

ASGC Plenary Meeting Agenda

December 15, 2020, 6:30 PM

[Zoom Link](#) | password: ASGC2020 | <https://council.gsas.columbia.edu/>



ARTS & SCIENCES GRADUATE COUNCIL

1. Welcome (President)
 - a. Upcoming 2021 ASGC Plenary Meetings (3rd Tuesday of the Month, 6:30 pm):
 - i. January 19, February 16, March 16, April 20
2. Guests
 - a. Columbia Food Pantry (Mack Collins: VP of Development for the Food Pantry)
 - i. Began as a flip initiative to combat food insecurity as Columbia. Now a recognized student organization. Food insecurity isn't specific to a specific demographic or school, and they now offer services to all Columbia students regardless of status or whether they are grads or undergrad. They have three locations in total: Barnard, Lerner, and The Medical Center.
 1. Open hours:
 - a. Lerner: Tuesdays and Fridays from 3pm-6pm
 - b. Medical Center: Mondays 7-9pm, Tuesdays 4-6pm, Fridays 3-6pm
 2. During these times, students can come in and take food whenever needed.
 - ii. The Food Pantry also offers fresh produce to recipients. People can sign up for specific dates to receive 5-6 items of fresh produce.
 - iii. Change of operation during pandemic:
 1. They have instituted a disbursement dropoff initiative. The Pantry now sends out weekly emails and students throughout the five boroughs that need food can receive a disbursement from volunteer members.
 - a. This initiative has scaled back since campus reopened. It is now only for students in a mandatory quarantine period.
 2. Recipients can now go to their e-commerce link and order food for pickup at whatever location they choose.
 - a. Ecommerce website: <https://thefoodpantry.us/>
 - iv. How can grad students help the food pantry?
 1. Can join to become a board member or to be on a committee. Committees are especially great if you are on a committee. You can go to their website to sign up. 30 minute initiation period
 2. Signup for a board position/committee here: <https://thefoodpantry.studentgroups.columbia.edu/>.
3. Sign-in Instructions (Communications Chair: asgc.communications@columbia.edu)
 - a. Sign in: [ASGC Plenary Attendance | Arts and Sciences Graduate Council](#)
 - b. Committees

since Historically Underrepresented Groups are definitionally limited to US citizens and permanent residents. The amendment was voted down, though not by any of the GSAS senators. It is hoped that international students of color may still receive direct benefits from the program, in addition to the indirect benefits that the Unit brings to all students on campus.

The three GSAS senators serve different committees. If anyone has any suggestions or feedback on anything, please feel free to reach out to them!

- d. Tea Crnković (Finance Chair: asgc.finance@columbia.edu) shared the status of our Travel Grants & Student Initiative Grants. The Fall 2020 recipients can be viewed here: [Student Travel Grant Past Recipients](#). She reminded department representatives that the ASGC cannot sponsor physical travel or conferences due to the current Columbia policy. Funds can be used only for reimbursement for online conferences. Therefore, students should not plan for physical conferences for the Spring 2021 semester. The next round of applications will be due in January. Although the pandemic may resolve before the end of the spring semester, we still cannot guarantee grants for physical conferences. Tea also shared the status of our annual budget with department representatives. You can view our current budget here: [Annual Budget](#).
 - e. Dorna Movasseghi (Quality of Life Chair: asgc.qualityoflife@columbia.edu) is gearing up for the Spring QoL Survey. Dorna has been in touch with the previous QoL chair about the survey. As department representatives, you will be the primary point of contact for drumming up support for the Survey for the spring term.
 - f. Arden Lee (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair: ga2448@columbia.edu) reminded departmental representatives to please look closely at the Diversity section of the future QoL survey. Her position was created through the QoL survey last year. Additionally, if you are planning on applying for any ASGC grants for an honorarium, your department would have to foot the paperwork after the funds have been given. The money would still be coming from ASGC, but it will be routed directly to your program. This will be made more clear on the website very soon and will include an addendum.
 - g. Events
 - i. As soon as it is safe, we will have many well-funded and well supplied events.
 - h. Meave Sheehan (Masters Affairs Chair: asgc.masters@columbia.edu) has developed plans for Compass career Center collaboration. She hopes to feature an alum or more than one alum in the recruiting field. There will also be a potential portrait photo session in January. There may also be an audio component at some point
 - i. Meave can reach out to Ashley (asgc.communications@columbia.edu) if you want anything blasted out to Master's specific students
5. External Representatives Updates (VP, External Affairs):
- a. Health
 - i. Bhargav (asgc.vpexternalaffairs@columbia.edu) shared updates on Spring Term 2021 Covid 19 testing. Additionally, he shared how the University health vaccine forums went. They explained what the vaccines are (what they're made of) and the process of the distribution timeline. They will be beginning with health care workers and faculty in the medical school.

