

## **GENERAL STUDIES STUDENT COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

*February 14, 8:15 PM*

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the *General Studies Student Council of Columbia University* will hold a **REGULAR** meeting on **February 14, 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 a non-voting member; *P* → *Present*, *T* → *Tardy*, *E* → *Excused Absence*, *U* → *Unexcused Absence*)

| OFFICERS                                                   | STATUS   | OFFICERS                                                | STATUS   |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| *President <b>Emily Robinson</b>                           | <b>P</b> | Senior Class President <b>Garrett Gregor-Splaver</b>    | <b>P</b> |
| VP of Policy                                               |          | Senior Class VP <b>William Grugam</b>                   | <b>P</b> |
| VP of Finance <b>Jennifer Odum</b>                         | <b>P</b> | First Year Class President <b>Robert Mueller</b>        | <b>P</b> |
| VP of Communications <b>Faith Grady</b>                    | <b>P</b> | First Year Class VP <b>Jule Boudreaux</b>               | <b>P</b> |
| VP of Campus Life <b>Maya Platek</b>                       | <b>P</b> | JTS Rep <b>Joshua Brunnlehrman</b>                      | <b>P</b> |
| Chief of Policy <b>Kyle Gordon</b>                         | <b>P</b> | International Students Rep <b>Altynbek Tilepbergnov</b> | <b>E</b> |
| Chief of Finance <b>Su Lee</b>                             | <b>U</b> | Dual BA & Joint Program Rep                             |          |
| Chief of Communications                                    |          | Alumni Affairs Rep <b>Katherine Zimmerman</b>           | <b>E</b> |
| Chief of Campus Life <b>Evan Rork</b>                      | <b>P</b> | Community Service & Sustainability Rep                  |          |
| University Senator <b>Bruce Goumain</b>                    | <b>P</b> | External Events <b>Ashley Tan</b>                       | <b>E</b> |
| Diversity and Equity Rep <b>Marie Febrillet</b>            | <b>P</b> | *Outreach Associate <b>Haya Fine</b>                    | <b>P</b> |
| Health and Wellness Rep <b>Allison Darne</b>               | <b>P</b> | *Communications Coordinator                             |          |
| Student Services & Academic Affairs <b>Rubaab Poonawla</b> | <b>P</b> | *Legislative Assistant <b>Savanah Shulkin</b>           | <b>P</b> |
| Students with Disabilities Rep <b>Rachel Papirmeister</b>  | <b>P</b> | *Legislative Assistant                                  |          |
| Veteran Students Rep <b>DeAngelo Hunter</b>                | <b>P</b> | *Policy Coordinator <b>Daniel LaFata</b>                | <b>U</b> |
| Family & Working Students Rep <b>Gaetan Evina Biloa</b>    | <b>P</b> | *Commuter Students Representative <b>Sean Reilly</b>    | <b>E</b> |
| Treasurer <b>Kris Packauskas</b>                           | <b>E</b> | *Campus Life Coordinator <b>Lily Penn</b>               | <b>E</b> |
| Senior Class Treasurer <b>Rebekah Cornish</b>              | <b>P</b> |                                                         |          |
| Chief Negotiator                                           |          | *Advisor <b>Jawad Cipriani</b>                          |          |
| Social Media Representative                                |          | *Advisor <b>Sean Trulby</b>                             |          |
| Technology Chair                                           |          |                                                         |          |
|                                                            |          | Voting Members: 24 / Quorum: → 16 / Total: 16           |          |

