

ASGC Plenary Meeting Agenda

October 20, 2020, 6:30 PM

[Zoom Link](#) | password: october | <https://council.gsas.columbia.edu/>



ARTS & SCIENCES GRADUATE COUNCIL

Dates of Upcoming ASGC Plenary Meetings (always on a Tuesday, 6:30 pm):

November 17, December 15

1. Welcome (President)
 - a. Welcome to all new representatives! By being here, you are allowing your departments eligibility to all of the grants that we have. Thank you for representing them.
2. Introductions (President)
 - a. New QoL Chair: Dorna Movasseghi
3. Guests
 - a. Paco Lara (PhD Candidate, Sociology) - Graduate Equity Initiative (new initiative)
 - i. Lisa del Sol Ph.D. candidate, English and Comparative Literature) is also on the steering committee
 - ii. The initiative is still very much under development. It is jointly organized between GSAS and Arts and Sciences students. Columbia is committed to dispersing 6 million over 5 years - this committee is here to do that
 - iii. Student groups will be able to put in a call for this money. It's very open. If people have thoughts/ideas for programs and the things that you would want to do with this money, please let Paco know.
 - iv. Most committee members are faculty. Paco and Lisa's role is to ensure that students are being remembered in these crucial conversations. If you have ideas about what your department is needing, shoot him an email.
 - v. Be aware that a big pot of money will be announced next semester or the one after. If you do not have concrete ideas yet, please keep that in mind. You can be very open-ended in your application.
 1. Paco's email: f.laragarcia@columbia.edu
 - b. Rachel Bernard & Francesca Fanelli (GSAS Compass)
 - i. Director and Associate Director of GSAS Compass. The Compass is new this year for career development. GSAS graduate students used to be served by the Center of Career development that primarily focused on undergraduate students. This new initiative is graduate focused for our specific school.
 - ii. They have ramped up programming quite quickly, first with job strategies for the 2020 pandemic. They are focusing on ways to begin job searching from your computer and then moving into LinkedIn and general application techniques.
 1. They also will be tailoring the series to help MA and PhD students separately.

2. GSAS Compass is to help primarily with industry applications outside of academia. However, there will be some events that academics can learn from as well.
 - iii. Employer relations: Some of us are more affected than others with the transition of Lionshare. GSAS students will be transitioning away from Lionshare, but we have access to everything else. They suggest that we apply directly to their companies with the assistance of GSAS Compass.
 - iv. They send out blasts to students as well as regular newsletters. Your department admins/directors should also be forwarding their emails.
 - v. The Quality of Life Survey has been extremely helpful in getting student's needs across.
 - vi. They are open to feedback and they're accessible. Please email them at: gsas-compass@columbia.edu
 - vii. Website: <https://gsas.columbia.edu/graduate-life/career-development>
 - viii. Feedback:
 1. Specific question on the details of the student initiative grant
 - a. <https://council.gsas.columbia.edu/content/student-initiative-grant>
4. Sign-in Instructions (Communications)
- a. Sign in: <https://council.gsas.columbia.edu/form/asgc-plenary-attendance>
 - b. Motion to pass minutes
 - i. All in favor: 49
 - ii. Passed unanimously
5. Executive Board Updates
- a. Laura (VP, Administration: asgc.vpadministration@columbia.edu) informed the department reps that student groups that have a change of leadership over the course of the semester should use the Student Group [Change of Group Leadership Form](#)
 - b. Bhargav Gopal (VP, External Affairs: asgc.vpexternalaffairs@columbia.edu) went to the Ivy+ conference with other graduate student governments to discuss a variety of different topics. He also went to NAGPS which connects graduate and professional students across the U.S. By attending these two conferences, he will be able to bring back what they learned to improve the ASGC.
 - c. Tea Crnković (Finance Chair: asgc.finance@columbia.edu) gave an update on the status of our Travel Grants & Student Initiative Grants. Tea received zero travel grant applications. Please keep in mind that you can apply for a travel grant to be reimbursed for application/administration fees for online conferences. Tea received two Student Initiative Grant applications that were both approved. One was from the Department of Art History and Archaeology & the Society for Quantitative Approaches to Social Research (QASR). Click here to see more information about our [Travel Grants](#) and our [Student Initiative Grants](#). Tea also informed department representatives that we have been staying well within budget this semester and that our spending has been steady. You can follow of budget and spending here: <https://council.gsas.columbia.edu/content/annual-budget>
 - d. Dorna Movasseghi (Quality of Life Chair: asgc.qualityoflife@columbia.edu) has officially joined our Executive Board Team. She has no updates as of yet.