- b. Libraries
 - i. Laura wasn't able to be in attendance. However, Rahim (rh2898@columbia.edu) explained that there is communication around the workshops that the libraries hold. They discussed that they would like to hear more feedback on how to make workshops known to more people in different departments. You can email either Rahim or Laura regarding feedback for the workshops.
 - c. ISSO
 - i. Chuyu was not in attendance. However, they reached out to NAGPS and are coordinating with them on how to better get international students to interact with them on the national level. If you are interested in advocacy to any capacity, please reach out to Bhargav to connect with NAGPS.
 - d. Graduate Workers of Columbia (GWC)/Union
 - i. Today 12/16 and Friday 12/18 there are two union-wide meetings to discuss the following issues:
 1. 43k/year stipends
 2. Better healthcare (including dental and vision)
 3. An extra year of funding
 4. Increased parental stipends and family benefits
 5. International student protections
 - ii. *Bargaining Committee members will be on hand to answer questions.*
 - iii. ~~**Wednesday, December 16, 7-8 PM EST ([registration link](#))~~
 - iv. ~~**Friday, December 18, 9-10 AM EST ([registration link](#))~~
 1. Both dates have passed
 - e. IGB
 - i. Karima was not in attendance
6. New Business (Open Forum)
- a. N/A
7. 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.

Dear Fellow Members of the Columbia Community,

As we approach 2021, I write to update you about an important requirement for Spring Term 2021 SARS-CoV-2 Gateway testing.

Effective January 4, 2021, a NEW gateway test is required for all faculty, staff, and students accessing Columbia campuses and other facilities. This includes individuals who have been on a campus throughout 2020 and who previously complied with the requirements of the gateway testing program. **This gateway test must be administered by Columbia University's COVID Testing Program starting January 4, 2021 through January 25, 2021.**

Due to our stringent quality and data management systems, the only acceptable tests will be conducted by Columbia's COVID Testing Program at one of our five approved testing sites (Monday to Friday in Morningside Lerner Hall & CUIMC Black Building Schaeffer Gallery; Select dates at West 51st St., Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory, or Tarrytown Columbia Doctors). Tests submitted from other locations, including NYP or WHS, will not be accepted.

Access to all Columbia campuses and facilities via the ReOpenCU app (symptom checker app) and Columbia University ID card swipe system will only be permitted for those faculty, staff, and students who have completed the repeat gateway test requirement by January 25, 2021.

Register for this gateway test [online](#) **beginning December 23rd, 2020**. The schedule opens 10-14 days in advance. During the gateway period, there will be more than sufficient schedule capacity in the Morningside and CUIMC locations to accommodate all those requiring testing; however, schedule availability in each site will depend on the demand for specific appointment dates and time slots. We encourage you to plan ahead, schedule in advance, and consider all testing sites if a particular date and time is preferred.

For those who do not complete a new SARS-CoV-2 PCR test between January 4th and January 25th, access to the campuses and facilities will be reinstated within 48-72 hours of completion of a gateway test at an approved site.

More information regarding the testing plan for the Spring Term can be found [online](#).

We thank you for your continuing commitment to participating in the University testing program and the steps you take each and every day to keep our community safe.

With care for our community,

Melanie J Bernitz, MD, MPH
Associate Vice President & Medical Director, Columbia Health
Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine (in the Center for Family and Community Medicine)

More Information: covid19.columbia.edu