

Meeting Agenda

October 10th 2017; 6:30 PM

Alfred Lerner Hall, Room 477

<http://gsac.columbia.edu/>

1. Sign-in
 - a. *Issue with room setup, lacking projector and screen; first 5 minutes taken up with waiting to see if IT would come with projector and screen*
2. Approval of September 2017 Minutes (President) → *approved*
3. Presentation by Center for Career Education (Kelly Ahn)
 - a. *Initially planning to reschedule on account of missing IT setup; moved to later in schedule once screen and projector arrived*
 - b. **Background to CCE:** Located across from Faculty House; focus is on MA and PhD students. Services = far more than looking over resumes and cover letters → provide tailored advice to help students
 - c. **Website features:** (must log in with uni to access job opportunities)
 - i. **Internship opportunities** from various industries
 - ii. **Industry showcase:** go online to calendar to find out about opportunities; can filter by industry
 - iii. **Company info sessions:** diff companies have different ways of recruiting; go and see how they are active;
 - iv. **Campus jobs:** can find on LionShare → live campus opportunities available now (can filter results based upon what selected on LionShare profile).
 - v. **Site visits:** go to headquarters/branch office directly → do search for
 - d. **LinkedIn:** good way to connect with alumni → linkedin.com/alumni; Connect with one another so can make use of networks and grow LinkedIn power ~ go for 500 (10 ppl/month). Second connection = most important → those with many connections
 - e. **Make Appointments with CCE:** make online with LionShare; can also visit M-F, 1-4 drop in times. Good idea for those not sure what industry want to go into, etc... reflect and discuss these types of things. Can perform formal/informal career assessments (2/person for free; alumni as well).
 - f. **Free services:** clothing services ~ reserve suits to borrow; subscriptions: Going Global, Chronicles of Higher Ed... all free but people don't know and don't use them despite being excellent guides
 - g. **Career Fair app:** Columbia has own career fair app in app store; "Columbia Career Fair Plus" ~ over 120+ companies. Filter to interests/priorities for career fair.
 - h. **Newsletter/workbook:** we should all be getting newsletter; every week has a ton of information. Additional opportunities = things that employers don't directly send them but things they find out about through other means (go at the bottom)
 - i. **Workshops:** Come to the special workshops b/c employers looking for people in different ways. Keep up to date. Special workshops and networking with alumni for international students ~ very tailored. ☑
 - j. **LionShare:** (cc.columbia.edu → blue lion image)

- i. LGBTQ special event ~ many major companies coming to this workshop
 - ii. Much more than just finance and resumes; especially big field = non-profit & education
 - iii. Many opportunities throughout USA
 - iv. If don't set profile right, system won't work for you; go in, add photo, add undergrad;
 - k. **Columbia Career Connections:** join to see Columbia network very active ~ specific groups on Linked In ~ connect with professional network and associations → our official group
4. Social Committee Update (GSAC Social Chair)
- a. **Mystery Room event** this Friday - 7:00 and 8:30 slots; 2 tickets available for 8:30 (1 online, 1 being sold directly)
 - b. **Some future ideas:** fundraiser for Puerto Rico
5. Announcements (President)
- a. Update on **Dodge Gym Access for CUMC PhD Students** → *issue has been resolved*
 - b. Vote to support [Dean's initiative in improving meeting frequency of thesis committees](#)
 - i. *During discussion, it was pointed out that there is a lot of variation amongst different departments, meaning that requiring all committees to meet each semester is not necessary or not possible for all students/professors.*
 - ii. *Based on this feedback, we shelved the vote.*
 - c. **Student Representation and GSAC Funding Sources-** A Conversation (*the main content for this section is contained in a related PowerPoint, which can be made available upon request; the presenter was Frank*)
 - i. **Important notes:**
 - 1. Potential changes proposed here would happen after end of academic year
 - 2. Today's objective is not to vote on this issue but rather to develop and vote on NEXT month
 - ii. **Background information:**
 - 1. GSAC covers 2 separate bodies: all PhD students, all GSAS MA & PhD bodies → difficult to meet student needs, especially with MAs
 - 2. Reason for 2 bodies we cover is b/c the GSAS office of the dean similarly serves these two roles (dean of GSAS + Vice President of Graduate Education → issues all PhDs on campus)
 - 3. Explanation for how CU organization is set up (various schools, faculties, departments etc...) ~ GSAS is covered twice, part of confusion
 - 4. GSAS ONLY responsible for academic needs of non-GSAS PhD students
 - iii. **Issue:**
 - 1. GSAS students only covered by GSAC; non-GSAS PhD students covered by both GSAC and school specific government body (ie GSO, EGSC, etc.); Non GSAS MA students covered by specific government bodies
 - 2. 67% of GSAC students are GSAS students; 33% are Master's ; 33% = non-GSAS students

