

## Meeting Agenda

January 23, 2017; 6:30 PM

Philosophy Hall, Room 301 <http://gsac.columbia.edu/>

- I. **Sign-in**
- II. **Approval of December 2017 Minutes (President)**
- III. **Presentation by the Center for Teaching and Learning: *Mark Phillipson***
  - A. Staff: Team of three (plus director) others who work on ways to support teaching development → recent graduate students, so familiar with issues grad students going through & needs
  - B. CTL website: <https://ctl.columbia.edu/>
    1. *New Teachers:* Go to “Beginning to Teach” for students just starting out (under Pathways) → fundamentals, workshops, etc... for those not familiar or comfortable with teaching. Seminars and workshops on trends in teaching (Teacher’s Lounges), etc...
    2. *Lead Teaching Fellowships workshops:* guided by graduate students. Gather grad students together to talk about what it means to teach, then they lead department specific events. → be part of discourse without going to CTL by going to LTF workshops.
    3. *Advancing Your Teaching in Humanities and Social Sciences:* for students out of the gate and no longer just learning fundamentals but thinking about advanced topics. Learning communities often run by graduate students
    4. *Approaching the Job Market:* time to represent teaching in front of potential employers; how to write teaching statement, diversity statement, designing syllabus from the bottom up, etc...
    5. *Graduate Students’ Services:* ways to help graduate students practice; example: micro teaching. Practice 5 minute sample of teaching with group and give each other feedback. Midcourse reviews: watch class and speak with students to see how it’s going and what could be improved. Observe teaching: send trained observers to watch and debrief. Intense but great learning experience.
  - C. Aim: CTL about promoting agency, preparing graduate students for the “next step” → thinking about professional development after graduating from Columbia.
  - D. Types of focus: helping to train TAs but also develop courses, etc...
  - E. Location: Butler Library, 2nd floor. Also go to Medical Campus and SEAS

F. Q&A:

1. Q: What do you do at the medical center? A: lead teaching fellows, observations, science specific stuff
2. Q: Are you willing to work with Disability Services to help with accessibility A: Yes, we are. Some Lead Teaching Services are already working to this end. ODS comes to orientation. We're all making this up as we go along, so as you know of a need and an audience, come and talk; now have the staff to make this happen.
3. Q: What about one-on-one mentoring? A: Starting workshop on entering research mentorship this spring. One new colleague has degree in science field, knows that a lot of "teaching" is mentorship. So, bringing that into the fold.
4. Q: In "Approaching the Job Market," when are there going to be events posted in the calendar? A: We're more intense in the fall, as more people are in the job market on the fall (just finished a 2-part "Building a Syllabus From Scratch" workshop that is tied to Syllabus Competition). Will have Preparing for Job Market bootcamp this summer, but haven't posted it yet. Usually mild in spring but will pick up a lot in summer and fall.
5. Q: What will you provide for basic TA training? A lot of students didn't feel like their trainings in the fall didn't prepare them for actual teaching (ex/ students asking for more points, etc...). A: It's a challenge b/c teaching situations are very different. In "Beginning to Teach" section, there's "Essentials of Teaching and Learning" that should be useful. In orientation, can only just start to scratch the surface in how to do this. Bunch of workshops related to specific subjects with classroom, but if there should be more, let him know.
6. Q: Can you speak more to the summer learning and teaching? A: We do an institute in the summer on innovative teaching - 4 days in June, favorite time; people come to CTL with idea of an innovative assignment they would like to develop over 4 days. Varies depending upon person (ex/ using mapping, video analysis tech, collaborative editing, assignments using role-play or simulations...). Apply by giving an idea of what you'd like to develop → chance to do something you wouldn't get to do as a TA but would need to be able to do as a junior faculty member. Something you can talk about to potential employers. Over course of 4 days, crash course in curriculum design as well as get models from faculty who have done similar things. Get

an idea for practical uses of idea as well as center behind a lot of this work. Get a better idea of infrastructure within Columbia... ppl who make these things happen. Trading ideas with people at table, finally make a poster about idea, and then at the end do presentation. At the end, have something very tangible, even if don't make use of it at Columbia. Tell a story about how this assignment connects to what care about in research. Definitely apply to ITSI : Innovative Teaching Summer Institute. Probably open in March. Also, fellowships like Lead Teaching Fellowship → get money for the time spent on putting on workshops and thinking about it. Also, Teaching Observation Fellows- 14 people spend whole year on mutual teaching opportunities. Do micro teaching together and evaluations of each others' work, but in a formative and supportive way. Can later on be hired for more advanced work. So, if start with Summer Institute, can move up through rank.

