

GENERAL STUDIES STUDENT COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 31, 2023, 8:15 PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the *General Studies Student Council of Columbia University* will hold a **REGULAR** meeting on **January 31, 2023, 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.

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Call To Order

B. Roll Call (* → indicates non-voting | ~ → indicates Interim Position)

OFFICERS	STATUS	OFFICERS	STATUS
*President Emily Robinson	P	Treasurer Kris Packauskas	P
VP of Policy		Senior Class Treasurer Rebekah Cornish	P
VP of Finance Jennifer Odum	P	Chief Negotiator	
VP of Communications		Technology Chair	
VP of Campus Life Maya Platek	P	Social Media Representative Faith Grady	P
Chief of Policy Kyle Gordon	P	Senior Class President Garrett Gregor-Splaver	P
Chief of Finance Su Lee	P	Senior Class VP William Grugam	P
Chief of Communications		First Year Class President Robert Mueller	P
Chief of Campus Life Evan Rork	P	First Year Class VP Jule Boudreaux	P
University Senator Bruce Goumain	P	JTS Rep Joshua Brunnlehrman	P
Veteran Students Rep DeAngelo Hunter	P	International Students Rep Altynbek Tilepbergnov	P
Diversity and Equity Rep Marie Febrillet	P	Dual BA & Joint Program Rep Ann Mizrahi	P
Family & Working Students Rep Gaetan Evina Biloa	P	Alumni Affairs Rep Katherine Zimmerman	P
Health and Wellness Rep Allison Darne	P	Community Service & Sustainability Rep	
Students with Disabilities Rep Rachel Papirmeister	P	External Events Ashley Tan	P
Student Services & Academic Affairs Rubaab Poonawla	P	*Campus Life Coordinator Lily Penn	P
*Legislative Assistant		*Commuter Students Representative Sean Reilly	P
*Legislative Assistant Savanah Shulkin	P	*Outreach Associate Haya Fine	E
*Policy Coordinator Daniel LaFata	T	*Communications Coordinator Ines Ben Taher	P
*Advisor Sean Trulby		*Advisor Jawad Cipriani	
		Voting Members: 25 / Quorum: → 17 / Total: 25	

C. Adoption of the Current Agenda for January 31, 2023

1. Motion Passes/Fails - **PASSES**

D. Adoption of the Meeting Minutes from January 24, 2023

1. Motion Passes/Fails - **PASSES**

II. REPORTS

A. President

1. General Remarks
 - a) Thank you all for being here!
 - b) Please review attendance policies in order to make sure you're in accordance with them and communicating with your committee and the SBP
2. Vice President Nominations
 - a) Communications
 - b) Policy
3. Upcoming GSSC Appointments
 - a) Open on Thursday! Please encourage others to apply
4. Upcoming visit from Dean Rosen-Metsch
 - a) Scheduled for Feb 14th
 - b) Student survey discussion

B. Policy Committee

1. No Updates

C. Communications Committee

1. Advertising Procedures and Deadlines
 - a) Once the new VP is confirmed, there will be some updates
 - b) Send the info to the SBP by the end of the Tuesday meeting in order to get the 24h approval for our Thursday newsletter

D. Finance Committee

1. FTF Request (What, Where, and How)
 - a) What: Promissory note from the institution that payment would be made to vendors
 - b) Where: In the GSSC Google Drive Finance Folder
 - (1) The form is not the same as the document! Jennifer will send you the FTF when it is completed
 - c) How:
 - (1) Email the form to Jennifer, who'll get it approved
 - (2) Send it to the vendor, who'll give you an invoice
 - (3) Email invoices (the addresses will be updated on the PDF) no later than 5 days after the event
 - d) If you need to reference this info, the document is in the Finance Folder!

E. Campus Life Committee

1. Flamingo Mingle
 - a) February 9 from 8-11 PM @ Mel's – co-sponsorship with Milvets
2. Trivia Night
 - a) Early March
 - b) Will be discussed in New Business
3. General Updates: Events in Progress
 - a) Glass House Rocks (GHR) – February 23 in Lerner!
 - (1) Please volunteer!
 - b) Snack Attacks (midterms) in about a month
 - c) Alumni event will be planned in March

- d) Reach out to Campus Life with any ideas!

