

Meeting Minutes



ARTS & SCIENCES GRADUATE COUNCIL

November 13, 2018; 6:30 PM

Philosophy Hall 301

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

Meeting chaired by Andrew Hsu, Vice President

1. Sign-in & Welcome (Vice President)

a. Vote to approve October minutes (Vice President) → Approved

2. Presentation by Office of University Life (Zach Harrell)

- a. Director of Student Engagement at University Life
- b. During fall semester office talks to all student council meetings to share information and ask for participation.
- c. Office of University Life was created three and a half years ago to think about critical issues facing students across schools.
- d. Upcoming events and recent initiatives:
 - i. New Graduate Initiative for Inclusion and Engagement
 1. Dinner Series focused on different identities, such as first-generation or LGBTQ, and includes a panel of faculty; branching out to several identities for the spring semester.
 2. Success Series: how to deal with loans, update LinkedIn, etc.
 3. Started advisory board across schools, organizing events like grad-hangouts
 - ii. Now home of IGB and advises their clubs
 - iii. Launched Task Force for Inclusion and Belonging
 1. Critical issues around different social identities, includes faculty and staff
 2. December 7 open meeting, email TK
 - iv. Launched Campus Conversations
 1. Trains students how to have conversations about identity
 - v. Let's talk
 1. Trains students how to hold conversations around difficult conversations; if you are interested individually or part of a group that's interested, happy to partner with you.
 - vi. Home of University of Life Events council
 1. Representatives from all schools with committees on wellness, inclusion, community, events, film etc.
 2. Low Lounge event is biggest for fall - 1500 students last year
 - a. Reaching out, if any groups are interested in co-sponsoring, please be in touch.

3. Announcements (Vice President)

a. Vote on what to do about the December meeting → CANCELLED, next meeting will be in January

- i. In light of change of neutrality to support of union at October meeting, ASGC board is bringing it to plenary to vote about December meeting
- ii. If our meeting is during the strike it means we will be crossing the picket line (8am to 8pm)
- iii. 3 options: hold meeting here, move meeting off campus, cancel meeting entirely
- iv. Responses to questions from Plenary: ASGC Board will communicate to issue communications in December, even if we cancel; our work does not constitute graduate student work as covered by the union; there is no anticipated outstanding business that would be discussed at the December Plenary, at least not at this time;
- v. Vote: Here: 0; Off campus: 10; Cancel: 16; Abstain: 3

b. Introductions:

- i. **Social Sciences Senator, Darold Cuba**
- ii. **Community Chair, Andrew Carroll**
- iii. **Events Co-Chair, Brandon Graser**
- iv. **Masters Affairs Chair, Amanda Platek (not present)**

4. New Student Group Recognition (Vice President)

a. Initiative for Diversity in Engineering and Science (IDEaS) → Approved

- i. Co-Presidents presented
- ii. Promote diversity issues in STEM, no other group that exists for Graduate Students, already getting funding from Chemistry Department and wants to expand this year, with ASGC support, to other STEM groups.
- iii. Questions:
 1. What's relationship with Office of Academic Diversity? None yet, meeting with the dean next week.
 2. Do you focus on minorities or only underrepresented minorities? Everybody, but primarily underrepresented minorities in STEM.
 3. Do you have plans to include international students? Nothing specific yet, but happy to work with international students.
 4. How does your group overlap with QSTEM? There is some overlap, we do know that group and their leadership, but they also aren't just grad student focused.
 5. How do you overlap with WISC and SoCA? Again, these are groups that aren't focused on Graduate Students and have different goals. We have worked with WISC in the past, however.
- iv. Closed Discussion
- v. Approved unanimously

