

## ASGC Plenary Meeting Agenda

April 20, 2021, 6:30 PM

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



## ARTS & SCIENCES GRADUATE COUNCIL

1. Welcome (President)
2. Sign-in Instructions (Communications)
  - a. Sign in: <https://council.gsas.columbia.edu/form/asgc-plenary-attendance>
  - b. Please fill out [this form](#) regarding your department rep status for 2021-2022. Please fill it out whether you will be leaving or staying within your position.
3. Award Recipients: Chinweike Okegbe Service Award & Faculty Mentoring Award
  - a. Chinweike Okegbe Service Award Winners:
    - i. Awo Yayra Sumah (MESAAS)
    - ii. Mike Ford (Music)
    - iii. Nicole Meily (Art History & Archaeology)
  - b. Faculty Mentoring Award Winners
    - i. Jenny Davidson, English & Comparative Literature
    - ii. Joseph Massad, MESAAS
4. Guest: Joseph Greenwell (University Life)
  - a. They are in a transition at University Life. The previous Director recently left to join the Biden administration. They are keeping the current climate of the world (Covid-19, racial/political unrest, etc.) at the forefront of their initiatives for next year.
  - b. Planning virtual events for the summer. Recognizing new structure while providing new ways for students to communicate with each other.
  - c. Following hospitalizations and new variants of the virus. All of these factors come into play in terms of moving forward
  - d. For the fall, students lost a lot of tradition (senior years, commencements, etc). It's a unique time for Columbia (esp. for first years).
    - i. A reflection, welcoming home, and locating resources (what's available to students when they get back)
    - ii. Keeping in mind that not all students will be able to come back to Columbia starting in the fall. Whatever they decide to do, it will be inclusive.
    - iii. Keeping in mind the acts of hate/violence directed at many Asian/Asian Americans in the country.
  - e. Question: When can we begin to have outdoor activities and events
    - i. Possibly later in the summer, but will not be in the first phase
    - ii. Event policy is still at 10 people (in one confined space at one time)
    - iii. Joseph is advocating for the numbers to grow as more people are vaccinated
  - f. Question: Students needing vaccinations to come back to campus
    - i. That rule is across the board for the campus (not just for individual students)
    - ii. There will be emails explaining this in more detail as well as forums for dialogue

- g. If you have any additional questions or ideas for University Life, please let Joseph know at [jg4233@columbia.edu](mailto:jg4233@columbia.edu)
5. Executive Board Updates
- a. Alex (President: [president.asgc@columbia.edu](mailto:president.asgc@columbia.edu)) gave an update on the PhDC Letter to Columbia Residential for Formation of Advisory Committee. It has been submitted and he is waiting for a response.
  - b. Laura DiNardo (VP, Administration: [asgc.vpadministration@columbia.edu](mailto:asgc.vpadministration@columbia.edu)) informed the plenary about some measures for ASGC recognized student groups. The Annual Report regarding student group activities and leadership needs to be filled out by all groups. An email will be sent out to all groups tomorrow, so please complete it by the deadline if you are an executive member of one. Additionally, feel free to email Laura if you have any questions regarding the form or if you would like more information on how to become an ASGC recognized student group.
  - c. Tea Crnković (Finance Chair: [asgc.finance@columbia.edu](mailto:asgc.finance@columbia.edu)) shared the status of our Travel Grants & Student Initiative Grants. There is an upcoming deadline for travel grants on Friday, April 23rd. Additionally, the travel restrictions that Columbia implemented have been released to a certain extent. Please still follow the restrictions and rules that the University has listed [here](#).
  - d. Dorna Movasseghi (Quality of Life Chair: [asgc.qualityoflife@columbia.edu](mailto:asgc.qualityoflife@columbia.edu)) will be working on the QoL Report over the coming days by combining the survey data together. It will be finished and reported on ASAP.
  - e. Arden Lee (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair: [ga2448@columbia.edu](mailto:ga2448@columbia.edu)) let the Plenary know that there has been one application for the Diversity Initiative Grant so far. Please still apply (any encourage others to apply) if you are interested in receiving this grant. You can reach out to Arden for more information if needed.
  - f. Pierre and PJ (Events Co-Chairs: [events.asgc@columbia.edu](mailto:events.asgc@columbia.edu)) are setting up our first summer event: a Yankee Game! GSAS has been asked about this possibility, but they have not answered yet. However, we will begin to promote this beginning tomorrow. Tickets to the game are sold in either twos or fours; you can not buy a single ticket for yourself. The Yankees Protocol is that you must show a full vaccination card, a negative PCR test from no more than 72 hours before, or a negative rapid test from no more than 6 hours before. More information regarding these protocols will be distributed soon. We will be promoting events on social media moving forward regarding events.
  - g. Meave Sheehan (Masters Affairs Chair: [asgc.masters@columbia.edu](mailto:asgc.masters@columbia.edu)) informed us that the Webinar with the Ombuds Office happened last week. The Ombuds Office is a confidential resource for students, faculty, and staff. Please feel free to reach out to them with interpersonal issues in regards to the school. Additionally, in person events for Masters students will be planned for the summer. The MA Affairs Committee is also planning a portrait photography session for graduate students who need photos for professional reasons. The event will be taking place on **Sunday, April 25th from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST**, and the location of the photo session will be Sakura Park at 3916, 500 Riverside Dr, New York, NY 10027. ~~Please fill out this [sign up sheet](#) to indicate your preferred time slot.~~
  - h. Senate