F. University Senator

1. Student Health and Wellness Survey: Flexible Academic Policies
2. Upcoming Meeting with the Faculty of Arts & Sciences
 - a) To discuss FinAid and Tuition
3. Vergil and SSOL Updates: Meeting with Courseleaf Representative
 - a) Ongoing discussions on how to improve it
4. Feminine Hygiene Products on Campus
5. If you have any questions on the projects or issues, reach out to Bruce

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Vice President of Communications

a. Faith Grady

- i. Whoever is taking over as VP Comms needs to balance what the council wants and what the students need
- ii. Has been on the Campus Life and Communications Committees
- iii. After the last meeting in December, she's been on a 'test run' with the student body since she's been the only voting member on the Communications committee
 1. Has experience interacting with the student body on our behalf since she was the Social Media Representative and often handled questions and concerns on Facebook, Instagram, et
- iv. Questions:
 1. Do you have any ideas for increased transparency?
 - a. Go back to publishing the Agenda on the website 24 hours before meetings
 - b. Review the minutes before posting
 2. Any directives on how to increase posting on Instagram?
 - a. We posted a New Year's post and a Back-To-School one as well and share what we're tagged in, but since we haven't been in school, there hasn't been much to post
 - b. Her goal is never not to post something, so directly text or dm Faith on Slack if you think there's something we have missed
 3. Do you have any plans on posting the bios we were requested to submit?
 - a. They're done, but we'll rework it with the new Comms team
 - b. The member directory should also be tagged in the Linktree
 - c. Let us know if you want to highlight certain things, and we'll do it
 4. What are your thoughts on how to increase transparency within the Council (E-Board/Council)?
 - a. Would be new to E-Board, so isn't sure how it currently operates
 - b. Her idea would be to share as much general information as possible, but some details are necessary to remain within E-Board

2. Vice President of Policy

a. Evan Rork

i. About

1. Served as Hist/Hum convenor in the TCDSU
2. The only member to have sat on the Policy and Campus Life committees
 - a. Last Year as Dual BA Rep, this year as Chief of Campus Life

- ii. Goals
 - 1. Follow through on policies begun by our former VP Policy
 - 2. Continue and complete the constitutional overhaul begun by Kyle and Nasser last year
 - 3. Integrate all four committees seamlessly
- iii. Constitutional Overhaul
 - 1. Create an independent body to run constitutional disputes and elections
 - 2. Establish a sub-committee on the Constitution
 - a. Two GS reps sit on the Committee
 - b. They are NOT members of GSSC
 - c. Fully integrate them into the council and work with the admin to solicit student input on their selection
 - i. Only appoint students who have been approved by the admin
 - 3. Committee Integration
 - a. Publish an agenda before each committee meeting
 - b. Work with the other VPs to make the transition between committees as seamless and easy as possible
- iv. Questions:
 - 1. Are there any policy initiatives that would help with affordability?
 - a. Our emergency meal swipes are hard to access right now – plan to put pressure on dining to make the emergency meal swipes more accessible or even digital
 - 2. As a follow-up, any initiatives regarding Financial Aid?
 - a. Broadly, I want to continue to work on the Credit Cap initiative started by Nasser and Kyle in the Fall
 - 3. GSSC/Exec has a bad rap on campus right now – what will you do to help that? What about transparency between the council and executive board?
 - a. Was a big advocate on last year's council for more transparency between E-Board and Council
 - b. Believes that minutes of E-Board meetings should be posted – it was one of his biggest frustrations last year
 - c. One of the ways we can get good PR is through our initiatives (subway tickets, for instance) – he has a friend in Spec he can hopefully utilize to cover more GSSC initiatives
 - 4. Do you have anything specific in mind that you would like to amend in terms of By-Laws?
 - a. Hopes to amend the election system – specifically, adding in a year-round position – in order to get a larger turnout
 - 5. How do you plan on getting integrated into the Policy Committee?
 - a. Would hope to plan 1-on-1 meetings first before getting to know each other in informal settings
 - b. Build trust while learning about initiatives and supporting the policy team
 - 6. Since you're leaving a position open, are you planning on filling that person in and assisting that person?
 - a. The main thing would be to walk that person through the Snack Attack process/spreadsheets
 - 7. Do you have time for all of that?
 - a. He has very few classes and a lot of time on his hands

- b. GSSC is really the only thing he does outside of class
 - 8. Since you're a senior and this would be a short term – how do you plan on having longevity with these projects?
 - a. The constitutional changes: started a similar project last year with this same timeline, so he thinks this is very achievable
 - b. Not trying to tackle any new, massive projects – wants to hit the ground running with things already in the works or things that can get done quickly
 - c. Wants to ensure everyone is working on the same team this year and going into next year
- 3. Flamingo Mingle: MilVets Cosponsorship
 - a. We're hearing from Brandon, Director of Community of MilVets
 - b. Asking for a co-sponsorship for a Mel's Buyout (Flamingo Mingle)
 - c. 8-11 PM, 400 drink tickets, lots of food!
 - d. Asking for \$6949.20
 - e. Questions:
 - i. Why the 20 cents?
 - 1. That's what's on the contract
 - ii. Is there a theme?
 - 1. It's a Valentine's Day/Flamingo-themed event
 - iii. How many attendees?
 - 1. 200 people
 - iv. We just took on 40-50 new veterans and have a large percentage of veteran students – if we can create a community, they are more likely to continue their education. Just wants to rally for GSSC support!
 - v. Is there a charge for students? Is it for all GS students ?
 - 1. There might be a small one – if we do, it won't be more than \$5.
 - 2. It will be figured out in the next few days
 - 3. All GS Students are able to attend
- 4. Trivia Night
 - a. Open to First Year Students and potentially all of GS, depending on how many people sign up – late Feb/early March
 - b. Up to roughly 30 participants
 - c. Teams of different sizes are permitted- up to a reasonable number
 - d. Themes/Topics TBD
 - e. Standard Trivia Procedures
 - f. Pizza and Drinks from Famiglia included
 - g. 2 Hours ish - probably in Blackbox Theatre, definitely in Lerner
 - h. Asking to allocate \$230 for this event (\$160 for pizza, \$40 for drinks)
 - i. Questions:
 - i. Have you budgeted this event through the website? The RAs are planning
 - 1. The budget is based on the price from when Campus Life ordered from Famiglia before
 - 2. However, this does not include tip
 - ii. Have we considered more pizza?
 - 1. Yes, hence why we increased the amount asked to allocate
 - j. **Motion: Allocate \$300 for this event from the First-Year Budget**
 - k. Motion Passes/Fails - **PASSES**

