

ASGC Plenary Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2020, 6:30 PM

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



ARTS & SCIENCES GRADUATE COUNCIL

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

October 13, November 17, December 15

1. Welcome (President)
2. Introductions (President)
 - a. What is ASGC? Who is on the executive committee? How does ASGC operate?
 - i. Programming/hosting of events
 - ii. Funding source for student initiatives
 - iii. Advocacy (btw ASGC and GSAS)
 - iv. Current vacancies: ~~Communications~~, Quality of Life
 1. New board member
 - a. New Communication's Chair: Ashley Wells – welcome!
 2. Still looking for QoL chair
 - b. What is the role of the department representatives?
 - i. Bringing issues from your departments and acting as a department liaison
 - ii. Serve on a committee within ASGC or be an external rep (health, libraries, ISSO, union, IGB, maybe housing)
 - iii. Make sure you fill out an attendance form at every meeting
 - c. Committees & External Representatives
3. Sign-in Instructions (Communications)
 - a. Sign in: <https://council.gsas.columbia.edu/form/asgc-plenary-attendance>
4. Department Representative Transitions (2020-21)
 - a. Fill out the [2020-21 Department Representative Form](#)
5. General Advocacy Updates
 - a. COVID Emergency Relief Fund
 - b. *Amicus* Brief, International Students
 - c. Columbia Residential
6. Updates
 - a. VP, Administration
 - i. Student Group [Change of Group Leadership Form](#)
 - ii. C4 and Columbia Statistics Club please reach out to remain in good standing
 - b. Finance
 - i. Budget
 1. Increased budget on quality of life

- 2. New line items: DEI
 - 3. Voting on budget – passed unanimously
 - a. <https://council.gsas.columbia.edu/content/annual-budget>
 - ii. Travel Grants & Student Initiative Grants
 - 1. Travel grants – can be used for online conferences
 - a. <https://council.gsas.columbia.edu/content/student-travel-grant>
 - 2. <https://council.gsas.columbia.edu/content/student-initiative-grant>
 - c. Quality of Life [*vacant*]
 - d. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
 - i. Statement on Injustice
 - 1. Hope to think of this like the ASGC union statement to guide mission
 - 2. Statement against racial injustice passed unanimously
 - ii. Diversity Initiative Grants
 - iii. Any interest in the DEI subcommittee?
 - 1. Not right now
 - 2. Email Arden if you would like to join her committee
 - iv. Events
 - 1. No events planned yet. Open to suggestions for virtual events.
 - 2. Going to learn from GSAS what Columbia would like in terms of safety, what we can send via mail
 - e. Masters Affairs
 - i. No updates
7. External Representatives Updates (VP, External Affairs):
 - a. Health
 - b. Libraries
 - c. ISSO
 - d. Graduate Workers of Columbia (GWC)/Union
 - i. Bargaining committee positions filled
 - ii. Bargaining sessions are open
 - iii. U. of Michigan students on strike
 - iv. Columbia strike
 - e. Columbia University Tenants Assoc.
 - i. Socially distanced social
 - ii. Whatsapp chat
 - f. GWC international student working group workshop (25-26th Sept.)
 - i. <https://columbiagradunion.org/internationalworkers/>
 - g. IGB rep
 - i. Elections back in April
 - ii. No updates yet
8. Senators' Updates
 - a. Chairs of student affairs committee were in contact with GSAS over the summer (esp. regarding COVID)
 - b. Diversity Commission – university initiatives, project to report on/make recommendations on increasing diversity of PhD students

- c. Describes what each GSAS senator will be doing this coming year
- 9. New Business (Open Forum)
 - a. Concerns for GSAS
 - b. Michelle Jiang (Econ): push for mandatory implicit bias training for all those who have to take sexual harassment training
 - i. Will bring this up during meeting with GSAS Administration
- 10. 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.