



GENERAL BODY MEETING

*28th of October, 2025***I. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- a. Call to order
- b. Roll Call

Officer	Status
*President Oscar Wolfe	P
VP of Policy Nora Zhu	P
VP of Finance Irene Souny Bihl	P
VP of Communications Maeve Sheehan	P
VP of Campus Life Chaya Droznik	P
Chief Policy Representative Gavin Xue	P
Chief Finance Representative Paul Audoin	P
Chief Communications Representative Laila Shai	P
Chief Campus Life Representative William Luo	P
Academic Affairs Representative Anand Shukla-Parekh	P
Alumni Affairs Representative Neomi Li Simoni	P
Commuting Students Representative Dominic Hardy	P
Diversity and Equity Representative Ishan Feisal	P
FGLI and Working Students Representative Jolee Cobb	P
Health and Wellness Representative Sophia Wen	E
Student Services Representative Joseph Byrne	P
Students with Disabilities Representative Maria Neagu	P
Students with Families Representative Cybel Emmanuel	P
Policy Coordinator Beah Avila	P
Policy Coordinator Aaron Green	P
Policy Coordinator Erik Rogel	P
International Students Representative Apolline Ancel	E
Treasurer Brian Luna	P

Officer	Status
Internal Finance Chair Bianca Sallusti	P
Finance Coordinator Venska Pongoh	P
Social Media Representative Heewon Jang	P
Technology Chair Adriana Podokshik	P
Content Coordinator Luiza Guimaraes	P
Content Coordinator Nichakul Punnahitanon (Nicky)	P
Communications Coordinator Sophia Ho	P
Communications Coordinator Talia Ofek	P
Senior Class President Aleigh Alarie	P
Senior Class Vice President Jeanne Fontaine	L
First Year Class President J. Stephane Kakou	P
First Year Class Vice President Mai First	P
CityUHK Dual Degree Representative Angel Liu	P
JTS Dual Degree Representative Jake Resnick	P
SciencesPo Dual BA Representative Jana Abdelhafez	P
Tel Aviv University Dual Degree Representative Gabriella Jacobs	P
Trinity College Dublin Dual BA Representative Carina Rudolph-Math	P
Transfer Student Representative Benjamin Kuleshov	P
Veteran Students Representative Micaella Lavi	P
Career Advancement and Networking Chair Hannah Hasangwangmu	P
Campus Life Coordinator Emily Oo	P
University Senator Robert Mulvey	P
Quorum → 29	TOTAL 41



C. Adoption of Last Week's Minutes

1. Motion **Passes**/Fails

D. Amendment of the Current Agenda - add another item CUPS, take off the dual ba agenda.

1. Motion **Passes**/Fails

II. REPORTS

A. President

1. The Spectator article came out, there is one mistake that needs to be corrected but it looks good, there is a direct link between our report and the administration which is what we were aiming at.

B. Policy

1. Trying to launch an alumni mentorship network, launching applications to GS and allowing GSSC to join the workforce for the program. If anyone is interested, applications are open and in the newsletter and drive. We originally weren't going to open the applications to GSSC because we already have work, but now are allowing us to apply.

One of the main

C. Finance

D. Communications

E. Campus Life

1. Reminder: snack attacks are happening everyday, there will be free lunch from 12-1pm.
2. On Thursday there will be a Halloween ceramics painting event.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. GS Deans Survey Presentation

1. Dean Rosen-Metch

a. 2025 GS student survey

- (1) The findings that will be presented tonight relate to many different subjects, which will be advocated by the GSSC.
- (2) The survey was administered during the 2025 school year.
- (3) topics:
 - (a) Well Being
 - 1) Impacting factors: Academic stress, health services, climate, family related, time management.



- 2) After Oct. 7th, the students from JTS or TAU have had a drop in comfort for expressing their opinions in class.
- 3) Belonging by group was lower in the TAU or Veteran communities.
- 4) About 90% of students would like to engage more with students.
- 5) About 50% of students did not volunteer for any activities within Columbia. This is probably affected by the GS community having other habits and responsibilities outside Columbia.

(b) Admissions

- 1) The administration is trying to help educate people about financial aid.
- 2) People want to know more about career opportunities, core curriculum, and housing.
- 3) Reasons to come to columbia: dream, career, economic status, job-related.

(c) GPA

- 1) After comparing the GPAs of CCs and GSs, we can see that the median is almost identical (CC 3.81, GS 3.82).
- 2) That said, we do have a slightly lower graduation rate, but that is mostly because of the difference between the financial support students receive.
- 3) Students that are neither FLI or First Gen have a significantly higher GPA (at least 0.20 points more).

