



## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2023, 8:15 PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the *General Studies Student Council of Columbia University* will hold a *REGULAR* meeting on **September 26th, 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

*P = Present, A = Absent, E = Excused, T = Tardy*

| Officer                                                                          | Status |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| <b>President</b> Nasser Odetallah                                                | P      |
| <b>VP of Policy</b> Savannah Shulkin                                             | P      |
| <b>VP of Finance</b> Simas Chacar-Palubinskas                                    | P      |
| <b>VP of Communications</b> Oliver Neale                                         | P      |
| <b>VP of Campus Life</b> Kat Zimmermann                                          | P      |
| <b>Chief of Policy</b> Jonathan DuCloud                                          | P      |
| <b>Chief of Finance</b> Eric Yu                                                  | P      |
| <b>Chief of Communications</b> Melanie Wells                                     | P      |
| <b>Chief of Campus Life</b> Olivia McAlpine                                      | P      |
| <b>Student Services &amp; Academic Affairs Rep.</b> Oscar Wolfe                  | P      |
| <del><b>Family &amp; Working Students Rep.</b> Frieda Candido</del>              |        |
| <b>Veteran Students Rep.</b> Brian Williams                                      | E      |
| <b>Students with Disabilities Rep.</b> Alec Rodriguez Stangle                    | P      |
| <b>Diversity &amp; Equity Rep.</b> Madison Cabellos-Rivera (SAYBAYOS)            | P      |
| <b>Health &amp; Wellness Rep.</b> Malika Ali                                     | P      |
| <b>*Commuting Students &amp; Students with Families Rep.</b> Walter Koike-Sieira | P      |
| <b>*Policy Coordinator</b> Alina Kreynovich                                      | P      |
| <b>*Policy Coordinator</b> Chelsey Giraldo                                       | P      |
| <b>*Policy Coordinator</b> Marquise Johnson                                      | P      |

| Officer                                                               | Status |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| <b>Treasurer</b> Michael Galvin                                       | P      |
| <b>*Finance Coordinator</b> Rychard Tymakhovych                       | P      |
| <b>Social Media Rep.</b> Isabel Tenney                                | P      |
| <b>Technology Chair</b> Jacob Resnick                                 | P      |
| <b>*Video Producer</b> Evan Edler                                     | P      |
| <b>*Communications Coordinator</b> Caroline Nicholson                 | P      |
| <b>*Communications Coordinator</b> Anatta Tantiwongse                 | P      |
| <b>Alumni Affairs Rep.</b> Clara Kruijtzter                           | P      |
| <b>International Students Rep.</b> Aoife Houlihan                     | P      |
| <b>Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) Rep.</b> Ilan Cohen              | P      |
| <b>Community Service and Sustainability Rep.</b> Jemima Kingdon Jones | P      |
| <b>Senior Class President</b> Faith Grady                             | P      |
| <b>Senior Class Vice President</b> Nick Feibel                        | P      |
| <b>First Year Class President</b> Lily Canter                         | P      |
| <b>First Year Class Vice President</b> Ayşe Lara Selçuker             | P      |
| <b>Dual BA &amp; Joint Program Rep.</b> Taylor Moniz                  | P      |
| <b>*Campus Life Coordinator</b> Haya Fine                             | P      |
| <b>University Senator</b> Bruce Goumain (GOOMAN)                      | P      |
| Voting Members: 27 → Quorum → 20                                      |        |
| Total: 25                                                             |        |



**C. Present Voting Members: 25**

**1. Quorum: 25**

**D. Adoption of the Current Agenda for September 26, 2023**

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

**E. Adoption of the Meeting Minutes from September 19, 2023**

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

**II. REPORTS**

**A. Meeting Overview & General Updates (Melanie)**

**1. Nasser: Welcome to the First Meeting !!**

**a)** Excited to hear all we want to do while on council

**b)** Reminder to sign up for one on one meetings !

**(1)** New availability has just opened up/ will add as needed

**c)** Removing Religious Life Rep till further notice (was crossed off)

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Parliamentary Procedure Overview (Anatta)**

