

GENERAL STUDIES STUDENT COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 11th, 8:15PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the *General Studies Student Council of Columbia University* will hold a **REGULAR** meeting on **October 11th, 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 Nasser Odetallah	P	Senior Class Treasurer Rebekah Cornish	P
VP of Finance Simas Chacar-Palubinskas	P	Chief Negotiator Jennifer Odum	P
VP of Communications Catherine Sun	P	Technology Chair Raymond Yoon	P
VP of Campus Life Maya Platek	P	Social Media Representative Faith Grady	P
Chief of Policy Kyle Gordon	P	*Outreach Associate Haya Fine	P
Chief of Finance Su Lee	P	Senior Class President Garrett Gregor-Splaver	P
Chief of Communications Jessica Beisser	P	Senior Class VP William Grugam	P
Chief of Campus Life Evan Rork	P	First Year Class President Robert Mueller	P
University Senator Bruce Goumain	P	First Year Class VP Jule Boudreaux	P
Veteran Students Rep		JTS Rep Joshua Brunnlehrman	P
Diversity and Equity Rep Marie Febrillet	P	International Students Rep	
Family & Working Students Rep		Dual BA & Joint Program Rep Ann Mizrahi	P
Health and Wellness Rep Allison Darne	P	Alumni Affairs Rep Katherine Zimmerman	P
Students with Disabilities Rep Rachel Papirmeister	P	Community Service & Sustainability Rep Ranni Wekselman	P
Student Services & Academic Affairs Rubaab Poonawla	P	External Events	
*Legislative Assistant Maria Monzon	E	*Campus Life Coordinator Lily Penn	E
*Legislative Assistant Savanah Shulkin	P	*Commuter Students Representative Sean Reilly	U
*Policy Coordinator Daniel LaFata	E		
*Advisor Sean Trulby		*Advisor Jawad Cipriani	
		Voting Members: 27 / Quorum: → 18 / Total: 27	

C. Adoption of the Current Agenda for October 11th , 2022

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

D. Adoption of the Meeting Minutes from October 4th, 2022

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

II. REPORTS

A. President

1. General Remarks
 - a) Welcome remarks, hope midterms and papers are going well!
 - b) Amazing to work with all of you. Thank you for your enthusiasm, dedication and hard work.
2. Nominations
 - a) Veteran Students Representative
 - b) Family and Working Students Representative
 - c) International Students Representative
 - d) External Events Chair
 - e) Communication Coordinator
3. Open Hours
 - a) Maya, Cat, and Nasser had open hours
 - b) Every week Tuesday at 9 AM, different representatives can sign up
 - c) Casual and direct way for GS students to contact GSSC, anyone on Council can join
 - d) The signup sheet is in the Google Drive
4. Calendar, Contact Info, and 1-on-1s
 - a) Calendar is in the drive, drop in basic info about your committee's business or any general information
 - b) Share your contact info (phone number and birthday) on the roster sheet
 - c) 1-on-1; link will be reshared
 - (1) An chance for me to get to know you and your plans for GSSC

B. Policy Committee

1. Policy Committee Updates
 - a) Two new members joining
 - b) Outreach to the deans within 48 hours
 - (1) Dean Rogers, Marvin, Delva, Remedios-Bloom, etc.
 - (2) If there is anything that is needed to be brought up to the Deans, please inform Nasser
 - c) Goals to create a graphic w/ Dean Delva about the Deans and their jobs
 - d) Health and Wellness
 - (1) Giving resources and information to students
 - (2) Collaboration with Columbia Health and CPS
 - (3) Expanding the laptop lending program, the program already exist run by Dean Remedios-Bloom
 - e) Work around residential housing
 - (1) Protocol sharing during orientation
 - f) Credit and Tuition Cap
2. Launch of Course Search/Vergil Project
 - a) Project that Bruce who is working on as part of the project's subcommittee on Senate
 - (1) Improve the course search website and IT
 - (2) A project to propose a series of solutions to fix 3 main issues
 - (a) course search website itself (Vergil)
 - (i) Not as intuitive
 - (b) Course reviews
 - (i) Most classes are not listed and out of date or not available