C. Adoption of the Current Agenda for February 14, 2023

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

D. Adoption of the Meeting Minutes from February 7, 2023

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

## II. VISIT FROM DEAN ROSEN-METSCH

- A. So happy to be here - thank you for inviting me; it's been a long time since I've been at a Student Council Meeting. The last time I was here was in 2020. Started as Dean 5 years ago.
- B. Thank you for being a part of GSSC/wanting to join!
- C. Student Survey
  - 1. Tomorrow at 10 AM, you will all get an email from DRM for a student survey
  - 2. We haven't done one in 5 years, hoping for a high response rate
  - 3. The goal is to understand in order to improve your experience at GS
  - 4. To show you how important this survey is, we are going to pay \$25 flex dollars to everyone who fills out this survey
  - 5. **It's anonymous!**
  - 6. We want to be able to get feedback for everything from applying, NSOP, advising, educational financing, etc.
  - 7. My highest priority is to do better with financial aid
    - a) Because of this, we've included important scales on the survey
      - (1) Food insecurity
        - (a) The low-cost food plan came as a result of the last Student Survey!
      - (2) Housing Insecurity
      - (3) Financial Distress Scale
        - (a) Want to better understand the student experience
      - (4) This data will help us advocate for GS students
      - (5) Latin Diplomas!
        - (a) Columbia GS has an English diploma, CC and Barnard have Latin Diplomas
        - (b) Printed diploma in both English and Latin on the survey so you can voice your opinion
      - (6) Credit Caps (right now, ours is 17)
      - (7) Major and Minor
      - (8) More online courses?
      - (9) Part-time students: why are you part-time?
      - (10) And more!
  - 8. Will take ~25-30 minutes
  - 9. This data will help GS advocate for us!
- D. Bruce:
  - 1. Will help show the Senate our financial difficulties
    - a) Need to show actual numbers
    - b) This data will help us move things forward!
  - 2. Hoping for a 90% (if not 100% !) response rate
    - a) Dean RM: The actual goal is 60%, which is still high!
      - (1) It's hard to make a compelling argument if not enough students fill out the survey

(2) The scales we used are proven to be reliable

E. Questions

1. None

### III. REPORTS

**A. President**

1. General Remarks

- a) Exciting night – DRM is with us!  
(1) We always love being able to hear from our administration
- b) Please review all of our policies to be sure you're communicating properly and fulfilling your duties!
- c) Midterms have started – make sure you're taking care of yourself
- d) After the rest of our reports I'll be passing it on to my colleagues for nominees

2. Tonight's Nominations

- a) We have a number of different candidates for our open positions later in new business!

**B. Policy Committee**

1. Student Survey

- a) Was basically all covered in Dean RM's speech

**C. Communications Committee**

1. Newsletter Timeline + Procedures

- a) Haven't made a google form yet – there will be one soon!
- b) Usually, the newsletter goes out on Thursdays, so the deadline for getting things added is Tuesdays at the end of GBM
- c) Emily: It's a long process, so your help is appreciated!

**D. Finance Committee**

1. Bacchanal Update

- a) To be discussed in the executive session!

2. CUPAL Co-Sponsorship

- a) Will be presented in new business!

**E. Campus Life Committee**

1. Glass House Rocks

- a) Next week, in Lerner from 8-12
- b) Volunteer form has already been sent out – sign up!
- c) It will be lots of fun –  
(1) Space-themed  
(2) Laser tag

2. Snack Attacks + Purim

- a) Second week of march (March 6-9) for snack attacks
- b) March 7 is Purim! Snack attacks will be Purim 'themed' that day  
(1) Possible special guest...

3. Trivia Night

- a) March 8! Will hear more about this in new business
- b) It'll be like a game show  
(1) Let's be honest, it's more than trivia night... it's game show night

## **F. University Senator**

1. No Updates

## **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. CUPAL Co-Sponsorship**

1. We're the performing arts league
2. A true pleasure to be here – I'm a student in GS and president of CUPAL
3. What is CUPAL?
  - a) An umbrella organization that meets the interests of performing arts groups that don't receive the attention that they need from administration or other governing boards
  - b) Solve inter-group conflicts and plan inter-group contracts
  - c) Sponsor certain projects
  - d) 80 performing arts groups under our umbrella
  - e) Community-based events
4. CUPAL Showcase
  - a) An event that encompasses the entire performing arts community here
  - b) 12 groups are performing (more apply)
  - c) Sold out already
  - d) Happening this Thursday 7-11 PM
5. GS has a lot of past professional performing artists, yet they don't tend to participate within the CU performing arts community
  - a) Hoping to get more GSers to be a part of CUPAL through this event
  - b) Helps
6. Working on getting swipe access to not just the dorms but rehearsal spaces
  - a) About 15-20% of performers each semester are GSers
7. The budget for the showcase is going to be \$11,200
  - a) Asking for help with that budget that reflects the 15-20% of GSers within that community
  - b) This is the first year of having so many GS students!
    - (1) This is a result of amazing GS leadership, and we hope to continue to support the GS Community
- 8.
9. Questions:
  - a) Emily: What specific number are you asking for from GSSC?
    - (1) Looking for \$2,000
  - b) Rachel: Do you have a place where we can find out about the shows underneath your umbrella
    - (1) Currently in the process of creating a website
    - (2) Each of our member groups will be featured, and we want to make sure that students are well aware of when auditions are, what their best-fit group might be, etc.
    - (3) Trying to centralize our social media accounts
10. Our group membership has gone from 20-80
  - a) All performing arts groups and acapella are automatically under CUPAL unless they opt-out.