**a. Savannah: Going over Robert's Rules**

**i.** Background – Henry Robert's is the oldest Manual of parliamentary procedure in the US

**ii.** Purpose of the Rules is to protect rights of majority, minority and absentees

**iii.** We have these rules to maintain order and hold the body accountable

**iv.** Motions are the topic under discussion

**1.** Each motion requires a second to be considered

**2.** Each motion must be addressed in some way

**3.** 5 Types of Motions

**a.** Main Motion

**b.** Subsidiary - change of main motion

**c.** Privileged motions - special "I move to adjourn..."

**d.** Incidental Motions - questions of procedure

**e.** Motions that bring a question again before the assembly - reconsidering a previous motion

**4.** Examples of Common Motions – good to keep on hand and refer to

**v.** 2 Types of Questions

**1.** Parliamentary Inquiry - question to chair to clarify parliamentary procedures

**2.** Point of Information - question to chair or another member pertaining to matter at hand

**vi.** 3 Types of Voting Responses

**1.** In Favor

**2.** Not in Favor

**3.** Abstention – only allowed for certain votes, need to check the Constitution or Robert's Rules

**vii.** Types of Votes

**1.** Vocal Vote - Aye/Nay

**2.** Hand Vote - most commonly used at GSSC



3. Roll Call Vote – used when clear understanding of who exactly is saying yes/no is needed
4. Unanimous Vote - no objections
- viii. Nasser: Any Questions? – No Questions
- ix. Savannah: Information and Cheat Sheet will be included in Google folder for each Committee

## 2. Budget (Melanie)

- a. 2023-2024 GSSC Budget Presentation: VP of Finance (Simas)
  - i. Transparency by GSSC that maintains public showing of budget and running tally of expenses
  - ii. Annual Income
    1. 198 x 2148 registered undergrads = 425, 260
  - iii. Operating Budget (annual income + rollover surplus)
  - iv. 2023-2024 Student Life Fee
  - v. GSSC Expenses
    1. Governing board allocations
      - a. F@CU Allocation
    2. External spending
      - a. JCFC (incl. CIF/Securities & Facilities Funds)
      - b. GSSC co sponshirpps
      - c. Dean of students transfer
      - d. Bacchanal
        - i. Organizes spring concert on steps, funded by 4 student councils
    3. Internal Spending
      - a. GSSC Gala
      - b. Student Events
- vi. Budget Trends
  1. **2023-2024 GSSC Budget Proposal**
  2. going back to pre covid spending
- vii. 2023-2024 Budget
  1. Budget Overview

| BUDGET OVERVIEW                |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Estimated Fall '23 Revenue     | \$217,889.00        |
| Estimated Spring '24 Revenue   | \$220,524.00        |
| Dean of Students Transfer (3%) | \$13,152.00         |
| Approximate Annual Revenue     | \$425,260.00        |
| Rollover ('22-'23)             | \$19,023.00         |
| <b>Gross Budget</b>            | <b>\$444,283.00</b> |
| Total Required Allocations     | \$285,782.08        |
| Allocated Discretionary Budget | \$158,500.00        |
| Unallocated                    | \$0.92              |
| Spent Funds                    | \$161,500.00        |
| <b>Total Remaining</b>         | <b>\$282,783.00</b> |

