



GENERAL BODY MEETING

*24th of March, 2026***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 Bihr	P
VP of Communications Maeve Sheehan	P
VP of Campus Life William Luo	P
Chief Policy Representative Gavin Xue	P
Chief Finance Representative Paul Audoin	P
Chief Communications Representative Laila Shai	P
Chief Campus Life Representative Isabel Tenney	P
Academic Affairs Representative Anand Shukla-Parekh	P
Alumni Affairs Representative Neomi Li Simoni	P
Commuting Students Representative	
Diversity and Equity Representative Ishan Feisal	P
FGLI and Working Students Representative Jolee Cobb	P
Health and Wellness Representative Sophia Wen	P
Student Services Representative Joseph Byrne	P
Students with Disabilities Representative Maria Neagu	P
Students with Families Representative	
Policy Coordinator Beah Avila	P
Policy Coordinator Aaron Green	P
Policy Coordinator Erik Rogel	P

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



International Students Representative Apolline Ancel	P
Treasurer Brian Luna	P

Campus Life Coordinator Joel Teron	P
University Senator Robert Mulvey	A
Quorum → 29	TOTAL 40

C. Adoption of Last Week's Minutes

1. Motion **Passes**/Fails

D. Adoption of the Current Agenda

1. Motion **Passes**/Fails

II. REPORTS

A. President - Laila

1. We are excited to welcome Dr. Melanie Bernitz, Executive Vice President, University Life and Wellbeing in GS!
2. Elections sub-committee:
 - a. Robert Mulvey (chair).
 - b. Nora Zhu.
 - c. Irene Souny.
 - d. Maeve Sheenan.
 - e. Jeanne Fontain.
 - f. Paul Audoin.
3. Alumni mentor match program: thank you to everyone on the committee, we are almost ready to announce the first 50 matches, there was a lot of work into matching carefully. It is going very well. It is also helping us gather feedback. Applications are still open for both mentors and mentees.
4. Thank you to everybody who asked a question of Dr. Melanie Bernitz.

B. Policy - Nicky

- a. Election: If you want to run for a position, feel free to reach out to the e-board now because everything will be touched upon less as election approaches; this is the time to ask questions.
- b. Newsletter coming out soon: Nomination form for GS staff members, professors, etc. Feel free to nominate and spread the word.

C. Finance

1. The way the budget is constructed currently when we estimate the gross budget of the year, because there was a change in enrollment our spring 2026 estimated revenue was \$9000 off, so we now have a reduced budget. We still have a reserve to help out with, so there isn't a cause for concern.



D. Communications - Nicky

- a. Bacchanal: Headliners have just been announced. Feel free to get tickets, they are free!
- b. Keep spreading the word about gala tickets.

E. Campus Life

1. For the merch design application, please submit your artwork!
2. Please help sell gala tickets, ideally 150 more tickets would like to be sold.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Visit from Dr. Melanie Bernitz, Executive Vice President, University Life and Wellbeing

1. Ideas which are directly informed by the students, which led to an understanding of the shared concerns between all 4 schools, solved by conversations led by administration.
2. Questions:
 - a. **Gavin:** One of the main policy initiatives is to add opportunities specifically for GS students. Some of the clubs feel like they are excluding some of the students, and so I have opened the GSBS, but I was wondering how the administration is trying to solve that? **Answer:** We are aware of the problem, in terms of access, we are also aware of the discrepancies in terms of the different schools. Many of the conversations that have happened have helped to highlight these questions, but there needs to be more research made. What would be helpful is if you and others with knowledge of the process will share the information with us.
 - b. **Appoline:** How would you advise us to talk with you and how do you engage with the issue of international students? **Answer:** GS went through a dreadful experience a few weeks ago with Ellie being taken by ICE. I think we have responsibilities for individuals. As a physician, I treat patients. I think about preventions that also protect the masses, but we also needn't forget the individual within it. We are trying to think about how to do the most good with the least harm. We learned from what happened with Ellie that we need to give more information to our international students, talking to ISSO. It's really challenging to be a student leader when we try to balance neutrality and at the same time uplift the voice of our community.
 - c. **Ishan:** Do you have any updates for us regarding the request for ICE alerts? **Answer:** The ICE alert system that they have in other schools is a bit complicated as it needs to have legal standing, and we are still trying to look



into it. The letter was very good and respectful and I commend you for sending it. I will follow up on it in the future.

- d. **Jolee:** in regards to the equity initiatives, where our tuition is 3% more than the other undergraduate schools. I would like to hear from you in regards to who we should reach out to, or any comments about it. **A:** Dean Rosen Metch has been talking about this for a while in every meeting possible. The framing of the subject is often framed differently by the students than by the deans. While the support for GSers isn't what we would like to see, there's still momentum, and there is progress.
- e. **Maria:** related to the moves from last year. Many students are worried that they will be evicted this year too with the new residential building. **A:** This isn't under my position, but what happened last year is very much related to the undergraduate schools, which isn't as unstable this year. There shouldn't be any other incident like last year, which wasn't handled well.
- f. **Stephane:** What partnerships do you envision between campus life and university life or Columbia health? **A:** campus climate, constructive dialogue, there's been a lot of initiatives also from student organizations. We have been working on asset mapping - what works, what works less, and long term what can we do. We have just completed phase one and we have 2 to go. Student groups - we are trying to move these groups forward. Columbia health - strategic framework for student wellbeing, being launched April 13th, we have been working on it for years now. Well being is a university wide responsibility from the faculty, through deadlines, reading week being 3 days, having no lawns available and middle of the night deadlines. We had it endorsed by the deans and the board of trustees. We will give opportunities for students to take part in it, because you know about your process best.
- g. **Sophia:** I have heard some concerns about Columbia health and personal experiences to have same day appointments, there are so many students. Students get sick last minute and can't get appointments. **A:** I'm thrilled to hear about positive feedback from CPS, because this is a great improvement. About the other appointments - this isn't an easy fix, but we are working on it. We have also noticed a shift in the way students perceive and access care. There is no requirement in this institution for a sick note! Your illness is protected, you can get a verification that you went to the office. You don't need to sit in a medical office just for a note, you know how you feel. We are trying to better adjust to the students, but we are now shifting to more telehealth and same day appointments. We don't want you to just walk to the



office, we want you to call, talk to a nurse and get a same day appointment based on the assessment from the call. We are also hiring more staff. We don't have enough exam rooms but we are working on expanding the staff and the room. What I need from you is to share your experience, because we investigate cases in which there is a staff problem. We will retrain, but we need feedback, just like we did with CPS.

B. Budget Vote

1. Motion to move 3700 dollars and 89 cents from the orientation fall line item as well as the 856 from the welcome back events from the student event line. Both of these were for spring and for orientation, the money has been spent and what's left hasn't been used. Would like to move the money to student events.

C. International Dance Night (UPDATED) - Nicky

- a. CCSC dropped out
- b. Request: \$750
- c. Motion: **PASSED**

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.

Jeanne: all of the seniors, you can buy your brunch tickets right now! Check your newsletter for the link to the eventbrite.

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.

Spectator:

We have a new spectator



GSSC

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