



ARTS & SCIENCES GRADUATE COUNCIL

Upcoming Plenary Meetings:

March 26
April 30

Meeting Agenda

February 19, 2019; 6:30 PM

Philosophy Hall 301

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

1. Sign-in & Welcome

a. Vote to approve January minutes → Approved

- i. Changes were made to item 6.f.iv that were reviewed before the vote.

2. Presentation and Q&A with Executive Vice President Suzanne Goldberg, Office of University Life

- a. Andrew introduced Suzanne Goldberg
- b. Introduction from Suzanne Goldberg: At Columbia since 2006 as member of law school faculty. She teaches both at Law School and Arts and Sciences. Didn't begin as an academic, started as a practicing lawyer in LGBT work, and didn't plan to become an academic administrator, but about five years ago Bollinger asked her to be a special advisor on sexual assault prevention and response. She joined senior administration to focus on student life issues, so she created the Office of University Life which is dedicated to the community of the university, and focus on inter-school issues, such as inclusion and belonging, mental health and wellbeing, and community citizenship such as sexual respect. She also works on intellectual life across the university with events like Campus Conversations. Will send information about upcoming events.
- c. Question: What is the graduate initiative on inclusion and belonging?
- d. Answer: It's led by Vice-President for Student Life, Ixchel Rosal. The idea is to create an initiative across schools at the university level. On Thursday, February 21, from 6-8pm will be the [LGBTQ Roundtable with Columbia Faculty](#). Other upcoming events to be announced. Also running student success workshops which are aimed to first-generation graduate students in particular but also all students adjusting to life on campus. [On Great Terms: Job Negotiations Done Right](#) is also happening tomorrow night.
- e. Submitted Question: What types of allegations are investigated in the Student Conduct Office?
- f. Answer: Student office of Community Standards houses two offices. The Gender Misconduct Office has case managers who are available for any student related to any issue on the Gender-Based Misconduct Policy and is also an office that can help navigate accommodations and direct you to resources. It also handles investigation and adjudication of Title IX complaints. The other office is the Office of Student Conduct that handles issues of academic and behavioral misconduct (wide-ranging).
- g. Question: Several questions were submitted regarding abusive faculty members. 1. Many departments have a culture of silence around known abusers. How is the Office of University Life, either on its own or in conjunction with the EOAA, working to combat issues of campus climate among faculty? 2. Have there been any cases of graduate

students being offered additional funding and/or additional time to degree as compensation for time lost to dealing with abusive faculty members?

- h. Answer: Doesn't have information on second question, but a good question for Deans Alonso or Solomon. But on the first question the Office of University Student Life is 1) is meeting with faculty who request to do so 2) localizing knowledge of resources because of complicated structure of Arts and Sciences. Starting last year Professor Goldberg started developing with several offices, faculty, and students a briefing for a wide-range of issues related to student life. She took all of that information and created a double-sided 8x11 resource card for faculty and staff. 3) New York state and city now require all employees to receive training on sexual harassment, so in process of creating a program to implement that. 4) Also developing with EOAA and SCCS and Title IX coordinator to meet with directors at several levels of the school to talk about these issues 5) Trying to develop more localized resources for students. Have hosted two coffees to provide a casual setting where graduate students in Arts and Sciences could talk with EOAA and SCCS and Title IX coordinator but no one came to the first two. Another is happening in early March, and will send that information to ASGC. Why didn't students come? Did students not know? Very open to doing the same sort of thing for student-organized gatherings, will provide funds to do so.
- i. Question, QOL Chair: Specifically the previous questions are about what is being done about faculty. It seems that those coffee events require more effort on the part of students, who are not the perpetrators. What is the office to address the faculty?
- j. Answer: We are focused on the students, but this does still include our office. We released the EOAA report this year. If you think these coffees are a bad idea we are happy to not have them, but we are having them because students say they don't want to talk to offices with acronyms or strangers, this is an effort to reduce the barriers. At these events we are open to your questions, you don't have to make an appointment.
- k. Question, VP: What are you doing to bridge CUMC and Morningside Heights campuses? And what is the time frame on the graduate romance policy, what will and won't be permissible?
- l. Answer: We have met with Arts and Sciences leadership at CUMC, everything we do is on both campuses, such as Wellness Week. We typically have about $\frac{1}{3}$ undergraduate and $\frac{2}{3}$ graduate students, so these are primarily events designed to support graduate students. One other initiative is the University Life Events Council that includes reps from every school (created about two years ago) and this is a group that hosts cross-school events to build community. Events include film screenings, days of service, Wellness Days, Low Lounge and more serious but non-academic activities. About the consensual relationship policy: I just got updated from General Counsel's Office today that the policy is in the works. The background is that New York state last year enacted a law that has particular requirements for anyone who provides services for an employer. The policy is different from undergraduate policy, it will be continued to be worked on this spring in consultation with the University Senate. The university typically introduces policies at the beginning of the new academic year (July 1).
- m. Question, VP: Follow-up, what would this policy look like?
- n. Answer: I don't have the answer, I haven't been involved in the drafting of the policy, but the Student Senate has been involved. But the policy is at a stage where those

questions have not been decided. If this body has views those can be consolidated and passed on to my office or to the University Senate.