(d) Student demographics

- 1) 1,764 non-dual, 568 dual, 337 post-bac
- 2) Average age of 29, 21 or 28.
- 3) Our dual-degree students are usually of higher socio-economic status.
- 4) Students with children

(e) Financials

- 1) Dept at graduation: the undergraduates in all schools have less debts at graduation this year than the last



time the survey was conducted (2023). This is based on self report.

- 2) 49% of undergraduates non-dual will take on more than 40K in debt after graduation. CC had about 25K.
- 3) Educational financing
 - a) Satisfaction with the service from this office - about 72% are satisfied. Those that are most satisfied are First Gen and FLI, which are those with the highest need in this category.
 - b) In comparison with 2023, there is no big difference.
 - c) 6% of non-duals (79 students) didn't apply for GS scholarships because they weren't aware of them.
 - d) 66% would prefer workshops on applying.
- 4) Financial optimism and strain:
 - a) Most of the students from all programs are optimistic, and yet also 70% of nondeclared students are worried, FLI and First Gen 82%.
- 5) Impact on academic performance:
 - a) Better than 2023, and yet still 76% said their academics were impacted in some way.
 - b) With the data from 2023 there have been efforts to make sure students will be able to study what they wish without fearing for their financials.
 - c) Almost 50% of First Gen and FLI students considered dropping out or transferring based on financial need.
- 6) Housing insecurity:
 - a) 4% decrease in housing insecurity since 2023.
 - b) 4% have been homeless in the past.
 - c) 49% had some insecurity.
 - d) 73% of First Gen and FLI.



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- e) Current housing for GS students only meets 63% of demand. 737 GS students live in Columbia Residential over 70 buildings.
 - f) The administration apologises for the housing relocation.
 - g) Soon there will be a new residence hall, only for GS, a game changer, community space. This will not be fixing all of our problems, but it is a step in the right direction.
 - h) The distance from campus impacts the GPA, but the results aren't really statistically significant.
- 7) Food insecurity
- a) Even though there is an improvement, food insecurity is still an issue.
 - b) It is an issue in all schools, but the fact that we are getting less financial aid is obviously playing a role here.
 - c) Plays a very strong role in the GPA. 4.0 - 70% are food secure.
 - d) GS meal plan does help food security. This is also seen in the veteran community, especially in regards to the post 9/11 GI bill.
- (f) Communications
- 1) About 50% are using the GS website and even more are satisfied with the weekly emails.
- (g) Academics:
- 1) Most students are well satisfied with the core curriculum requirements.
 - 2) 77% were not involved in research opportunities.
 - 3) 33% were thinking about a minor, and yet we are getting really good feedback about the minors.
 - 4) About 50% of the students have indicated that at least one faculty member took a personal interest in their success. International students and some dual-bas are less likely to answer affirmatively.



- 5) 40% of veterans indicated that they do not have a faculty member who they can ask for a recommendation letter.
 - 6) 36% indicated challenges related to faculty.
 - 7) Most students indicated satisfaction with academic services.
 - (4) Results by groups:
 - (a) Veterans:
 - 1) Mostly from the army (36%).
 - 2) Most are satisfied with their services.
 - (b) Students with children:
 - 1) 7% of students in GS.
 - 2) 15% of FLI and First Gen in contrast with 4% neither.
 - (5) This survey was not designed to make the school look good, but to make the student experience better and hear concerns from the students.
 - (6) This data can help inform the student experience.
 - (7) Some of the core questions on the survey are there the past 22 years.
 - (8) This survey is completely anonymous, but it's not based on self report alone, the data was cross checked.
 - (9) 25\$ were offered as a reinforcement for answering this survey, also making sure to get the best responses.
 - (10) 68% response rate, very high. Most surveys get about a 30% response rate.
 - (11) We would like to do this with other schools as well.
 - (12) This data will be shared with professors.
 - b. Net Promoter Scores
 - (1) Definition: a customer loyalty metric that gauges a company's customer satisfaction by asking respondents, "On a scale of 0 to 10, how likely are you to recommend our company/product/service to a friend or colleague
 - (2) There are negative scores in the TAU and Trinity dual ba programs, meaning students wouldn't recommend the school.
2. Answers to questions from the board:
- a. International veterans were not considered in that group.
 - b. Religion was not considered for this survey.



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- c. Even with the new building, there still should be more students that will not have housing. Are there more discussions about further building? A: This is a university wide issue, and we will continue to advocate for more housing. We don't view it as though every student will get housing, but all eligible students should be able to get housing. This will also benefit other students of GS, as events will be held there.