### **B. VP Policy**

1. DeAngelo Hunter
  - a) Currently the VetRep for GSSC
  - b) Recently nominated for VP of Policy

- c) A commitment to Public Service and rules that increase equity and establish rights for others
- d) By the end of this presentation, I hope you'll know a little more about me and my plans for GSSC and the student body
- e) Why GSSC?
  - (1) Representation, mentorship, equity through policy
- f) Past accomplishments
  - (1) President of my last student government
  - (2) Carried out several initiatives such as a vaccine mandate, By-Law Restructuring, Lobbying, etc.
  - (3) Has been on veteran advisory boards
- g) Vision
  - (1) Continuation of credit cap and current policy initiatives
  - (2) Team building, more efficiency in meetings
  - (3) Increasing legislative power and increasing transparency within Student Gov and College Admin
- h) It takes a collective effort
  - (1) I want to support and make an impact
- i) Thank you so much and I am looking forward to your questions!

C. Chief of Communications

1. Oliver Neale

- a) Happy Valentine's Day! I will try to keep this brief...
- b) Little bit about me
  - (1) Third year of Trinity-Columbia dual BA
  - (2) Studying Political Science
- c) Experience
  - (1) Coordinated 20+ high school reading tutors
  - (2) Planned and promoted a local cultural night
  - (3) Student Organization Campaign Team at Trinity
- d) What I can bring:
  - (1) Previous experience!
  - (2) Knowledge of Comms technologies
  - (3) A fresh perspective
- e) Goals:
  - (1) Strengthen GSSC communication
    - (a) We can never communicate too much!
  - (2) Enhance our efficiency
  - (3) Create strong agendas for each meeting
  - (4) Assisting the communications team
    - (a) Will give my all to make sure GSSC Comms are as strong as possible!

D. Social Media Representative

1. Melanie Wells

- a) Previously a professional ballet dancer
- b) Sophomore @ CU, developed a deep passion for GS
- c) Proactive and enthusiastic individual
- d) Dedicated to bridging the gap between GS and other schools at Columbia
- e) Using social media as a tool to promote change and show the talent of all GS students
- f) Wants to improve GS social media presence
  - (1) Incorporate student highlight videos/experiences

- (2) Make our social media presence more engaging!
- (3) Post more frequently and increase engagement
- (4) Instagram takeovers (day in the life videos)
- g) Actively seek feedback from students – how we're doing, what events they want to attend, etc.
- h) Excited to help out with snack attacks and bring back events such as the GS fun run/walk
- i) Wants to ensure that the GS voice is represented!

E. Technology Chair

1. Serena Kwan

- a) Just transferred in this semester – planning on declaring my major in information science
- b) From Hong Kong, but grew up in London and Boston
- c) Used to work as a tattoo artist
- d) My main motivation to apply for this role was my experience at orientation
  - (1) Had a really good experience and wanted to be a part of leadership at GS!
- e) Acted as a peer advisor for a company in Hong Kong
- f) GS has lots of resources, but they're difficult to access
  - (1) Work to improve user interaction
- g) Want to make policy initiatives more accessible and amplify student programs through social media!

F. Chief Negotiator

1. Eric Yu

- a) From Beijing went to high school in Monterey, California
- b) Before GS was studying film production at Emerson College, now studying financial economics
- c) Experience
  - (1) Written, directed, and produced a few short films
  - (2) Worked on tight budgets to accomplish goals
  - (3) Important to form a stable relationship with vendors
- d) Took a gap year and was able to work with Universal in their media production department
  - (1) Helped plan their newest theme park in Beijing
  - (2) Parts of his duties were to communicate and negotiate with different vendors
- e) Excited to be here!

G. Community Services and Sustainability Representative

1. Ally Woodard

- a) Honored to be appointed!
- b) After being here for 1.5 years, I would be honored to represent this community
  - (1) The people are what makes GS so special
- c) Political Science major with an intended business concentration
  - (1) Wants to be an empathetic and impactful leader
- d) Always have been invested in community service
  - (1) Lots of experience
- e) Wants to organize an earth day event
  - (1) Have profits benefit sustainability effort
- f) Wants to spearhead initiatives to spearhead a sense of connection
  - (1) Such as an autoimmune/chronic illness day
- g) Community service trips

(1) Good way to foster connection within the GS community and the outside of CU community

h) Excited to begin, and would love to hear your suggestions!