- (c) Syllabi access for all classes during shopping period
- (3) Believes it to be a problem that is becoming more pressing each year
- (4) GSSC will take major step
 - (a) Powerpoint will present to IT subcommittee, bring issues to their attention and provide solutions
 - (b) Will be proposing a statement to the Senate
 - (i) We will go over how an official statement works next week
 - (ii) You will get an email at latest on Monday, please be sure to read it BEFORE Council meeting
 - (iii) Will vote on the council, if passed will send it out to the entire student body.
 - (c) Working with Comms team to advocate for this project
 - (i) Has been a ongoing project that GSSC has wanted to work on

C. Communications Committee

- 1. Instagram Posting + “Quote”
 - a) Majority of the GSSC members still need to send Cat a Quote, as well as pictures
 - b) Feel free to send Cat a fun picture if you want a different picture!
- 2. Sizing Charts
 - a) Faith has been working hard on the general merch items.
 - b) For GSSC merch - please fill out the form with your sizing charts
 - c) Next week we will be presenting on funding allocations and general merch items

D. Finance Committee

- 1. No Updates

E. Campus Life Committee

- 1. Campus Life Updates
 - a) Next week: spirit week, collaboration with CC, Barnard, SEAS.
 - (1) Monday: Pajama day
 - (2) Tuesday: Iconic Duo
 - (3) Wednesday: White Lies Day
 - (4) Thursday: Red Flag Day
 - b) Snack Attacks:
 - (1) Sign-up sheets for volunteers have been released
 - (a) Evan: We have 10 already! Monday and Tuesday are already full, so please try to help on different days
 - c) Potentially host an Alumni Association during Homecoming
 - d) Basketball Mania during Homecoming week:
 - (1) Event hosted by Columbia Athletics: Four school events
 - (2) Competition and Giveaway
 - (3) More details are coming soon!
 - e) October 27th, Halloween events at Mels
 - (1) Tickets should be launched this week

F. University Senator

- 1. Senator Updates
 - a) Meeting with student health advisory council on Thursday
 - b) Working on registration process project, aim to be as transparent as possible
 - c) Open to questions from anyone in email or in person

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Nominee Presentations

a. Veteran Students Representative

- i. DeAngelo Hunter (He/His/Him pronouns)
- ii. From Iowa, but have been living in California - Political Science major, and intend to go to law school
- iii. Non-Traditional, 1st generation black student, mental health advocate and combat veteran of US Army 11C
- iv. Qualifications
 1. Army Veteran-Team Leader
 - a. Veteran advisory committee for California Community Colleges (CCC)
 - b. Advocate for community colleges
 2. Former President of ASIVC
 3. Author and Passed SSCCC Resolution
 - a. For assisting transitioning veterans
- v. Why am I here?
 1. Representation
 - a. Want to be someone others can look to and be inspired by
 2. Mentorship
 - a. Someone taught me to believe in the value of an education
 3. Civic virtue
 - a. Skills learned from the military and from people who inspired him.
 4. Our voice matters
 - a. Always be a need for people to represent their peers
 5. Motivation: Public Service
- vi. Plans
 1. Assisting in GSSC and MilVets Collaborations
 2. Work Towards Improving Veteran Engagement and Retention
 3. Be a Voice in Mental Health Advocacy
 4. Progress GI Benefits
 5. Being a Potent Member of the GSSC for the Betterment of All Students at Columbia University
- vii. If my nomination is to be confirmed
 1. I pledge to serve honorably and serve as if I was still in the military
 2. To work as a team member who is inclusive to all identities & groups;
 3. To represent GSSC and Columbia in accordance to student conduct expectations of CU & GSSC Bylaws;
 4. And to the commitment of bettering our college, community, and country for generations to come
 5. Q&A
 - a. Evan: What's your involvement with Milvets?
 - b. Deangelo: This is my first year with Milvets. I don't want to speak to things I don't know yet, but would love to reach out and assist in where I can. I have been to every event in Milvet expect one
 6. Emily: Thank you, you will hear from us within a few days.

