

ASGC Plenary Meeting Agenda

February 16, 2021, 6:30 PM

[Zoom Link](#) | password: 467953 | <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. March 16, April 20
2. Guest
 - a. TBC: Sara Negrette (PE & Rec)
 - i. Undergrads in limited quantities can go to the gym, we wanted to know when grad students can
 1. Original question has not been answered yet - we will follow up with them on when this can/will happen
 - ii. Currently free virtual fitness classes and virtual fitness training (for a flat fee) that grad students can participate in
3. Sign-in Instructions (Communications)
 - a. Sign in: <https://council.gsas.columbia.edu/form/asgc-plenary-attendance>
 - b. Committees
 - i. As always, if you have not yet signed up for a committee yet or would like to change committees for any reason, just indicate that when filling out the sign in sheet
 - c. Approval of January Minutes
 - i. Minutes have been approved unanimously
4. Executive Board Updates
 - a. Alex (President: asgc.president@columbia.edu) let the plenary know that the Social Sciences and Natural Sciences races for the Senate positions will close tonight. Additionally, he informed us that the ASGC will be running Executive Board Elections next month. One can either self-nominate themselves or can decide to run as the elections go along. You're welcome to run for any position on the board; however, we will know which current executive board members will either be re-running for their own position and/or run for a new one
 - b. Tea Crnković (Finance Chair: asgc.finance@columbia.edu) shared the status of our Travel Grants & Student Initiative Grants. In regards to the Travel Grants, there were two applications in total - both for in person conferences over the summer. Both were approved - however if travel is still banned by then, students can only use their grant to fund online conference fees. Awards can be deferred for a later conference if necessary. Recipients can be found [here](#). In regards to the Student Initiative Grants, applications close this Friday, Feb. 19th. A few applications have already been received. Lastly, Tea shared the ASGC's Current Budget which can be viewed [here](#).

- c. Dorna Movasseghi (Quality of Life Chair: asgc.qualityoflife@columbia.edu) will be launching the Spring QoL Survey very soon. Adjustments are currently being made to the survey. In addition, the person that did the data compiling for the last QoL report will be working on it again this year. **Department reps should keep an eye out on the survey so that they are ready to drum up support for it.**
 - d. Arden Lee (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair: ga2448@columbia.edu) let the Plenary know that there have been three Diversity Initiative Grants that were approved. One for a Poetry Anthology, one for an Anti Racist Language Pedagogy, and one for a podcast called Zora's Daughters. The last two initiatives were able to receive other sorts of grant funding from the University as well!
 - e. Meave Sheehan (Masters Affairs Chair: asgc.masters@columbia.edu) informed us that some webinars w/ GSAS Compass are underway. The first event is set for March 10th at 7:00pm EST with Christopher McGary at the Entrepreneurship Startup lab. Any entrepreneurs should contact Meave at for more information on the event. Additionally, you can contact her if you would like to submit questions for the webinar itself. More details will be in the ASGC newsletter once the Zoom link is created. In addition, a Headshot Session will be scheduled when the weather permits.
5. External Representatives Updates (VP, External Affairs):
- a. Health
 - i. Bhargav (asgc.vpexternalaffairs@columbia.edu) met with Melanie Bernitz to discuss medical insurance policies. Medical insurance will be staying the same as for previous years. It is worth noting that you do get one free cleaning if you are under Columbia Insurance.
 - b. Libraries
 - i. Rahim Hashim (rh2898@columbia.edu) let the plenary know that the Libraries are looking for recommendations/suggestions on a wide scale. In addition, past due books are not currently incurring fees; return them when you have the chance to do so.
 - c. ISSO
 - i. Chuyu let us know that the International Student Leaders meeting is forthcoming. More information will be given after the meeting.
 - d. Graduate Workers of Columbia (GWC)/Union
 - i. February 2021 Updates
 1. RSVP for 25 February rally (in-person and on zoom):
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeXBMazS3kQemKt_SIM85yBwG0_MOr62DjzVuZclPhDkbTg-g/viewform
 2. Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlsf-ihrzguEtTzJ4AFL26SOHbKLcCA538T>
 3. Commit to striking for a fair contract:
<https://forms.gle/tsTCcvDHv3BgNgmh9>
 4. RSVP to attend bargaining sessions (anyone can attend for as long as they'd like! feel free to drop in and out):
<https://columbiagradsunion.org/bargaining-sessions-rsvp/>

5. Next bargaining sessions:
 - a. Thursday, February 18th, 2:15 pm-6:00 pm
 - b. Friday, February 19th, 1:30 pm-5:00 pm
 - c. Wednesday, February 24th, 11:15 am-3:00 pm
 - d. Thursday, February 25th, 2:15 pm-5:30 pm
- ii. [January Updates](#) can be read here
6. Senators' Updates
 - a. Elections
 - i. New senators will be selected later tonight
 - b. Divesting from Fossil Fuels conversation
 - c. Student Affairs committee and stimulus package grants from the CARES Act
7. New Business (Open Forum)
 - a. Roger Creel
 - i. More information about the Fossil Fuel divestment
 1. People can reach out to Senator Mike Ford (mlf2191@columbia.edu) for more information
 2. Bhargav can also facilitate this conversation to get for info
8. 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.