

ASGC Plenary Meeting Agenda

March 16, 2021, 6:30 PM

[Zoom Link](#) | password: 467953 | <https://council.gsas.columbia.edu/>



ARTS & SCIENCES GRADUATE COUNCIL

1. Welcome (President)
 - a. Final 2021 ASGC Plenary Meetings April 20, 6:30 pm (Same Zoom Link)
2. Sign-in Instructions (Communications)
 - a. Sign in: <https://council.gsas.columbia.edu/form/asgc-plenary-attendance>
 - b. Committees: 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 February Minutes: Minutes have been approved unanimously
3. Senate Updates
 - a. Introducing NS Senator Anne van Vlimmeren!
 - b. Senator Updates: The last senate meeting revolved around how to support students that need flexibility when giving care and a progress report on Columbia's report on diversity and racism. Additionally, a vaccine discussion was addressed. NY State recently updated eligibility criteria. Columbia will be soon getting their own supply of vaccines, but that rollout is still unclear.
4. Executive Board Updates
 - a. Alex (President: president.asgc@columbia.edu) gave a brief update on the Social Science Senate Election. As of now, the ball is in CUIT's court regarding this election. We will have to re-do this election, and we will keep you updated on this. He also informed the plenary on the [Chinweike Okegbe Service Award](#) & the [Faculty Mentoring Award](#). Nominations for both of these awards are due by April 1st. You can see the links for more detailed information on each award. The selection committee for both awards is currently being decided. Please email Alex (president.asgc@columbia.edu) if you are interested in getting involved. Additionally, Alex mentioned the PhDC Letter to Columbia Residential regarding the formation of an Advisory Committee. This letter will urge Columbia Residential to start a committee (akin to SLACK). This letter will hopefully rally support and show Columbia Residential that other schools would like this committee as well. Lastly, Alex reminded the plenary that the ASGC Executive Board Elections would happen later during the later half of this meeting. The Executive Board turnover happens May 1st.
 - b. Laura DiNardo (VP, Administration: asgc.vpadministration@columbia.edu) informed the plenary on the Columbia Tutor Corps. The Columbia Tutor Corps was started in late March 2020 at the onset of the pandemic to support the children of essential workers. Through the program, Columbia students provide free virtual tutoring and educational enrichment support to families in Harlem and beyond who are struggling to cope with the exigencies of the pandemic. Since their inception, they have served over 600 families in subjects and skills ranging from astronomy to algebra to Mandarin and dance. If you are interested in becoming a tutor (flexible schedule, virtual, even just a half-hour per

week), [please fill out this form](#). If you've already given them your information, please click on the same form link and you'll find an option to simply update them that you're still interested. If you would like to become part of our Administrative Team, you may indicate that on the same form as well.

- c. Tea Crnković (Finance Chair: asgc.finance@columbia.edu) shared the status of our Travel Grants & Student Initiative Grants. There are currently four applications in total for Student Initiative Grants. Additionally, there is an upcoming travel grant deadline coming up. Columbia Travel Restrictions are still being upheld. Grants will be given for in person conferences only if Columbia lifts its travel ban. If not, grants will only be used for registration funds.
 - d. Dorna Movasseghi (Quality of Life Chair: asgc.qualityoflife@columbia.edu) will be launching the Spring QoL Survey early next week. Adjustments are currently being made to the survey. Please drum up support with your constituents once the survey is launched.
 - e. Arden Lee (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair: ga2448@columbia.edu) let the Plenary know that some additional Diversity Initiative Grants have been approved. Additional money was given out to previous winners whose applications were eligible. There is also a call for additional D.I.G. Proposals, and more departments are currently circulating this information. If you have any desire to apply, please reach out to her and do so. There is still a lot of money dedicated to this initiative that can be used up!
 - f. Our Events Chairs are looking expectantly at throwing some summer events for us!
 - g. Meave Sheehan (Masters Affairs Chair: asgc.masters@columbia.edu) informed us that there will be more webinars w/ GSAS Compass to come in the future. Additionally, the MA Affairs Committee is planning a [portrait photography session](#) for graduate students who need photos for professional reasons. The event will be taking place on **Sunday, March 21st at 1:00 PM EST**. Please fill out this sign-up sheet to indicate your preferred time slot: <https://forms.gle/Feg68Sz7MAeka2x4A> Signups are now full!
5. External Representatives Updates (VP, External Affairs):
- a. Health: Bhargav (asgc.vpexternalaffairs@columbia.edu) gave some updates from the SHACK meeting. Melanie and Mike emphasized that Covid testing is available once per week. Additionally, random testing compliance is only at 60% - the test is useful for understanding the virus within the community
 - b. ISSO: The first international students leadership committee meeting just happened. They were very receptive to feedback during the meeting in regards to streamlining the process. Additionally, here was the blurb in this week's newsletter about ISSO in case you have any questions/feedback: "If you or someone you know is facing difficulties as an international student, or has suggestions, questions or concerns about the work of ISSO, please use the ASGC contact form (<https://council.gsas.columbia.edu/form/contact>) or email Chuyu Tian at ct2823@columbia.edu with this information.
 - c. Graduate Workers of Columbia (GWC)/Union: The Union is currently on an indefinite strike. There was a bargaining meeting today that seemed to end in a stalemate. The strike will continue until further progress has been made. After the meeting, Amelia sent

a link to GWU updates from the past month. Please view them here:

tinyurl.com/GWCupdates.

6. ASGC Executive Board Elections
 - a. Procedures
 - b. Elections for President, VP Admin, VP External Affairs, Finance, Communications, QoL, DEI, Events (2 seats), Media (in this order)
 - c. 2021-2022 Executive Board
 - i. President: Ashley Wells
 - ii. VP, Administration: Laura DiNardo
 - iii. VP, External Affairs: Bhargav Gopal
 - iv. Finance Chair: Tea Crnkovic
 - v. Communications: Geronimo Cristobal
 - vi. Quality of Life: VACANT
 - vii. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Arden Lee
 - viii. Events Chairs: PJ Robinson & VACANT
 - ix. Media Chair: Davida Rios
 - d. Any vacant positions can be filled by appointment instead of through an additional election.
7. New Business (Open Forum)
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.