b. International Students Representative

- i. Altynbek Tilepbergenov (He/His/Him Pronouns)
 1. Born and raised in Kazakhstan
 2. Fluent in 3 languages (Kazakh, English, Russian)
 3. Born in Kazakhstan (Central Asia, right below Russia!)
 4. Winner of Regional Intellectual Olym
 5. Hobbies include Fashion illustrations & styling people
 6. Life Motto, Take the risk or Lose the chance
 7. Fluent in Kazakh, Russian, English
- ii. Awards
 1. Winner of Regional Intellectual Olympiad among distinguished students and delegated a science team.
 2. Nominee of certifications from ASA College, MEC (New York, 2019)
 3. Alumni of Coding Dojo and recipient of certification of achievement in Data Science Program (New York, 2021)
 4. Recipient of Appreciation Letter from U.S. Embassy in Kazakhstan and United Nations (Central Asian Model UN)
 5. Volunteer in National Educational Forum from the U.S. Embassy for high school students in Kazakhstan
 6. Participant of International Forum “Reimagining Education” at Teachers’ College, Columbia University, 2019
- iii. Main Goal: to assist Columbia’s GS community.
- iv. My duties focus on:
 1. Understanding the overall process of student and scholar visas, benefits, and restrictions, including orientation, travel, employment, and know your rights information.
 2. Fostering international student leadership and community,
 3. Promoting cross-cultural understanding throughout the University,
 4. Educating the Columbia’s community on the international student experience in navigating US higher education and the employment landscape
 5. Creating connections and friendships that include partnering with student clubs and organizations, and opportunities for spouses and partners to be involved at Columbia.
- v. Ideas Include:
 1. Organize mental health sessions for International Students at GS, especially for first year students
 2. Set up consultations that teach financial literacy to international students and how to create budgets in New York City.
 3. Create events dedicated to raising cultural awareness among students (every two weeks we will give an opportunity for students to introduce their cultures, including dance challenges, traditional food masterclasses, history of their country and so on)
- vi. Establish group meetings for students to get in touch with students from other schools of Columbia University and other Ivy League schools International
- vii. Student career fair sessions
- viii. Group meetings and events for the families and relatives of Columbia GS international students
- ix. International student conferences in National U.S. Organizations, where international students can develop their leadership and social skills
- x. Community visits during special holidays by visiting their local student’s houses to experience local life

- xi. Community Service in New York City, where international students volunteer for non-profit organizations to execute certain responsibilities
 - xii. “Know me better” Ted Talk analogue shows designed for international students, where they talk about their background, journey, interesting stories and publish them in Columbia’s Social Media.
 - xiii. Students can promote Columbia University when they go home for the holidays to inspire local students.
- c. External Events Chair
- i. Emily: The role of External Events Chair is undergoing some changes to reflect the needs of Campus life in 2022
 - ii. Ashley Tan: Senior in double degree program with Sciences Po
 - 1. Political Science major and concentration in Business Management with the Columbia Business School
 - 2. From Singapore
 - 3. Was on Columbia Political Review EBoard
 - 4. Works at the writing center and works for Spec
 - a. Expose more of the experience at GS
 - 5. Am aware of the role becoming more flexible
 - 6. Ideas
 - a. Professional development
 - i. Reaching out to alumni and organizing events
 - ii. Resources for international students for post-grad plans
 - b. Work with Policy and Campus Life
 - i. How can we improve campus life for international students on Columbia campus
 - c. Work with rest of the team to plan more events for GS
- d. Communication Coordinator
- i. Ines Ben Taher: junior in he Dual BA with Sciences Po
 - 1. Main Goal: is to meet as many people as I can and learn more about their GS Story and background and to spread the word about them to all four schools!
 - a. Let people know of the cool events, the spotlight should be on us and not anything else.
 - 2. Previous qualifications:
 - a. Sciences Po Student Council as Communications, made a lot of posters!
 - 3. Fun fact: known and despised for my math pick up lines!
- e. Family and Working Students Rep
- i. Gaetan Evina
 - 1. Sophomore from LA studying Computer Science
 - 2. Wants to have an impact at Columbia and help as many people as possible
 - 3. Working student
 - a. Aware of the difficulties of having a job and family while being a student
 - 4. Wants to work on improving financial aid
 - ii. Recorded due to anniversary