#### H. Legislative Assistant

##### 1. Zarria Simmons

a) Happy Valentine's Day!

b) From Texas, majoring in Anthropology, concentrating in Anthropology

(1) On law degree track, post-graduation

(a) Humanitarian and international law

(2) Long-term goals in public policy and diplomacy

c) Experience

(1) For past 7 years has worked in admin

(a) 5 of those years she worked as an executive assistant for private businesses, production companies, fashion companies, etc.

(b) Help organize, streamline, and act as a liaison for these companies

d) First semester at Columbia

(1) My newness as a student has its benefits

(a) Unburdened by biases – basically a clean slate

e) I promise to listen, assist, and do my part in creating a better culture/community at Columbia for all beliefs and socio-economic positions

##### 2. Questions:

a) Kyle: You mentioned you're open to helping others fulfill their role and duties – how comfortable are you delving into other policy initiatives as they come up?

(1) If I can help, I'd be happy to! If I weren't useful, I would tell you I feel that way, but if you see somewhere I can help, I would love to.

b) Savannah: I'm the other legislative assistant; on top of being a legislative assistant, there are other opportunities available to us. Are there any things that you're interested in pursuing?

(1) Thinking really far ahead, I would like to help create an environment where people are free to disagree

(2) Savannah: Further question: how do you want to bring that to GSSC and the Columbia campus?

(a) I would love to help interview students, find out what they've experienced on campus, etc.

#### I. Finance Coordinator

##### 1. Sylvester Benson

a) From Ghana and Nigeria

b) Senior, majoring in Neuroscience and Behavior

(1) Previously attended Illinois College

c) Experience:

(1) Undergraduate research fellow, Columbia neurosurgery

(2) Get from ppt

(3) President, Columbia BOLD

(4) Coordinator, Black Undergraduate Mentorship Program

(5) Senior Editor/Deputy Editor-In-Chief

d) Achievements:

(1) Institute of International Education (IIE) Scholar & 2020 Invited Guest Speaker

(2) Parliament of Ghana Outstanding Youth Citation of Honor 2018

(3) GS Change Agent Award 2022

- (4) Columbia Neuroscience STAR Honors
- (5) GS Honor Society
- (6) MIT MSRP Visiting Student
- (7) Research Scholar, Harvard Medical School
- e) Why Finance Coordinator?
  - (1) Personal Interest in Economics
  - (2) Recruitment, Interview & Training Experience: Bain, Jane Street, and other consulting and finance firms.
  - (3) Skills: Proficient computer skills (Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Matlab), proficient with cash handling, excellent financial and record keeping skills, outstanding organizational, people, and communication skills
  - (4) Goals for GSSC Finance Coordinator: Work closely with the Chief of Finance to create, report and disseminate budget effectively; maintain files and information organization systems.

#### J. Communications Coordinator

- 1. Kevin Gunaratna
  - a) Sri Lankan, born in Scotland, raised in Singapore
  - b) 3rd Year Political Science Major
  - c) Experience
    - (1) Research Assistant at the University of Maryland
    - (2) International Relations Committee Lead at the Columbia China Forum
    - (3) Cybersecurity Firm
    - (4) Voluntary Social Service/Non-Governmental Organization
    - (5) Entrepreneurship Club

#### K. Trivia Night

- 1. Title Pending
- 2. Available for all GS Students
  - a) Not just a trivia night, a trivia show!
- 3. What is it now
  - a) Inspired by Jeopardy/Who Wants to be a Millionaire
  - b) Multiple segments
  - c) Full blown show with music, lights, and a live host
    - (1) Projector and screen for questions and other things
    - (2) Students will buzz in on their phones
  - d) One intermission with pizza and drinks
  - e) Different team will work together as a “section”
  - f) There will be 60 participants, and all of GSSC is invited to watch!
  - g) Approximately 3 hours, including a break
- 4. Where?
  - a) Lerner black box theater
- 5. When?
  - a) March 8 from 6-9 PM
- 6. Cost
  - a) Roughly \$615
    - (1) Will be asking for more as a buffer
    - (2) Includes IT, food/drinks, and a trophy
  - b) **Motion: An additional \$400 from the money allocated last time (\$300)**
    - (1) **MOTION PASSES/FAILS: PASSES**

**V. STANDING BUSINESS**

- A. No Updates

**VI. 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. Dodgeball**

- A. Senior vs First Year
- B. Finally got a date! Either March 24 or 25
- C. More details next week

**VII. 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)

**VIII. 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.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**