5. Committee updates

- a. **Alumni & Career Development**
- b. **Finance Chair**
 - i. **SIG Grant Letters sent out earlier today**
 - ii. **New round of travel grants due Nov 21**
- c. **Quality of Life**
 - i. **Updates**
 - 1. **GSAS Parents Meeting with Dean Alonso Monday, November 26
4-5pm**
 - a. Will happen in 302 Philosophy Hall
 - b. For GSAS Parents ONLY. Dean Carlos Alonso has scheduled a meeting for GSAS parents to give direct feedback about the status of current parental accommodations offered through GSAS.
 - c. Any parents with questions can reach out to Kate McIntyre, Quality of Life Chair, at asgc.qualityoflife@columbia.edu. We are working on finding childcare for this hour; please contact Kate if you need childcare to attend the meeting. Dean Alonso has also invited parents to bring their children to the meeting.
 - 2. **UAH Internet Survey Results**
 - a. There has not been any communication to UAH residents about the timing of the implementation of the internet, so GSAS will pressure UAH to move quickly and share regular updates.
 - b. A few students are still paying for Columbia internet. They need to contact the Housing office and ask for reimbursement.
 - ii. **6th and 7th Year Teaching Appointments**
 - 1. A number of departments are telling their students that GSAS is no longer allowing 6th and 7th year TA appointments. This is misinformation - GSAS NEVER allowed 6th and 7th year TA appointments with the exception of the following departments: English, LAIC, French, Economics, Political Science, Art History, & Music.
- d. **Events**
 - i. **November 15th: Carmen @ The Met (SOLD OUT)**
 - ii. **November 16th: TGIF @ Gin Mill**
 - 1. Having trouble selling tickets, please spread the word to your constituents.
 - iii. **November 28th: Mean Girls**
 - iv. **December 5th: Greek @ BAM DOUBLE CHECK**
 - v. **December 12th: Anastasia**
 - vi. **December 16th: Holiday Brass @ The New York Philharmonic**

e. Masters Affairs

- i. Improving MA Representation / filling vacant spots**
- ii. Input from current MA Reps**

1. Please respond to the email sent out on 11/12/2018.

6. External Representatives Updates:

a. Health

- i. Learned after the October Plenary presentation on insurance that we aren't the only council the insurance rep talked to that's confused, similar meetings are taking place across campus. As a result they are working on how to get better information to the student body.

b. Libraries

- i. Committee meeting is on Friday, they will be talking about the Watson library (Business School) because the Business School is moving to Manhattanville, so looking for ideas about what to do with that open space.
- ii. Mike, Humanities Senator, also sits on URIS Vision Committee in Senate. The URIS building will be dedicated to Arts and Sciences, and in particular graduate students.
 - 1. First three floors will be an open space, and the towers will be more specifically designated spaces - details not yet determined.
 - 2. Looking for input about the open space on the first three floors.

c. Graduate Workers of Columbia (GWC)/Union (not present)

d. Interschool Governing Board (IGB)

- i. Session with Columbia Food Pantry to discuss changing name to focus on idea of hunger and not food insecurity to reflect the need to make everyone on campus aware people are struggling just to find food.

e. Disabilities (SSD)

- i. Creating network of contacts with SSD reps at other Columbia schools.
- ii. Working on increasing accessibility around campus and identifying areas of limited accessibility. Please send feedback.
- iii. Initiative to add disability studies to the core.

f. ISSO

- i. Generally there isn't anything to worry about, however terms that were once pretty loose and intangible are being tightened up - things like "duration of status" and "unlawful presence". It would be recommended that International Students check out the website and stay abreast of any executive orders that could affect you.
- ii. ISSO is expanding their office, new advisors will begin in the new year which will cut down on waiting times.
- iii. ISSO is committed to supporting international students, so much so that David gave me his phone number to pass on to ASGC should anyone feel that they need it (917) 833-9635.

g. University Life Events Council

- h. PhD Council**
 - i. Working on clarifying the new Vacation Policy; soliciting feedback
 - ii. GSAS working with Office of Research and the Faculty for Arts and Sciences to create a hearing body to address grievances against faculty, even tenured faculty.
- i. ECGSAS**
 - i. See PhDC updates.
- j. UEM/ P&P Fund**
- 7. Senators' Updates (Andrew, Mike, Darold)**
 - a. IvyPlus Update: Administrations at other schools more transparent and meet more with their administrators, we will strive to do that as well, perhaps by meeting with the Faculty for Arts and Sciences; but in general most students are facing similar situations as Columbia grad students.
- 8. New Business (Open Forum)**
- 9. 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.