7. Q: Language teaching specific stuff? A: Yes, language lounge; there will be a topic to discuss. Come in and get pizza and discuss what's going on in recent scholarship, etc... For example, upcoming lounge will talk about race and gender in the classroom. Have a trained staff member in foreign language teaching. Cover STEM, foreign language, etc...

#### **IV. Announcements (President)**

- A. US Tax Reform - Sec. 1204 not included: Article from Chronicle for Higher Ed stating that graduate student actions of reaching out to representatives was highly successful in making sure that the tax exemption was not removed.
- B. Updates from ad hoc committee for reorganization of graduate student representation: detailed proposal (Chair of Ad Hoc Committee)
1. *Proposal:* Disband GSAC and create ASGC (Arts & Sciences Graduate Council) in its place: governing body for all of GSAS students ~ quality of life, academic life, etc... The rest of GSAC-covered PhD students (30-some non-GSAS programs) will still have access to VP of Graduate Education via new PhD council. Not a voting board ~ just a place to talk about academic issues that all PhD students deal with, such as defending a thesis, etc... A lot of this stuff is handled by programs, but this providing another avenue.
  2. *Method:* Ad hoc committee has been going considering how to go about doing this.

- a) Q: What was rationale for doing this? A: 2 rationales: Right now, GSAC covers ALL Columbia PhD students and GSAS MA students. But only GSAS PhD and Master programs' students pay into GSAC. Second issue: non-GSAS PhD students should have own issues handled separately (example: CUMC should be handled at own campus rather than having to come all the way down to Morningside via GSAC). Easier for Dean Alonso who holds 2 positions (Dean of GSAS and VP of Graduate Education).
- b) Q: Is it the job of the students to make things easier for the administration? Won't we lose autonomy? A: We aren't losing any autonomy. Also, needs of PhD students not in GSAS aren't at all being represented at Morningside; so, it's not just the administration, but it's also students themselves who will benefit.
- 3. *MA representation*: Master's students actually make up half of GSAS, and they aren't represented at all; only hold 3 voting spots on GSAS whereas they should make up a majority, especially since they actually pay majority of costs.
- 4. *New Bylaws & Amendments*: Ad hoc committee made whole set of new bylaws for new organization; *Issue for non-GSAS students*: new constitution will allow GSAC to vote on bylaws, including non-GSAS representatives. In order to deconstruct GSAC, we have to add bylaws to current constitution that discuss how to go about it.
- 5. *GSAC webpage: Adhoc page* → <http://columbiagsac.wpengine.com/adhoc/>
  - a) *Amendments*: proposed additions to current bylaws (will vote on next month) ~ related to steering committee turnover and additions. For example, some student groups will no longer be able to be sponsored by ASGC but will be transferred to another group. Other clubs will have to reapply. If questions, ask Andrew. Another issue is that transfer of funds and materials from GSAC to ASGC. No transition period → as of April 1, full transfer. Additional bylaw noting end of GSAC in March.
  - b) *New Mission Statement*: <http://columbiagsac.wpengine.com/adhoc/>
  - c) *New Constitution for ASGS* (made by ad hoc committee)
  - d) *Bylaws* - covers 14 PhD programs and 47 MA grad students (current problem is how to account for Japanese pedagogy program, since it only meets in the summer)
- 6. *Timeline*:
  - a) *Tonight*: propose changes