- i. At the last Senate Plenary, we approved the creation of an Executive MS degree in the Engineering School, as well as a tie-in MBA dual degree option.
  - ii. Another newly-approved degree is a non-executive (though not named as such) MPA in Global Leadership at SIPA.
  - iii. The Committee on Diversity and the Student Affairs Committee co-presented a report on Public Safety; the report strongly recommends the establishment of an independent review body that monitors Public Safety practices and concerns.
  - iv. The Student Affairs Committee is working on a Resolution in support of federal student debt forgiveness. The number we support is \$50K, even though President Lee Bollinger voiced apprehension of that number at a previous Plenary meeting; he instead advocates for \$10K. At the Student Affairs Committee, we hope that President Joe Biden heeds our Resolution rather than Prezbo's.
- 6. External Representatives Updates (VP, External Affairs):
  - a. ISSO
    - i. Dave Austel and ISSO leadership met to discuss difficulties that international students have been having. Particularly Asian students have been going through a lot with the current climate of today's society.
  - b. Graduate Workers of Columbia (GWC)/Union
    - i. Please see the April 2021 notes from the Union here: <http://tinyurl.com/GWCupdates>
    - ii. Who is eligible to vote for the contract?: Until dues are implemented, eligible voters are Columbia graduate and undergraduate students who are currently employed by the university, have been employed by the university in the past, or whose program includes a degree requirement to be employed by the university in one of the categories outlined by the NLRB decision (i.e., graduate and undergraduate Teaching Assistants, Teaching Fellows, Preceptors, Course Assistants, Readers, Graders, Graduate Research Assistants [including those on Training Grants], and All Departmental Research Assistants), and who have signed a union authorization card or similar card authorizing representation by GWC-UAW.
    - iii. General body meeting 4/21 at 9am to continue to discuss the contract.
    - iv. Lilian's notes (on the bargaining committee): Committee voted to officially recommend the contract. Vote was 7-3.
      - 1. Compensation: New floor for PhD workers. \$7000 increase for certain professional programs. Only for people on 12 month appointments. Base increase is different for 9 month appointments. Covid bonus will be given to all PhD students - not included in the 2% increase. Union dues and agency fees will be taken out of this. **See chart on page 2 of the [GWC updates](#) for more information.**
      - 2. Unfortunately, Masters students without a TA or RA job are not able to participate in the contract. First year fellowship students or 5th year students working on their dissertation are not eligible either.
- 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.