IV. STANDING BUSINESS

- A. No Updates

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.

- I. No communications

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)

- I. Arielle:

- A. Sophomore - studying CS & Maths
- B. The Bulletin – a hub (virtual bulletin board) for Columbia Events
 1. Growing quicker than expected,
 2. Aiming to solve the following problems:
 - a) Students are missing out on events for various reasons
 - b) Clubs don't know how to find their target audience
 - c) Flyering is very tiring
 - d) Limit waste, improve visibility of upcoming events
 3. Metrics:
 - a) 500 people are active
 - b) 4 people – interviewing 2 more to join the team
 4. Future improvements
 - a) Expecting to let anyone pin on the virtual board
 - b) Want to get it to be supported on mobile
 - c) Also wants to add on tech support

- C. Questions:

1. What sort of contact have you made with CUIT?
 - a) Right now, clubs upload and admin upload – hoping to get it to be fully clubs uploading events moving forward
 - b) Not currently ready to contact CUIT or Columbia because it's only been up for 2 weeks
2. Really cool idea, I'm part of a club, and we're struggling. How did the project start?
 - a) This is a good way for me to practice doing what I want to pursue – currently working in a start-up lab
 - b) Also thinks the waste of paper is ridiculous
3. I've been complaining about this forever, so I love this – what can I do, and what can we do to help?
 - a) Use it and advocate for it
 - b) Some people don't want to get on board because they don't know if it's legitimate or not yet – needs both people and clubs to use it
4. Organizations will be able to pin what they want to advertise – is there a way to filter so only applicable things come up?
 - a) Right now, only orgs can upload

- b) Next step is letting anyone pin, but that's going to be a process so things can stay moderated
- 5. What are your standards for moderation?
 - a) Right now, the only place you can write text is to advertise an event
 - b) When the issue arises, we will work to fix it
- 6. Organizations have to sign up to post – how do they sign up? Can only 1 person per org post, or can multiple people post?
 - a) Signing up is to get registered on the site – it's a simple form
 - b) Once someone signs up, the first tab is 'which club are you'? Right now, that isn't super moderated, but when and if the issue arises, we will work on extra verifications
 - c) The org is notified of all events pinned under them – if it's not actually your event, you can take it down
- 7. Are you open to integrating with CUIT in the future? Ex: culpa being shut down because the people running it graduated and didn't properly transition it
 - a) We want to work with CUIT and/or Columbia as a whole down the line
 - b) We'd rather not hand it off as it's not ready yet, as sophomores we also have the time to perfect it.
- 8. Are you showing this to other councils as well?
 - a) Yes, showing to SEAS later, and already showed it to CCSC, who was enthusiastic about it
- 9. Can you email us something so that we can advertise it in our newsletter?
 - a) Yes – will talk with Maya to get something created.

II. Jason

- A. Can something be done about affordability outside of MetroCards and Meal Plans?
 - 1. GSSC is aware of how hard GS can be financially
 - 2. Our senator spoke earlier about things being done through Senate
 - 3. The policy committee is working on an initiative to help with the cost of tuition for our students (the Credit Cap initiative)
 - a) Our credits are capped at 17 right now, but parity with CC would be 15 credits
 - b) We are working and pushing to lower our credit cap to 15 credits
 - (1) This is something we started in the spring, and have been continually working on in the Fall. We will continue to work on this in the coming Spring semester
 - 4. These conversations have been ongoing since September but do take a lot of time
 - 5. Feel free to reach out to any of our members - the contact info is linked in the member directory
- B. Due to work schedules, many people can only take 6-8 credits a semester, so that wouldn't help a large portion of the student body
 - 1. We recognize that many students go part-time, but there are other avenues we're taking, such as what our senator spoke on earlier tonight
 - 2. Administrators will be meeting with us, and major shifts will occur once President Bollinger steps down, and this is a crucial time to have as much impact as possible

3. There will be a student survey coming out through GS Admin – encourage people to fill this out because this data helps us leverage future initiatives

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