1. Welcome (President)
2. Guests
   a. Leilani Reynolds, Nathalie Neptune (Columbia Residential)
      i. Presentation: More than 1,200 GSAS students living in Columbia Residential housing. Master students are limited to one year in student housing, though specific programs may be eligible for an additional semester. They must be enrolled full-time. PhD students are limited to five consecutive years in student housing but can petition for a maximum of seven years. Students are required to move out within 60 days of the date of defense, regardless of the deposit date. It’s up to the school for how they want to move forward with exceptions.
      ii. Questions:
          1. Nataly Shahaf (ns3050@columbia.edu): Due to the pandemic, many Ph.D. students need an eighth year, and international students are in a difficult situation. Sophia Chang is the initial contact for GSAS students who need to discuss these kinds of situations.
          2. Charles Pletcher (charles.pletcher@columbia.edu): Students in residential services housing have had issues with utilities since Columbia Residential transitioned to having utility bills go through them. It has been somewhat infantilizing and frustrating for students who aren’t permitted to be in control of their own utilities. Additionally, the situation with rental payments going through student billing vs. paying Columbia Residential directly has affected the ability of some programs to recruit PhD students.

a. Answer: Though these decisions weren’t made by Leilani, they have been carried out during her tenure. The office serves 11 schools with varying types of housing/time in programs. While Leilani was not able to answer this question in the meeting, she requested that Charles email her with them so she could
address these specific concerns more fully. Columbia housing values these kinds of conversations with the schools they serve, and with more than 5,000 students in housing, there are competing needs. Changes are often made in an effort to streamline processes while working at a large school and folding in bureaucracy like ConEd. While Residential team works to unravel the hardships of past decisions, there are hiccups, but they are trying to get over those things and move forward. With rent being folded into student accounts, they switched from charging per semester to last year going back to a per month basis, though it is still done through the student account, rather than separately.

b. Comment from Charles: Charles saw this as a positive change, though the pandemic may have impacted data that would show that. However, many graduate students have a different relationship with the University than a typical student. Many view the university as more of an employer than as an educator, and that doesn’t seem to be taken into account in the decision to roll billing into the student account. Charles plans to follow up with email to Leilani.

3. Nina Fukuoka (nf2464@columbia.edu): Is there a reason the payments are on a different day of the month? Many students don’t check SSOL accounts often, but instead receive email reminders that come through on seemingly random days. For the past several months, emails came through on the following dates: May 6, June 3, July 1, August 12, September 24, October 14. Nina specified that she was referring to billing in SSOL.

   a. Leilani: By law, Columbia Residential has to submit the charge by a certain date, but the due dates are monitored by Student Financial Services, so Leilani can only speak to the Residential side. June and July hit the account at the same time to meet a legal requirement to make sure this hits by a certain date, but much of this is governed by SFS.

   b. Nathalie: according to the housing agreement, rent is supposed to be due by the first of every month. But when it comes to due dates on the student account, that jurisdiction is not Columbia Residential’s.

4. Karen Perez (kip2105@columbia.edu): Inquired about office hours

   a. Response: The Columbia Residential office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The door is open and people are welcome to stop by without appointments.
5. Rohini Shukla (rss2211@columbia.edu): As a student living in Columbia Residential housing, every year there is trouble when the heating begins. NYC code states that it is supposed to begin October 1, but it’s often not on by that time.
   a. Response: The Columbia Residential website should have the grid and info from NYC on it. And yes, it follows NYC law. However, during the transitional period where there is a mix of cooler days and warmer days, although the boilers are on, it takes time for the heating system to kick in and make sure the heating is consistent. That is a challenge this time of year, but it should work out by the time it gets too cold. If there are specific issues, please submit a service request and talk to your super, and they can give more specific information for your building.