## 2. Required Allocations



# GSSC

| REQUIRED ALLOCATIONS                  |                     |                    |                     |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
|                                       | Budgetted           | Spent              | Remaining           |
| Bacchanal                             | \$20,000.00         | \$20,000.00        | \$0.00              |
| Facilities Fund                       | \$20,000.00         | \$20,000.00        | \$0.00              |
| Securities Fund                       | \$12,500.00         | \$12,500.00        | \$0.00              |
| JCFC                                  | \$9,000.00          | \$9,000.00         | \$0.00              |
| Election Board                        | \$175.00            | \$0.00             | \$175.00            |
| Senior Week                           | \$4,000.00          | \$0.00             | \$4,000.00          |
| Required Reserves ( $\approx 2.5\%$ ) | \$11,107.08         | \$0.00             | \$11,107.08         |
| GSSC Cosponsorships                   | \$5,000.00          | \$0.00             | \$5,000.00          |
| General Studies Annual Gala           | \$167,500.00        | \$0.00             | \$167,500.00        |
| Fall Orientation                      | \$10,000.00         | \$0.00             | \$10,000.00         |
| Spring Orientation                    | \$0.00              | \$0.00             | \$0.00              |
| Senior Class Fund                     | \$25,000.00         | \$0.00             | \$25,000.00         |
| First Year Class Fund                 | \$1,500.00          | \$0.00             | \$1,500.00          |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                       | <b>\$285,782.08</b> | <b>\$61,500.00</b> | <b>\$224,282.08</b> |

a.

### 3. Discretionary Allocations

| DISCRETIONARY ALLOCATIONS |                     |                     |                    |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
|                           | Budgetted           | Spent               | Remaining          |
| Student Events            | \$20,000.00         | \$0.00              | \$20,000.00        |
| Four School Events        | \$15,000.00         | \$0.00              | \$15,000.00        |
| Executive Board           | \$800.00            | \$0.00              | \$800.00           |
| University Senator        | \$200.00            | \$0.00              | \$200.00           |
| Snack Attacks             | \$20,000.00         | \$0.00              | \$20,000.00        |
| GSSC General Body         | \$1,500.00          | \$0.00              | \$1,500.00         |
| Policy Initiatives        | \$1,000.00          | \$0.00              | \$1,000.00         |
| F@CU                      | \$100,000.00        | \$100,000.00        | \$0.00             |
| <b>Subtotal</b>           | <b>\$158,500.00</b> | <b>\$100,000.00</b> | <b>\$58,500.00</b> |

a.

### viii. Question or Comments?

1. Good Job Simas !! :)
2. What is F@CU ?
  - a. Funding at Columbia University
    - i. 6 undergrad governing boards
    - ii. Councils Fund all of student life
    - iii. Each student group funded by the councils (including GS specific groups)
3. Nick:
  - a. Are we voting on this budget? At this point with the budget presented we may not be able to do the Senior Cruise? He thinks we found a way to be able to cover the cost of the cruise if we can have revenue from the cruise towards the senior class budget.
  - b. Asking for 40,000 budget → the current senior class fund is 25,000
  - c. Eboard is allowing them to use an extra 15,000 (40,000 max)
4. Where is money coming from?
  - a. Simas: two options
    - i. Rearrange the money formally
    - ii. “Monopoly money” Budget



1. Take money from one area, convert some internal columbia money to actual money to front → event brite checks
2. In the past, we have never had an overdraft on the account and would never do anything to put financial standing in jeopardy
5. Nasser:
  - a. Checks on not rectified until end of year
  - b. Must be careful when fronting money
  - c. Required reserves: 11,000
  - d. Snack attacks have money: can borrow and get money back before need to spend
  - e. Reach out to the finance team if you have any questions about the budget :)
6. FINAL VOTE:
  - a. 25 voting members, need 19 yes votes to pass
    - i. BUDGET PASSES
3. Nomination Presentation for First-Generation, Low-Income, and Working Students Rep. (Caroline)
  - a. Frieda Candido
  - b. Will vote in Exec Session
4. P/D/F Statement Proposal (Isabel)
  - a. Nasser: P/D/F Statement Proposal
    - i. Policy team passes formal statements through the council. Can advocate without statements but statements are a public way to commit to motions. Cross-campus benefit.
    - ii. 18 credits worth of P/F credits AT PRESENT. You cannot do this for the Core and not for your major (although this varies by major). P/F mostly applies to electives and other exploration measures.
    - iii. **Committee on Instruction** sets the P/F deadline—Arts and Sciences professors govern all education, decide all academic policies for CC and GS
      1. Drop Deadline is not being discussed
      2. P/F deadline is 7-8th week of the semester and currently is **November 16, 2023.**
      3. This proposal is asking the CoI to change the P/F deadline to the last day of classes this semester and going forward (Fall 2023: December 11)
      4. Why?
        - a. COVID turned all classes P/F during those semesters
        - b. Spring 2022 also started on a COVID spike and the university was on Zoom
        - c. The university has changed P/F deadlines five times in a row
        - d. Four school councils are adamant on changing this P/F deadline, as these changes have proven that it can be done.
        - e. Some Humanities classes have very few grades, many STEM classes have the largest grades happening toward the last weeks and even day of the semester.



