doubled co-sponsorships and student life events. Given what we have seen with the price increase, we have decided to dip into the profit we are going to get from ticket sales and balance the budget that way.
 - a. Even though there is a cut, the spending power of Gala will not be harmed. Keeping the same number of tix as last year.
 - b. Increasing subsidized tickets, trying to keep the cost as low as possible. Low-balled the budget a bit to make the Gala as cheap as possible without harming the Gala.



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3. Caitlin: Though there will be slight inflation in ticket prices, more subsidized tickets. Should match the quality of last year. Hoping people will be excited as we announce the theme and venue!
- c. Honesty(?): Giving feedback in person can feel like a personal attack, but just talk to people differently. No need for nastiness
 - i. It seems like there are a number of things from times before. I understand that work has been done since 2021. But I heard no accountability. Maybe addressing solutions and the tone and the way you (Oscar) spoke to her just now will help build relationships with constituents.
 - ii. Maya: We appreciate your feedback GSSC is tackling a wide array of issues we are trying to remedy the issues brought up today, thank you for talking to us today
 - iii. Honesty: Why would someone fill out a form if they are not met with respect in person?
 - iv. Marquise: I was giving out resources, person to person can be hard, there are different ways to make yourself heard, we can't do that if you don't talk to us, please feel free to contact us
 - v. Rachel: Are you going to let other E-board members talk to me like that?
 - vi. (lots of discussion)
 - vii. Maya: We need to have a general conversation, we all work really hard and we all do whatever we can to support the community and I agree we haven't been perfect but we will do our best to move forward. I am sorry you felt that some of the responses were aggressive and want to support members of the council that were addressed. Yes, the feedback form is just one thing so emails please send us feedback. I host office hours I want to work with you
 - viii. Rachel: Do you think people will come to you if you think their questions are a personal attack
 - ix. Eric: Things can be misinterpreted, we welcome everyone to come talk to us this is the first time we get that many public comments, it is open dialogue but we also want people to come with open minds as well.
 - x. Isabel: I know you are not coming for me, we are doing our best as representative and I will make sure to fix it as soon as possible, let's tone down the volume here, I am sorry
 - xi. Michael: You can do more with honey than with vinegar? Acknowledge the hard work they do...
- E. Jewish Student: We have hyper surveillance on this campus, student was abducted by ICE
 - a. Deeply concerned by the events that led to illegal detainment of one of our peers .



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- b. It is exceptionally important to ask our student leaders, what protections are we currently taking for international students so they feel safe on this campus?
Caitlin: we are in the process of booking a meeting with the dean to bring the concerns of the student body, we are limited in what we can do as students representatives, we have been sharing resources for international students if they feel unsafe and that the concerns are heard and passed on to administration. We support all our students if you feel like we need to share more resources please share them with us
- F. Jewish Student: What are we doing to protect students like Mamoud?
 - a. Caitlin: this concern will be discussed in private session, many of our students are international students, we want them to feel safe to speak as this is currently being publicly broadcasted
 - b. our safety needs to be taken incredibly seriously - columbia is not
 - c. what if we do not feel safe reaching out?
 - i. as GSSC, we would never share details of students
 - ii. there has been a doxxing issue - reach anonymously

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