- e. Arden Lee (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair: ga2448@columbia.edu) gave an update on our Diversity Initiative Grants. Please apply: <https://council.gsas.columbia.edu/content/diversity-initiative-grant>. The link will be consistently sent out in upcoming newsletters as well. So far, Arden received three applications. One was approved outright while the other two need more clarification on their specific events. If anyone is a part of either group, please see Arden to further discuss. In addition, Arden's subcommittee has been doing great planning so far. Please reach out through email if you would like to join.
- f. Events Co-Chairs
 - i. Nothing to report
- g. Masters Affairs Chair
 - i. Nothing to report
- 6. External Representatives Updates (VP, External Affairs):
 - a. Health
 - i. Have their first meeting on October 29th. Nothing yet to report.
 - b. Libraries
 - i. Tea reported that their main focus is on the resources that Columbia Libraries currently have
 - ii. The amount of time that you can stay in one library has increased from 2 hours to 4 hours. You can also book more than one library in a day.
 - iii. The Library is drafting a statement regarding the presence of controversial content in the catalog. Any representative interested in knowing the language of the statement may reach out to Laura (asgc.vpadministration@columbia.edu) to be put in contact with Libraries directly.
 - c. ISSO
 - i. Chuyu brought up the DHS ruling during their meeting.
 - d. Graduate Workers of Columbia (GWC)/Union
 - i. Bargaining has been going very badly. Columbia is refusing to restore the 100 Plan and has even been resisting talking about healthcare altogether. They have also resisted bargaining over certain international student issues like the establishment of a free legal clinic for international students, even after more than 100 international students submitted a petition with specific asks here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bOxzBYCXF7hKm3MzeAjh4wGgJmtt2Q2dO8lRoAlyjNU/edit>. Finally, they have been resisting a neutral third-party arbitrator for sexual and power-based harassment. It is v important that student workers show up to bargaining sessions to show Columbia we won't accept such a bad deal. Ppl are welcome to come to bargaining sessions whenever and for however they'd like + join a whatsapp group to discuss what's happening during the sessions. RSVP for sessions here: <https://columbiagradunion.org/bargaining-sessions-rsvp/>
 1. **The Next Session** is Wed, October 28th, 9:30am-1pm ET and contact ajs2144 for the whatsapp group.
 - ii. Please fill out this survey on health benefits so the Bargaining Committee has some more data to bring to the table:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeRd06S3m36KdUJfskTme3KCm4H4RYbuv5cEK_qsMbgCYg_2A/viewform

- iii. Sign the petition to extend emergency childcare to GWC parents:
<https://forms.gle/5dRQxq5eKYDUADRS6>
- iv. The Bargaining Committee has just had a long conversation about compensation and they're going to put together a table summarizing all economic-related proposals and their redistribution impact by Sunday. They will also create a working group in the union to work on this. Please be in touch with me (ajs2144) if you want to be involved in any of the above!
- e. IGB
 - i. These updates got started last year around October. However, there is no word yet for this academic year.
- 7. Columbia Residential
 - a. We are in the process of bargaining for a committee similar to the one that is in place for the Libraries. Columbia Residential responded that they are not a student service and that they are treating us as tenants rather than as students. We are still pushing for a stable channel of communication. Regardless, Columbia Residential will continue to meet with ASGC.
- 8. Senators' Updates
 - a. Mike Ford: GSAS for Humanities
 - i. Updates of Student Affairs Committee
 - 1. Last year's Student Affairs committee pushed forth a second mandate.
 - 2. The Chairs met with Universities trustees
 - a. They discussed Public Health on campus. They aim to ensure that students that are on campus are safe and protected.
 - i. Pilot testing: Can get free regular tests. People are worried that this will stop after October. Faculty are really pushing for this initiative to continue and the senate will be trying to extend this.
 - ii. Randomized testing: 10% of people who are not regularly testing are pooled. People are not very happy with this small pool.
 - b. They also discussed online education. One way that students can get their voice through is to encourage all of your constituents to fill out this survey:
https://columbiauniversity.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e8zdGhsrZ2QHHRb
 - i. Please note that the survey will be closing soon!
 - c. Racial Justice
 - i. They are keeping tabs to ensure that the university hits its faculty hiring targets
 - ii. They are also working on protecting students rights to protest
 - iii. Reiterating concerns of public safety and noting that not all students feel safe

- iv. Text Senate meeting was: Friday, October 25th. You can visit this website to see a schedule of all of the Senate meetings scheduled for the year:
<http://senate.columbia.edu/>

9. New Business (Open Forum)

- a. Maria: Communication with Columbia Residential needs to improve. We pay through SSOL and some students may still be paying for the semester all at once. They will place a hold on registration if you don't pay, so this is a student issue and not just a tenant one.
 - i. We spoke with Dean Alonso the next day about this issue in more detail.
 - ii. They are not legally allowed to force students to pay tuition all at once anymore, as that mandate has been reversed.
 - iii. Come Spring 2021, if they are still charging you a lump sum, please let us know so that we continue to advocate for you.

10. Adjournment (President)

- a. Thank you for coming! The next Plenary meeting will be on November 17th.

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.