6. Leilani Reynolds: lr2535@columbia.edu
   b. Nathalie Neptune: nen2001@columbia.edu
   c. General Customer Service: residential@columbia.edu
   d. Chat Link (during office hours): https://direct.lc.chat/12168477/

3. Committee Presentations:
   a. Quality of Life Committee
      i. There is an Executive Board position available for this as well. Anyone interested is encouraged to email Ashley Wells (asgc.president@columbia.edu)
      ii. The committee works toward improvement in GSAS student life. One of the main tasks is putting together the Quality of Life survey each spring semester.
      iii. Representatives interested/skilled in surveys, programming, and statistics would be especially helpful to have on this committee.
   b. Events Committee
      i. This committee establishes social, academic, and cultural events. Members of this committee will volunteer at events and happy hours and assist with event promotion.
   c. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (Arden Lee: ga2448@columbia.edu)
      i. This committee focuses on fostering community between departments and inclusivity across GSAS. It meets monthly to discuss progress and helps make decisions about DEI grants and DEI activities.
      ii. This committee is also about bringing together departments from different programs that don’t necessarily talk to each other otherwise. It’s a good opportunity to get a feel for other departments and understand/compare the various DEI-focused actions happening in departments.
   d. Finance Committee (Tea Crnković: asgc.finance@columbia.edu)
      i. This committee helps with reviewing applications and processing for Travel and Student Initiative Grants. As applications have returned to pre-pandemic levels, committee members are needed.
ii. Representatives who have coding skills or could assist in helping to automate application processing are especially encouraged to join this committee. This could streamline analysis and be passed onto future generations of students.

e. Master’s Affairs Committee
   i. The election for this chair will happen at the end of this meeting.
   ii. This committee focuses on improving the quality of life for Masters students and masters participation. They share ideas for masters-specific events and sometimes hosts those events. They are also responsible for communicating any changes to masters programs.
   iii. This committee is generally more tangible for masters students/initiatives.

f. External Rep Positions:
   i. ISSO (geared toward international students): one rep needed
   ii. GSW Union: one rep needed
   iii. IGB: one rep needed
   iv. PhD C: two reps needed

4. Sign-in Instructions (Communications Chair Mariah Noble: asgc.communications@columbia.edu)
   a. Sign in link: https://council.gsas.columbia.edu/form/asgc-plenary-attendance

5. Updates
   a. President Ashley Wells (asgc.president@columbia.edu)
      i. Master’s Affairs Chair vote will be held at the end of meeting
   b. VP, Administration Laura DiNardo (asgc.vpadministration@columbia.edu)
      i. Student Group Change of Group Leadership Form
         1. Please update any changes through the form above.
      ii. Awaiting annual report from a student group: GRO Biotech
         1. If you’re involved in this group, please contact Laura DiNardo
   c. VP, External Affairs Bhargav Gopal (asgc.vpexternalaffairs@columbia.edu)
      i. Senate Elections
      ii. Ivy+ Summit
      iii. NAGPS
   d. Finance Chair Tea Crnković (asgc.finance@columbia.edu)
      i. Travel Grants
         1. Requests are back to pre-pandemic numbers.
         2. Columbia requires pre-approval for travel, so make sure as you are traveling internationally to conferences, you get university approval ahead of time.
      ii. Student Initiative Grants
         1. Have received and approved four applications
      iii. Links on the website to see recipients:
         1. https://council.gsas.columbia.edu/content/student-travel-grant-past-recipients
         2. https://council.gsas.columbia.edu/content/past-recipients-student-initiative-grant
         3. https://covid19.columbia.edu/content/fall-2021-travel-restrictions
e. Quality of Life
   i. This position on the Executive Board is currently open (through appointment, not election).
      1. Anyone interested in learning more about it is invited to please email President Ashley Wells at asgc.president@columbia.edu.

f. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair Arden Lee (ga2448@columbia.edu)
   i. Statement on Injustice Discussion
      1. Margaret Corn (mlc2250@columbia.edu): Asked for clarification of the audience for the Statement and what role the statement will have.
         a. The Statement will live on the ASGC website mainly to show GSAS students and university that this is what we want and stand for. It’s meant to hold us accountable to have actionable plans and be reviewed annually.
      2. Sylvia Miller (sm4007@columbia.edu): Asked for more information on the context.
         a. The Statement was created last fall and adopted by the Department Reps at that time. As stated, the plan is to reevaluate it annually. This year, Arden worked with people in the DEI subcommittee and the Executive Board to update it and is bringing it up before the Department Reps now to ask whether they agree with the statement.
      3. Andie Munoz (amm2475@columbia.edu): Once approved, will the ASGC create some standard wording to explain it for Department Reps to use as they disburse to departments?
         a. Arden is happy to draft something up for departments if requested, but the Statement will be shared via the ASGC newsletter, though Department Reps are encouraged to share it as well in the way they see fit.
      4. President Ashley Wells (asgc.president@columbia.edu) motioned for a vote to publish the Statement as is onto the ASGC’s website. Allyson Li (al2834@columbia.edu) seconded the motion.
         a. The motion passed.
      5. The Statement will be published on the website and announced in the upcoming newsletter.
   ii. Diversity Initiative Grants - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair Arden Lee (ga2448@columbia.edu)
1. Since the start of the semester, one application from an MA in Art History Department has been received and approved for an art installation with queer, indigenous, Afrofuturism-focused art. This is an example of how to be creative with the DEI Grants and go beyond more typical approaches, like inviting a guest speaker.

g. Events Co-Chairs Thu Hai Pham and PJ Robinson (events.asgc@columbia.edu)
   i. Upcoming Events

6. External Representative Updates (VP, External Affairs Bhargav Gopal, asgc.vpexternalaffairs@columbia.edu):
   a. Health
      i. No updates.
   b. Libraries
      i. Rahim Hashim (rh2898@columbia.edu): There is a lot of discussion about Uris Hall and excitement around the entertainment and media rooms. They are always looking for input and are very open to using the space in a number of ways, so if anyone has suggestions/comments/ideas, please send that to Rahim at: rh2898@columbia.edu.
   c. ISSO
      i. One representative is needed. There were no volunteers, so this will be brought up again next meeting.
   d. Graduate Student Workers Union (GWC)
      i. Alex Jensen (caj2167@columbia.edu) appointed as the rep.
   e. IGB
      i. One representative is needed. There were no volunteers, so this will be brought up again next meeting.
   f. PhDC: Purpose
      i. Two more representatives are still needed. There were no volunteers, so this will be brought up again next meeting.
      ii. Karen Perez (kip2105@columbia.edu) is one rep already serving in this role, and she shared more information about the PhD Council’s purpose:
         1. To represent and be an advocate for all the PhD Students to the Vice President of Graduate Education, the GSAS administration, and Columbia University in the active pursuit of issues relevant to all graduate students, including all issues except issues of benefit and employment.
         2. To provide a structure of PhD Students to achieve collective progress on issues they face.
         3. To create and maintain ongoing dialogue, and serve as a channel of communication between all PhD Students, representing student governments, representing schools, the Vice President of Graduate Education, the GSAS administration, and with Columbia University
4. To inform PhD representing University Senators on issues that involve the majority of PhD students.
5. To build and strengthen the leadership of graduate students at Columbia University.
6. To meet monthly from September through April.
7. To advise the PhDC Officers when meeting with the Vice President of Graduate Education and University officials.

7. Senators’ Updates
   a. Elections will take place soon, and more information will be shared at the next meeting.

8. Master’s Affairs Chair Elections
   a. Procedures
      i. All of the nominees will give a brief statement, after which the council will have the opportunity to ask the candidates questions. Then, the candidates will be asked to leave the Zoom meeting, at which point the floor will open for general discussion prior to the vote.
   b. Statements:
      i. Hannah May
         1. Candidate was not present, but had arranged for Ashley Wells to read a pre-written statement.
      ii. Ivan Arnold Barrer
         1. Candidate was present but in class, and opted for Ashley Wells to read the submitted application.
      iii. Megan Reddy
         1. Candidate was present and presented her statement.
      iv. Nupur Joshi (written application)
         1. Candidate was not present, and Ashley Wells read the submitted application.
      v. The opportunity was given for any others who would like to run for this position to do so, but none did.
   c. Questions for Candidates
      i. Megan Reddy was asked about ideas for events.
   d. Candidates left Zoom meeting and the floor was opened up for general discussion.
   e. Vote was held through Zoom Poll.
      i. Hannah May was elected to serve as Masters Affairs Chair

9. New Business (Open Forum)
   a. None

10. Adjournment (President)
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.