- b) *This week*: will send out white paper explaining this and linking to website.
  - c) *Next two weeks*: chance to ask questions; there will be 2 town hall meetings in 302 Philosophy Hall next week (Tuesday and Thursday 6:30-7:30). If confused, come to Town Hall meeting and will try to answer. Also, chance to present potential changes or additions that you think should be added (or talk to anyone on ad hoc committee).
  - d) *Two weeks before February meeting*: Will send out the edited constitution and bylaws.
  - e) *February plenary meeting*: Vote on whether or not to go through with this; need 2/3 vote
  - f) *March plenary meeting*: vote for positions (either for GSAC or for new ASGC if approved)
7. *Adding several new positions* → look carefully in case interested in running
8. *PhD Advisory Council*
- a) *Current situation*: Currently working on constitution; will work with Dean's office
9. *Q&A*
- a) Q: What about how GSO students will elect senators? A: Currently, senators are voted on by GSAC; problem is, there's a mix in Natural Sciences and "Pure Sciences" (GSAS and not GSAS). It may be better to talk off-line about this. Still in limbo - just talked to senate about this today. Engineering has own senator.
  - b) Q: Non-GSAS PhD students, how will they be covered? A: Several student groups under other schools (Teacher's College, SIPA, Nursing, Public Health, etc...) - some of them have good student governments that those students will fall under and be fine. Those that are lacking student governments, we are contacting them to either boost their student governments or develop them. Ironically, those students have never come to meetings or taken advantage of GSAC opportunities. **Anyone from those non-GSAS schools, please come and talk to us afterwards, because you are the ones who are quite highly affected by this.** Let's talk about how everything you need can be incorporated into the PhD council.
10. *Additional Questions*: email Frank directly or come to Town Hall meetings.

11. *Reiterate*: this is a big bureaucratic change but the hope is to make everything clearer and easier. In the future, no one will question why this is the case. It seems complicated, but we are trying to make sure that we are not taking benefits away from students. If you have concerns that we're forgetting students or groups that benefit from GSAC, please let us know in order that we can work on that. Really about creating clearer channels of communication within Columbia.

V. **New Group Recognition** (VP Admin)

- A. We the Scientists @ Columbia: Kat, Neurobio PhD and one of founding members of We the Scientists. Over past year, compiled database of how every legislator has ever voted for a science-related law. Did so via [congress.gov](http://congress.gov) and Propublica API to pull out science-related laws (including education and healthcare). Judged bills were supported by science and put into beta program. Rated use of science-based policies. Would like to expand at the state and would like to use for broader expansion. Would like to do more science outreach (currently do so at Medical Campus). Want to use this information in order to be able to talk about specific laws that affect us at the government level.
- B. Q&A (*there was additional Q&A after the representative left the room prior to the vote; those questions are not included in the minutes*)
1. Q: How is Columbia University Science Policy Initiative different? A: Also a member of CUSP. They have no interest in database building. Would work with CUSP, but their point is really bringing in speakers and holding events. They don't want to do outreach.
  2. Q: Are you interested in taking your analysis further, such as Facebook, Twitter, etc... articles? A: Have personal interest, but that's too broad for actual scope of this group.
- C. Vote → *approved*

VI. **Committee updates**: Please sign up for committees if you have not done so! Also, make sure you meet your volunteer hours for the year. Email if you have any questions; make decision about committees.

A. Alumni & Career Development

1. *2018 Spring Career Fair*, Lerner Hall, Feb 16th 12-4pm
2. *Asia Pac Virtual Career Fair*, Feb 20th, 8pm [**note: listed as 2/27 on CCE events website**]

3. *Career Meet up for Master's Humanities & Social Sciences*, CCE, Feb 28th, 6-8pm
    - a) Need 3-4 volunteers (count for volunteering hours and would get free food; largely help with name tags and directions)
  4. *Virtual Networking Hour*, GSAS Students & Alumni, March - looking for 100 students to participate; meet with alumni for an hour in a virtual chatroom, ask questions. Only GSAS Humanities Arts & Natural Sciences field.
  5. *Alumni & Student Boat Cruise w/Social*, April 19th (Thu) (with or without alumni). From Chelsea Piers to Midtown to UN Building, etc... 4 hours of open bar and hors d'oeuvres. Prices not yet set.
- B. Budget & Finance
1. *Next application deadlines*
    - a) February 23rd: SIG ~ might have some issues with the application, but seems to be working OK. (<http://columbiagsac.wpengine.com/student-groups/student-initiative-grants/sig-application/>)
    - b) March 23: Travel Grants (<http://columbiagsac.wpengine.com/student-resources/gsac-travel-grant/travel-grant-application/>)
- C. Culture
1. *Farinelli and the King, starring Mark Rylance* (Feb. 22) Tickets on sale, Jan. 29 @ 8:00 PM
- D. Quality of Life
1. *GSAS/GSAC resource guide for students*: has been going on since the fall, improve accessibility of offices throughout campus. Went through websites' descriptions and guidelines → annotated with what was unclear or problematic, handed to Dean. Positive response from Dean's office. Will be working with Dean's office to try to produce a handbook of policies covering many issues GSAS students face and become a hub of information for many different departments, etc...
  2. *Quality of Life Survey*, February 15 - March 15: yearly survey GSAC runs; need to put questions in survey format, need help with writing QoL report. Please write to Mila if interested in helping. Student Well Being survey also being sent by another committee; we are invited to send someone to be part of this.
  3. *Other possible activities*: group lunches for particular groups (those with disabilities, parents, etc...) with specific administrative issues. Incredibly useful; however, cannot do if do not get more support. If

anyone on QoL or someone else who would be interested in helping, please write to Mila.