- o. Question: Could you elaborate on what the undergraduate policy is, as a way of understanding what you mean by the graduate policy will be different?
- p. Answer: Undergraduate policy is an absolute prohibition on faculty engaging in a sexual or romantic relationship with undergraduate students. There are some exceptions for pre-existing relationships, but a graduate policy might have two poles. This is not necessarily what CU is doing but what the world looks like on these issues: on one end, absolute prohibition, and at the other the argument that graduate students are human beings with agency and should not be told what to do or not, which would mean a policy that prohibits consensual relationships between supervisory faculty, broadly or narrowly understood, and a disclosure requirement.
- q. Question: Follow-up, would this ban relationships between any graduate students?
- r. Answer: To clarify, a student is never in violation of the policy. The prohibition is on the faculty member.
- s. Question, Finance Chair: The confusion comes in because it doesn't only prohibit relationships between students and faculty but all employees - so theoretically if two TAs are dating, that could be blocked.
- t. Answer: I can't answer the question because the policy has not been fully developed, but share your collective thoughts and concerns either through the Senate or my office.

3. New Student Group: Human Rights Graduate Group (Vice President) → Approved

- a. Presentation: Initiated by Human Rights MA students, group has been officially a group in the past, trying to re-inaugurate it to engage students interested in human rights and put on a variety of events, from networking to film screenings to talks. A lot of people from other disciplines are interested in human rights but aren't in the MA program, so this is a way of being inclusive.
- b. Question, Finance Chair: How do you plan to engage with students from other programs, not just Human Rights MA? What's your outreach plan?
- c. Answer: We have a Facebook page from past leadership, and the MA is interdisciplinary, so outreach in person, word of mouth, and social media.
- d. Closed Door Discussion
- e. Vote: Approved with 2 abstentions, 0 nays.

4. Announcements (President)

- a. **Notice of Elections: March Plenary (officer self-nomination deadline: March 15)**
 - i. At the March Plenary we will be voting on new officers, so if you are interested in running, submit your nomination on the website by March 15, two weeks before the next plenary.
(<https://council.gsas.columbia.edu/form/asgc-exec-board-application>)
 - ii. There will be several vacancies, including President. The [list of responsibilities are available on the website](#).
 - iii. Master's Affairs Chair is the only position that won't be voted on until October.
 - iv. President: Please tell anyone in your department that if they want to run for any position on the board, they should. There is a \$500 stipend each semester, including the summer.

5. Proposal to Amend Constitution (Vote at March plenary before ASGC Board Elections)

- a. It is proposed that: *(1) The Community Chair position be elevated to become the “External Affairs Vice President” (EAVP), and (2) the Community Committee be changed to “Advocacy and Community Committee” (ACC), and (3) the Vice President remains next-in-line for the “President”, should there be an unforeseen vacancy.*
- b. Full language here: <https://goo.gl/chE1yb>
 - i. VP: Realized that for a long time the ASGC (GSAC) has not been involved in advocacy work. We would like to promote the Community Chair to another Vice President position. The EAVP will be in charge of inviting speakers to meetings and advocating for students on local, state and national level.
 - ii. We are proposing this change this month, and we will vote on it next month. If it passes, the elections will be held after the resolution passes (at the March meeting). So if you apply for Community Chair, be aware that it may become EAVP and be willing to fill that role.

6. Committee updates

a. Alumni & Career Development

i. Spring Events: Headshots first week of March

1. Exact date TBA. Look out in the next newsletter, way to get free headshots.

b. Quality of Life

i. FILL OUT THE QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY

1. [Please fill it out!](#) Send it to your departments! The more who fill it out the more power we have to make changes.

ii. UAH short-term extension rent premiums

1. There is a recent policy that rent can be increased 20% during 30-day lease extension. Brought this Dean Alonso’s attention, he is very concerned and contacting the Provost to change this policy. If you know of anyone in this situation, know it’s on our radar and feel free to put them in touch with QOL Chair.

c. Events

i. Dungeons and Dragons at Hex (more info coming soon, look in newsletter)

1. This happened because a student reached out about circulating information for an event, and ASGC responded that we will sponsor it. Please tell your departments we are expanding this initiative - if someone wants to organize an event and do the legwork, contact us, and we will see if we will sponsor it. But the event must be open to all ASGC students. Happy to promote anything that benefits interdepartmental communication.

ii. Book of Mormon 2/21 (SOLD OUT)

iii. City of No Illusions at La Mama 2/23 (SOLD OUT)

iv. Die Walkure 3/25

v. Nets vs. Raptors 4/3 (invoice confirmation pending)

vi. The Fat Lady Sings at La Mama 4/6

- vii. **La Traviata 4/17**
- viii. **To Kill a Mockingbird 5/7**
- ix. **In the works: Alumni mixer at the Tenement Museum Tours & Hors d'Oeuvres event**

1. Looking for input, we can host 100-120 people at this event, there would be an open bar and hors d'oeuvres, and groups of 15 at a time would get a tour of the museum. When should we host this? What would be a convenient date? Thinking mid-April (no comments, will proceed with this date.)

d. Finance

- i. **Winter cycle of Travel Grants have been processed and applicants notified.**

1. Please remember to tell your constituents about these grants! There are still a limited number of departments that are consistently applying.