- f. There is no logical reason that the P/F deadline needs to be mid-semester; it does not affect the school at all
- g. P/F deadline movement could promote more effort throughout the semester for student
- h. Drop deadline is a much more complicated issue

Notes:

1. If the statement is passed, it will be sent to the other council (CC)
2. This is a good example of a statement for the new council, if this passes it will be permanent and hopefully benefit the student body
  - a. Question: Is there a serious argument in opposition to this statement?
    - i. A: As a student, there's usually very little countering, but some students might argue that this motion promotes indecisiveness. HOWEVER, it's the student's right to be indecisive.
    - ii. As a professor, the drop deadline (especially for small classes) is very inconvenient
      1. Professors have varying opinions of what a P/F mark looks like on a transcript (Nasser: Personal opinion—P/F does not have a singular purpose and is mostly negligible on a transcript, especially if it's the context of a great GPA.)
3. When we pass a statement:
  - a. Posted on IG (Comms Team)
  - b. Dean Delva and Rosenmensch receive the statement
  - c. Included in the newsletter
  - d. Forwarded to the CC council
  - e. Wait for CoI response (might take awhile, as they have a set agenda)

Motion to vote on statement: PASSED

5. Comms Request Process (Evan)
  - a. the Comms Request Google Form is up!
  - b. need to fill it out if you want anything on social media newsletters, or any other Comms communications methods
  - c. go to GSSC 2023-2024 folder on Google Drive, go to the EVERYBODY! folder, and fill out the google form!
    - i. this folder also has other good resources for posts and stuff
  - d. try to do it at least a week in advance pretty please
  - e. newsletter goes out on Tuesday nights, so tell Oliver by the end of the meeting at the LATEST
  - f. even if you don't know all of the details yet, tell us about everything you know so far!
  - g. tell us about whatever you're doing, especially @Finance and @Policy - we need more content from you guys!
  - h. newsletter is flexible, any type of event you're hosting should be on the Insta!
6. Sustainability Event
  - i. Jemima Kingdon Jones
  - b. Post NYC fashion week thrift and picnic
  - c. Event schedule
    - i. Oct 7, 2023 - 10:30 - 2:30
    - ii. Cost 300 dollars from GSSX



- d. Cost breakdown
    - i. Motion for money
  - e. Comes from student events budget
    - i. President Nasser brought up that we may have pre-paid metro cards
      - 1. Possibility of use for this event
      - 2. Motion amendment/inquiry to subject cost to change if metro cards are used
  - f. Questions
    - i. Is it ticketed?
      - 1. Yes but for numbers not for pay
        - a. First come first serve for event bright
    - ii. What is squash?
      - 1. Drink concentrate
    - iii. 18 people
    - iv. Can we publish the route and information so people who can not attend go?
      - 1. Yes
    - v. Can a member of comms go on the event for videography reasons
      - 1. Yes
  - g. Vote: to allocate funds
    - i. Passes unanimously; 25-0
- ~~7. Religious Life Rep – Moved to future week~~

#### 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. No questions or comments from GSSC

#### 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)

- 1. No public comments



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**