3. Currently, only GSAS pays into GSAC funds - non-GSAS students do not pay into the fund but we still do activities for them
 4. Concern: those who aren't contributing to pot still covered by GSAC; also, those students divided into which organization can help them with what
- iv. **Proposed changes:**
1. Create new GSAS-dependent Student government that only represents GSAS MA & PhD students (either GSAC transforms into this or GSAC is shut down and there is a new group) -> sole, main governing body for all MA & PhDs; still serve as liaison with dean's office, but only for GSAS
 2. PhD governing board - PhD reps from all PhD schools' student governments across campus; meet monthly with VP of Graduate Education
- v. **Proposed ad hoc committee:** recommend changes and explore possibility of transformation/changes to GSAC; work with VP of Admin as well as Dean Alonso on the transition
- vi. **VP of Admin:** responsible for informing student groups of changes; every group knows who is responsible for what → every student will know who to go to to address needs, etc...
- vii. **Q&A:** (*Frank provided the answers*)
1. Q: Is Dean Alonso aware of this? A: Yes. He proposed this, but it's really up to us. This isn't being imposed; probably would be easier for students, but it's up to GSAC to determine
 2. Q: How is this better if it's still 2 different bodies? A: The improvement is that MAs would have better representation with student government, all GSAS-specific students would make sure that only the students paying into the pot are taking advantage of events; also, help clean up administration. When we meet with Dean Alonso, we are bringing up issues relevant to 2 sets of groups, and that can complicate matters b/c pulled in different ways. We aren't fully representing MA students even though they're paying into this
 3. Q: What about the funding allocations? A: The subcommittees, etc. - the funds will come from each school's government; GSAC wouldn't share their funds with other committees, because those committees don't pay into them
 4. Q: What is the timeline and what would the steering committee do? A: Up to ad hoc committee; logical choice would be to use the year to answer questions and set up; probably set up elections earlier so new committee starts forming early next year, already ready and prepared for the new academic term
 5. Q: Does GSAS-specific governing body mean there would be more funds available to GSAS funds than before? A: By percentage-wise, yes; amount would not increase, but it would be more focused on GSAS students; example: currently, any GSAC student is eligible for travel grant, but in the future, only GSAS would be able to get them

6. Q: Have you ever talked to anyone not in GSAS? A: 400 of the non-GSAC people are GSO, but Frank is the new president → engineering being voted out anyway and they're fine; The 400 at Biomedical campuses will be greatly affected, but Frank is going to be more involved; most concerned = doctoral subcommittees
7. Q: More so about the doctoral-wide committee - have you talked to any of the other schools who would be brought in? A: It hasn't been shared with those committees, but it's not like they'd have official meetings, etc... it's just a rep who meets with a dean once and they talk about their issues with the dean. More like a "meet with the dean" for those reps; not extra work than an extra hour a month
8. Q: The students not in GSAS will lose so much; even with Frank as new GSO president, probably would take a long time to get comparable services A: Yes, that's why told all the subdoctoral committees that they need to be here for the vote. It's a small representation within the GSAC group, but there's a lot to lose.
9. Q: Can they vote? A: Only the Department Representatives can vote on this.
10. Q: So, if this gets approved, in a year from now, there's not going to be this type of meeting? A: Department Reps wouldn't be part of a group anymore
11. Q: Was GSAC integrated into other schools b/c they shared interests with other GSAS students? Is there going to be a committee that allows for logistic connections between student governments? A: That's going to be the PhD governing body
12. Q: So, decisions made by that body would affect MAs? A: No, only PhDs.
13. Q: But there are times that there are issues that affect ALL grad students, can they all be involved? A: At that level, those issues would go straight to the senate. This would make it easier to work with the union - if it goes through - so no matter what, everyone gets fair representation
14. Q: Senate representation from us? A: Yes, we have three GSAS senators. You should take super large issues to them, such as housing.
15. Q: Under this PhD new committee, would GSAS have one representative or one from Humanities, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences? A: I couldn't answer that myself; it'll be up to the ad hoc committee, but 3 reps would make sense.

viii. **Vote:** next meeting on ad hoc committee. If interested in joining, talk to Frank.

ix. **Final point:** constant issue for steering committee and board ~ you're all suffering through messiness, trying to clean it up.