- ii. **The deadline for the Spring cycle is April 26.**

- iii. **Deadline for Student Initiative Grants is February 23.**

e. Masters Affairs (not present)

- i. **Updates**

1. The results of the MA Rep meeting were shared with Dean Alonso and he will be scheduling a separate meeting with Master's Affairs to go over the report in detail.
2. The final draft of the master's survey will be circulated this week.

7. External Representatives Updates:

a. Health

- i. Columbia Health is re-accredited by AAAHC.
- ii. National College Health Association Survey will be sent out this week, may have already received it, please fill it out it's very important for our health services.

b. Libraries

- i. Meeting last week about the placement of structures around campus. The University Art Collection is owned by Columbia library, including outdoor sculptures and art around campus. They are working on hanging up art in Butler that more accurately represents the Columbia student body.

c. Graduate Workers of Columbia (GWC)/Union

- i. Reminder that Union Meetings on are Wednesday from 6-7:30. 716 Philosophy is the new semi-permanent location.
- ii. Next Monday, February 25th bargaining with CU will start and there will be a rally on the Low steps from 12-1pm. Ralliers will then proceed to bargaining. Bargaining location TBA, looking for a space large enough for anyone who wants to attend. [Added post-PM: Bargaining will take place from 1:30-4:30pm on Monday unit members are invited to come and go as they like. The bargaining location will be announced by email as soon as we have it, and again at the rally. Members can also check out our [Facebook page](#) or write to columbiagradsunion@gmail.com for that information.]

- iii. Bargaining Committee is committed to open bargaining so all sessions will be open to all graduate workers wanting to observe and participate. [Added post-PM: Guidelines for participation will be handed out at the entrance to the bargaining session.]

d. Interschool Governing Board (IGB)-- appointment of 2 new representatives

- i. William McMillan Plews-Ogan is new IGB rep
- ii. [Kamila Manzueta is also a new IGB rep, appointed after PM]

e. Disabilities (SSD)

f. ISSO

- i. Events Co-Chair, Mila: Last Plenary brought up issue with international student taxes. Could not find document from last year, called IRS, state IRS not able to answer if international students are classified as non-residents, called federal IRS but no longer taking questions on the phone. Currently looking to book an appointment to speak with them in person, but cannot do so until I receive tax forms, will not be until at least mid-May. For now, absolutely certain that last year definitely saw a clear document from IRS and talked to an IRS rep, but also cannot confirm situation for this year. Will continue to update through this process.

g. University Life Events Council

h. PhD Council/ ECGSAS

- i. PhD Council meeting tomorrow.

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

- a. Recently sent out update about sanitary items that will soon be available at Morningside Heights and CUMC. No separate funding required, in perpetuity.
- b. Andrew introduced P&S Senator Jacqueline Natalie de Vegvar to talk about the graduate romance policy that was under discussion with Suzanne Goldberg. She is helping craft the policy and is looking for feedback.
 - i. What would you like to see in a policy that deals with romantic relationships on campus? We might send out a survey.
 - ii. Question: Can you summarize what is on the table right now, what has been discussed?
 - iii. Answer: We have discussed finding a way to not ban relationships in a different way than undergrads, which required an exceptions policy. We are surveying what our peer institutions are doing, including those with and without unions. We are also addressing questions and problems with current policy. It took over a year and half to put together the undergraduate policy. At Cornell, they are changing policy to ban relationships between any student and anyone at a different status within the same department, even if there isn't direct supervision, and school-wide if there is a supervisory role. Issues that have come up include what happens if a romance does happen to develop and the policy is broken? How can the policy be more clear so that doesn't happen, because students are most affected and might not have realized the consequences. Working on making it clear from the get go, more streamlined policy from the beginning to the end. Also, how to deal with past/pre-existing relationships?

This might require an exceptions policy, and there is also addressing if these relationships are actually consensual.

- iv. Question: How is the policy enforced, or is it incentivized for relationships to be disclosed or reported?
- v. Answer: It is important to create a clear policy with input from everyone, because we want to craft a policy that will help avoid problems down the line. We don't want to create more problems with the policy. What can be put within the language of the policy that doesn't create harm or create a conflict of interest that will harm the student down the line? Students are creating the policy and we want to create the policy to protect students. We will be reevaluating the undergraduate policy in one year, it's in a clause of the policy that there is regular reevaluation.
- vi. Andrew: P&S Senator is here because we don't want a graduate policy that doesn't mirror undergraduate policy.
- vii. P&S Senator: When we met with General Counsel about undergrad policy, we advocated for putting all of this under harassment and not regulating relationships at all but were told that isn't an option. So we advocated for the exceptions clause, which will be publicly available soon. It's important therefore to spread the word and get information to shape the graduate policy and take it to General Counsel.

9. New Business (Open Forum)

10. Committee Meetings & Adjournment (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.