



# ARTS & SCIENCES GRADUATE COUNCIL

## Meeting Agenda

December 11, 2018; 6:30 PM

Philosophy Hall 301

<https://council.gsas.columbia.edu/>

### 1. Sign-in & Welcome

- a. **Vote to approve November minutes → Approved**

### 2. Presentation by ISSO (David Austell)

- a. Hiring four additional staff
  - i. International population at Columbia rapidly growing, 8.7% 2018-19
  - ii. 16,000 international students, 12,000 full time
  - iii. 3,000 international faculty members
  - iv. New hires will mean 1 advisor:1,100 students
- b. Staying on top of issues that could affect students visas, if you have any concerns that come directly to David Austell with questions. His personal cell phone number: 917-833-9635

### 3. Presentation by CUFSN (William Veitch)

- a. William is a senior at School of General Studies, father of two, and President of Columbia University Family Support Network
  - i. CUFSN runs events for everyone on campus, including undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty with families
- b. Asked ASGC to endorse the CUFSN "[Proposal for Work-Play Space for Students with Families](#)" → **Approved**
- c. Q&A:
  - i. How would student volunteers be organized?
    - 1. There would have to be an application process, student would have to have some experience at summer camp, teaching kids. They would have to be vetted in some way. But the parents and child would not be separated at any time. This is also a way to integrate students with families with students without families. Also a good opportunity for students who want babysitting opportunities.
- d. Closed Door Vote
  - i. Approved, unanimous

### 4. Announcements ( President)

- a. **Nous Cafe**
  - i. Conducted study on behalf of administration. In the new year Nous will be lowering their prices and increasing menu diversity. ASGC will circulate

information in the future. The overall goal is to improve use by graduate students.

**b. Discussion of new Dissertation Meeting guidelines**

- i. Is there any feedback from departments about how this is being implemented? Both the ASGC board and GSAS admin are interested.
  1. Question from Sarah for Plenary: Is it true that the policy for faculty is unfair because faculty sponsor a different number of dissertations, and so there is an uneven workload distribution?
  2. One student reported that none of their faculty members responded to a Doodle about time to meet.
- ii. Will follow up with survey.

**5. Open position: Uris Hall Planning Committee (Mike Ford)**

- a. Mike will be vacating his spot in the spring, is looking for someone interested in filling that chair.
- b. The committee is trying to determine what Uris should and can be, how will it impact learning and research, how it can be interdisciplinary and collaborative.
- c. A draft of the vision has been compiled, and in coming semester there will be more details to be worked out. The draft will be used for fundraising.
- d. Committee includes Deans of three schools, variety of administrators, facilities and some students. Two hours a week commitment in Low Library. Interested parties should contact Mike.
- e. Question: Would this count as service for ASGC? Answer: Yes, you could be Uris Hall Rep and report back to ASGC.

**6. Committee updates**

**a. Alumni & Career Development**

**b. Quality of Life**

- i. Parents met with GSAS Deans, recommendations are being passed on to Provost.
- ii. Internet: In touch with "ApartmentNet," project currently in construction procurement phase (soliciting bids).
  1. Question from Plenary: Would Columbia refund payments for internet? Answer: Dean Alonso said no, will ask again. Fill out the survey with questions and complaints, circulate to your constituents! The more information we collect the bigger impact for our meetings with Dean Alonso.
- iii. Question from Plenary: Can we get gym memberships for the summer for graduate students? Answer: We will ask at the next GSAS Dean meeting, but this is something ASGC has been working on for a long time.
- iv. Comment from Plenary: Biological Sciences first years don't have access to VPN services.

**c. Events**

- i. No more events this semester. For next semester booked two performances of Sleep No More, 3 Broadway shows, 2 Met operas
- ii. Soliciting ideas for anything new, survey for new event ideas are in the newsletter.
- iii. Question from Plenary: Will there be a ski trip this year? Answer: Will talk to Sarah at GSO.
- iv. Holiday Gala organized by GSO for all Columbia students.

**d. Finance**

- i. New cycle of travel grants complete. Next deadline is January 25.

**e. Masters Affairs**

- i. Have reached out to all MA representatives, please give feedback about what would be most beneficial to you and your department. Working on MA specific networking events. Bringing up issues about lack of funding opportunities/lack of clarity with the Deans. Will reach out after finals with Doodle Poll for MA-only meeting.

**7. External Representatives Updates:**

**a. Health**

**b. Libraries**

**c. Graduate Workers of Columbia (GWC)/Union**

- i. Union voted to accept Framework Agreement, entering process of bargaining. Next week at Union Meeting there will be further discussion about what bargaining will look like. Tuesday, Room TBA, 6-7:30pm, ask to be on listserv for more info. Next semester there may be a vote for a new bargaining committee or the kind of bargaining, so look out for that.
- ii. Question from Plenary: How will the vacant chairs of graduating students on the bargaining committee be resolved? Answer: Still working on that, there are also a few people stepping down, will communicate more info soon.

**d. Interschool Governing Board (IGB)**

**e. Disabilities (SSD)**

**f. ISSO**

**g. University Life Events Council**

**h. PhD Council**

- i. Meeting Thursday, December 13

**i. ECGSAS**

- i. Meeting on Friday, December 14

**j. UEM/ P&P Fund**

**8. Senators' Updates (Mike, Darold)**

- a. Senate has adopted a resolution to create a certificate in Comparative Media Studies, so tell people who might be interested. For anyone in any GSAS department, just have to complete the requirements.

- b. Student affairs committee working on romance policy for graduate students, specifically graduate students and faculty/other employees, and continues to revise the undergraduate policy.
- c. Statement went out against hate speech and hateful acts on campus with resources for student support.

#### **9. New Business (Open Forum)**

- a. Zoë asked the Plenary how many departments currently have some sort of student council. Fourteen have a council, nine do not have a council, and five would find a student council to be useful.

#### **10. Committee Meetings & Adjournment (Vice President)**

**ASGC plenary meetings are conducted in the style of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (10th Edition)***

Obtain the floor (the right to speak) by being the first to raise your department placard when the person speaking has finished. You must be recognized by the Chair before speaking.

- No member can speak twice to the same issue until everyone else wishing to speak has spoken to it once.
- The agenda and all committee reports are merely recommendations. When presented to the assembly and the question is stated, debate begins and changes can occur.