That said, that means some apartment buildings will have students move out, those that are further away. This will benefit us in the long run.

There will be food services in the building, community events and spaces.

There are a lot of policy implications when it comes to letting other GS students into this building, but this is in conversations at the moment. No decisions were made. This is a discussion of security, equality and more.

- d. This data is available to all students and will hopefully lead to more initiatives.
- e. If there are suggestions about a way to refine the efforts to help our community, this could improve this survey, and we would love to hear them. If there are questions she should be asking, let us know.
- f. This survey will be available every other year.
- g. There is no data for students with disabilities at this time, mainly because of the importance of confidentiality. That said, one of the goals of the administration is to enhance the support for said student community.
- h. A minority of students are taking more than 16 credits, and with students that are struggling with financial problems, reaching 12 credits is hard enough.
- i. Research opportunities are being looked at by the GS administration, the bancroft and rise programs are new research opportunities, and there is also an effort to advise students on how to find these opportunities.
- j. Giving priority to the dislocated students from the Columbia buildings was discussed. Comment from Oscar: the article about this was just posted on Spectator.
- k. CUHK is a fairly small program, and yet it will grow soon.
- l. The beds that we are losing are getting back to us through the new residential unit. Housing will also be more subsidised. The apartments that will be retired will be those that are further away and less affordable.
- m. There are post-graduation surveys, and we are always looking to be in more of an interaction with the alumni of GS.
- n. The debt question in the survey didn't differentiate between financial aid receivers or not, international or local.



- o. In 2023 there was a question about the course time as a factor for well-being. There is an effort across all of the departments in Columbia to make class schedules easier to manage, as the school is aware of most classes being between 1-2, which are working hours.
 - p. We should probably have questions in the next survey also about students feeling like they aren't welcome in some clubs, especially business clubs in CC.
 - q. The data also shows us that the effort we are putting into finding grants and funding has a real significant impact.
 - r. The connections to faculty are one of the things that we would like to improve. We have student-faculty dinners, where students can invite their professors to dinner and conversation.
- B. Milvets x GSSC Veterans Day Breakfast
 - 1. Happy to see everyone on the council. GS has the highest population of veterans within the Ivy League. Veterans day is coming up.
 - 2. Would like to have breakfast on Veterans day on Nov 11.
 - 3. Last year spent way over the budget, and funding has gone down greatly. Would like GSSC to come to veterans breakfast as a co-sponsorship. The total number of bagels is around 900, asking for 400 from GSSC. Would like to emphasize that it is not just US veterans, but also international veterans.
 - 4. Thank you for always supporting us.
 - 5. Q from Stephane - how many people are expected. A - buying enough for 50 people, expecting around 70 people total
- C. CQBS Sponsorship Request - Nicky
 - a. Details:
 - i. Networking event: Discussion panel with Alumni in finance and tech
 - ii. Mainly involves people with diverse, non-traditional backgrounds, and are underrepresented
 - iii. Background: CQBS is GS-founded, with 75% membership last year. It aligns with GSSC's mission of inclusion and community building.
 - iv. Date: November 3
 - v. 40-50 students are expected
 - vi. Goal: Help students find mentors
 - b. Request \$300
- D. GSSC Goes Ice Skating - Laila
 - 1. details:
 - a. 250 GSs.



- b. Sunday, November 23, 6-8pm.
 - c. Davis center ice skating rink.
 - d. Fostering community and stress relief.
 2. cost:
 - a. 5,000\$ for 250 students.
 - b. Every student has to pay about \$5.
 3. Discussion:
 - a. Irene: Having all the students on the rink might be a bit much. A: the capacity is over 2,000 people, and so it should be pretty comfortable.
 - b. Oscar: this event will require more discussion, and so we might want to table this.
 4. Motion to table this request: **PASSES**.

IV. STANDING BUSINESS

V. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR - Laila

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.

Jake:

Over 40 people took coffee from the lounge today, I may need more allocations in the future.

Stephane:

Thank you for the help in the first year picnic.

Jake:

There is a need for more volunteers in setting up snack attacks.

Chaya:

Every member of the council has to volunteer at least once a semester.

Ben:

Couldn't find the gluten free options during snack attacks, these should be better advocated.

Maeve:



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The pictures for the council are probably going to be taken the following week.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

This segment of the meeting is reserved for non-Council members to address the General Studies Student Council on any matter of concern. A time limit of three (3) minutes per speaker shall be observed. The Council will not take any action during this time. Council members will not respond to public comment at this time, however an executive board member may reach out to commenters after this meeting for follow up.

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