## VII. Social

- A. Welcome Back Party @ The Parlour- 1/26/18 7PM-9PM - SOLD OUT (theoretically could still come, but would have to pay for own drinks; can also join wait list). Volunteers are set.
- B. SpongeBob the Musical-1/28/18- SOLD OUT (available at Low 107; pick up own tickets. Can pick them up in McDonald's at Times Square from Sarah if don't pick up tickets from Low)
- C. Ski/Snow Trip- 2/10/18- 6:30AM-6:30PM (tickets for sale this Friday at noon). Various packages; can buy with or without bus pass. Will need 1 volunteer; contact Sarah by email. Not entirely free because helping out!
- D. Department Representatives' end of year party in May. Even for those departments that may no longer be part of the new group (if approved).

## VIII. External Representatives Updates:

- A. Health (Morningside, CUMC) *no updates*
- B. Libraries *no updates*
- C. Graduate Workers of Columbia (GWC)/Union:
  - 1. Kate Jackson: NLRB affirmed vote; Columbia has no more appeals. Got letter from Columbia saying that they got the demand to meet but nothing more. National Labor Board may sue Columbia. Before then, will be organizing committee meetings this week: Thursday night (7 or 7:30; Fairchild 700).
  - 2. Q: When would NLRB sue Columbia? A: We don't expect that issue to resolve itself before some other lawsuits NLRB are resolved... which may or may not be in our favor. If those are not in our favor, things could change. We are asking other groups to withdraw petitions rather than waiting for new president, etc...
- D. Office of University Life Events Council -
  - 1. First meeting = Friday to come up with event reviews.
  - 2. Events: 1) Talent showcase in Lerner Aldrich Auditorium; 2) Silent Disco (bunch of DJs; won't know what music they're playing)
- E. Disabilities *no updates*



F. ISSO: Tax workshops for International students coming up (GSAS will also do one for American citizens); dates not yet set, but we will pass them along when they are.

G. Senators' Updates:

1. *Response to potential tax reform bill* before it was turned down; had been working on that a great deal, but luckily didn't need to follow through.
2. *DACA student subcommittee*: meeting with Office of University Life administrators, including DACA point person. Discussed specific numbers of students who are DACA registered and number Columbia is predicting that they don't know about. There are limited numbers of DACA students at Columbia ~ mostly undergrad. Planning on hosting events this semester in response to any legislation that comes down.
3. *Academic Freedom Resolution*: Faculty Affairs has been working on this for 2 1/2 years. *Summary*: Faculty are concerned that they would be limited in what they were allowed to say or teach in class or academic setting by general movement on campus for safe space and trigger warnings. They haven't framed it as such, but they want to pass a resolution to say that they should have the first amendment right to freedom of speech in an academic setting. Voted down at last plenary; Student Affairs and Faculty Affairs committee worked on rewriting it. Tried to put more student voice in. Just sent draft from students to faculty... very different, so back to drawing board. Possibly won't get in for February plenary meeting.
4. *Campus Planning Committee*: develop a better biking culture, carve our indoor biking campus in various campuses; going along. One major concern = MTA is shutting down elevators in 168 St. station. For about a year, 1 train will bypass 168 station. Reasoning = there are 4 elevators which are the only way to access 1 Platform. If they shut down 1 pair of elevators at a time, there will be an unsafe level of crowds during rush hour. University has a stake in the recent renovation at 168 station, so there will be a voice. MTA hasn't finalized plan yet, but probably will run buses from 145 St. station. Probably from Fall 2018 for about a year.

**IX. New Business (Open Forum)**

- A. GSAC Reformation proposal: Please look at documents from ad hoc committee and tell students in your departments that this is happening.

B. Newsletter: suggested carving out a space for grad students' workshops within own workshops.

**X. Committee meetings & Adjournment (President)**