6. Changes to the Constitution

a. **Change in representation of SEAS PhD students** - [Verbiage](#) → *approved*

b. Q&A:

- i. Q: So, those engineering students have no access to Dean Alonso? Are these changes happening already? A: This is a different change; they are OK with this, they

have more money, and they are better organized; we have months to work on various issues and prepare for this

7. Committee updates

a. Alumni & Career Development

i. Updates:

1. 5 year plan to develop goal of helping grad students stay connected with Columbia;
2. Virtual Networking Event (11/10, 11/11, 11/13) -> meet with alumni from program or in desired field ~ great opportunity for upcoming graduates who are looking to network;
3. Annual alumni and student mixer in spring (similar to last spring but regular event to bring alumni in each year);
4. TEDEx Seminar on Skype or online ~ give graduates the chance to participate and "give back" to Columbia without having to come onto campus. More info about what they're doing now, etc... ;
5. Specific networking and job searching skills for international students, how to network in US and abroad, etc..

ii. Feel free to contact Frank if want to join committee

b. Budget & Finance

- i. Updates: SIG deadline is on Friday; 11/17 = Travel Grants (for conference in spring); \$500 1 time
- ii. Committee: meet to discuss allocating funds

c. Culture

- i. Joshua Bell Performs Bernstein's Serenade (October 25th) - Sold Out
- ii. White Light Festival: Pergolesi: *Stabat Mater* (dance) (November 2nd) - Sold Out
- iii. White Light Festival: Jordi Savall: *The Routes of Slavery* (November 15) → *Sold Out*
- iv. Committee: Talk afterwards

d. Quality of Life

- i. Updates: seen a lot of issues amongst students working out various offices and organizations around Columbia to arrange leaves, etc...
- ii. Currently working on developing handbook of various issues and how to answer those problems
- iii. About 6 people on committee; others can join
- iv. GSAS has responded well to initiative and wants to integrate our work into the GSAS handbook ~ try to figure out how a grad student actually trying to solve these issues would go about doing so and what obstacles are in the way → make comprehensive and clear to solve some stress, etc...

8. External Representatives Updates:

- a. **Health** (Morningside, CUMC): meeting on Thursday ~ had been some miscommunications with AETNA and dental plan offered to students, stopped offering that without telling students; students signed up but didn't get. In compensation, giving those people a free access to a discount plan called "Vital Savings." Anyone else can also sign up for this

discount plan ~ \$25 for academic year. Probably send to different dental offices. Unsure of deadline

- b. **Libraries:** Graduate student grading room: go to checkout desk, ask for key (12 keys), return before end of business hours; 2M11; cold, bring sweater; tiny space but with computer and bookshelves; who is room open to? Will get back if open to engineering students
 - c. **Graduate Workers of Columbia (GWC)/Union:** 2 of bargaining committee members graduated in May and they hung around for summer, but now need to elect new members; should be getting emails from union if filled out union authorization card (not same as declaring support for union); also, check spam; everyone eligible to run, emails went out to mailing list to volunteer to run; voting held at Nous from 10-6 on Oct 6; votes counted afterwards at Brownies
 - d. **IGB:** no updates
 - e. **Disabilities:** Senate disabilities subcommittee will meet for first time on 23rd
 - f. **ISSO:** meeting with David Austell on Friday; will get some info from ISSO then
9. Senators' Updates: none
- a. **Social Sciences** ~ do you know anyone who would be willing to run for Senator, b/c our Social Science senator would like to step down, but cannot fully represent us anymore; usually a 2 year term, but can be 1; really good position, do lots of legislative work with university; meet once a month on Friday
10. New Business (Open Forum)
11. Committee sign-ups & Adjournment (President)