2. Dodge Ball Tournament

- a. Robert: First Year and Senior Class wants to host a dodge ball tournament
 - i. 4 teams total; 2 Seniors 2 Freshman
 - ii. 4 games total and 5th game for ties
 1. Details and how the games are going to play out are going awaiting for final confirmation from Dodge
 2. 3 hours inside of doge gym, pizza social afterwards at GS lounge
 - iii. **Motion: Allocate \$850 for the dodgeball tournament. Where Senior Class covers \$700 and First year Class covers \$150.**
 1. 60 players + 1- extra
 2. Pizza and soda for 70 people
 - a. In GS lounge afterwards
 3. Big Trophy
 4. 24 dodgeballs (Not sure if Dodge already has dodge balls - so budget could possibly change)
 - a. Foam dodgeballs for safety
 5. Budget allocation request: \$850
 6. Co-hosted event, split between first year class (\$150) and senior class (\$700)
 7. Registration will happen over google form
 8. Even if you're not a senior or first year, you can still join!
- b. Q&A
 - i. Su: When is the event?
 1. Robert: Depends on what Dodge tells us (hopefully first week of November on a Tuesday or Wednesday)
 2. Maya: Before fall break
 - ii. Katherine: What are your plans, how many volunteers, refs?
 1. Robert: The whole thing is all about fun
 - a. 4 referees per game
 - b. Two players from non playing team to volunteer to be referee the other side
 - c. However if anyone on Council wants to volunteer please do so
 - iii. Faith: Can only first years and seniors play? Do teams have to be entirely first years or entirely seniors?
 1. Robert: Haven't talked about those questions in detail
 - a. But plans to be a senior and freshman event with some possible wiggle room
 - iv. Rebekah: Do we need waivers?
 1. Robert: we are waiting on Dodge to respond
 2. Emily: Our advisors will help with the waivers.
 - v. **Motion: Allocate \$850 for the dodgeball tournament. Where Senior Class covers \$700 and First year Class covers \$150.**
 1. **Motion Passes**
3. Spirit Week Prizes
 - a. Allocation Request: \$500
 - i. Evan: We want to give out sick prizes for spirit week!
 - ii. We need \$500. Most likely going to be gift cards
 1. 4 prize, one for every day
 - iii. Prizes are TBD
 1. Simas: it is going to be gift cards
 - b. Questions:

- i. Katherine: how will the prizes be determined
 - 1. Maya: I will pick, but everyone has to tag GSSC
 - a. Will discuss in executive session
 - 2. Simas: based on variety factors that are neutral
 - ii. Katherine: where is the money being allocated from
 - 1. Evan: Student Events
 - c. **Motion to allocate \$500 for the prizes for spirit week**
 - i. **Motion 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.

- 1. Allison: Health and Wellness Rep
 - a. I also sit on the FLI network
 - b. Running coat drive and is accepting donations till October 17th
 - i. Currently more demand than supply
 - c. Petition GS and Barnard to help make financial contributions to get the coats
 - d. Wondering how they should approach GSSC in this matter?
 - i. Emily: present for a co-sponsorship next week, email Simas for details

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)

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