

ASGC Plenary Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2021, 6:30 PM

[Zoom Link](#) | password: 718611 | <https://council.gsas.columbia.edu/>



Dates of Upcoming ASGC Plenary Meetings (third Tuesday of each month, 6:30 pm): October 19, November 16, December 21

1. Welcome (President)
2. Introductions (President)
 - a. What is ASGC? Who is on the executive committee? How does ASGC operate?
 - Programming/hosting of events
 - Funding source for student initiatives
 - Advocacy (ASGC and GSAS)
 - ii. What is the role of the department representatives?
 - Bringing issues from your departments and acting as a department liaison
 - Serve on a committee within ASGC or be an external rep
 - Active in ASGC, possess voting rights, etc.
 - Attend Plenary Meetings, join committees or become external representatives
 - iii. Master's Affairs Chair Elections will be held during our next plenary
 - For anyone interested, the application form is here:
<https://council.gsas.columbia.edu/form/2021-2022-masters-affairs-chair->
 - b. Committees & External Representatives
 - Will choose committees next month and have committee
 - Some external rep appointments will be determined in this meeting
3. Guest
 - a. Melanie Bernitz (Columbia Health)
 - i. Slides on public health concerns
 - NYC COVID-19 Cases
 - Currently in the third wave
 - Significantly lower than previous waves
 - Numbers plateaued and are coming down
 - Fewer deaths
 - NYC Percent of Residents Vaccinated
 - Doing well
 - Campus Data
 - Updated on the website each Monday
 - Consistently under 1%

- Transition from Pandemic to Endemic
 - Within the U.S. endemic due to vaccine access, while other parts of the world are still in an epidemic
- Multiple layers of protection at CU
- Positive COVID-19 Case: Notification and Communication
 - Contact tracing
- What happens if someone tests positive for COVID-19
 - Changes to quarantine mandates for fully vaccinated individuals
 - Notification through Canvas regarding positive cases
- Cascade of Events after Positive Case
 - Please encourage people to respond when contacted regarding contact training
- ii. The rest of Columbia Health Services are still in place and available
- iii. Currently in the yellow zone, hoping to get into green
- iv. Insurance deadline is September 30, 2021
- v. Questions
 - Statistical clarification
 - Encourage people who may have tested positive outside of Columbia campus to inform the school
 - Concerns re: staff resources at Columbia Health
 - If you encounter barriers to health access, please communicate that to Columbia Health leadership, such as Melanie
 - Voluntary testing is continuing at Lerner Hall, and random testing is also still happening
 - If notified that you were randomly selected to test, it is required
 - Two-week window to comply
 - If you don't comply, you will have a red pass and your school will be notified you're noncompliant, which means you could be written up for student conduct
 - If you get selected but already voluntarily tested, you don't have to test again
 - If you test positive, you should go into the self-attestation of Reopen CU and give yourself a red pass
 - If you haven't looked at it recently, go in and select the different options without submitting to look at the drop-downs, so you can better understand symptoms implications
 - Voluntary testing available until September 30th according to the website, messaging later this week regarding potentially continuing that
 - Accommodations processes often need to go through the schools
 - Physical therapy options for students - athletics agreement, providers who are osteopathic manipulative therapy; otherwise must refer to off-campus
- 4. Sign-in Instructions (Communications)
 - a. Sign in: <https://council.gsas.columbia.edu/form/asgc-plenary-attendance>
- 5. Department Representative Transitions (2021-22)
 - a. Fill out the [2021-22 Department Representative Form](#) if you have not yet confirmed your status with Mariah Noble (asgc.communications@columbia.edu)
- 6. General Advocacy Updates
 - a. Columbia Residential

7. Updates

- a. Laura DiNardo (VP, Administration: asgc.vpadministration@columbia.edu)
 - i. Student Group [Change of Group Leadership Form](#)
 - Direct them to the change of group leadership form: <https://council.gsas.columbia.edu/form/change-of-group-leadership-form>
 - ii. Call for Questions: Columbia Residential
 - This will be our next guest speaker next month
 - Meeting with Columbia Residential over the summer
 - Response from Columbia Residential:
 - “About the billing issue this summer, Student Financial Services, in conjunction with Columbia Residential, decided to adjust the date rent was added on student accounts to better align with the due dates described in the housing agreement (first of the month). The reason they made this decision was because there were a lot of concerns about payments being late and how that would affect late fees. The change in the billing structure means that beginning with July rent, student residents see the charge reflected on their account in advance of the first of the month due date. If students were delayed in making June rent payments, they would see two charges outstanding at the time July rent is reflected on their account, which it sounds like is the case here. However, to accommodate any concerns, July rent was not considered past due until July 29, four weeks after the due date.”
 - Please submit any questions for Columbia Residential to Ashley Wells (ASGC President, asgc.president@columbia.edu) in preparation for the October Plenary Meeting
- b. Bhargov Gopal (VP, External Affairs: asgc.vpexternalaffairs@columbia.edu)
 - i. Senate Elections
 - Host an election for two Senate seats, coordinating with Senate staff
 - Plan to send out blurb on Sept. 27th with more information forthcoming
- c. Tea Crnković (Finance Chair: asgc.finance@columbia.edu)
 - i. Budget
 - <https://council.gsas.columbia.edu/content/annual-budget>
 - Increased money for events and personal meetings
 - ii. Travel Grants & Student Initiative Grants
 - Upcoming deadlines
 - Please urge constituents who meet the requirements to apply because we have plenty of funding
 - Record 15 applications so far for travel grants
 - <https://council.gsas.columbia.edu/content/student-travel-grant>
 - <https://council.gsas.columbia.edu/content/student-initiative-grant>
 - Question RE: NAGPS and Ivy+ Summit spending
 - Funds put aside for expenses for participation of Executive Board in those annual events
- d. Clem Choi (Quality of Life Chair: asgc.qualityoflife@columbia.edu)
- e. Arden Lee (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair: asgc.media@columbia.edu)
 - i. Statement on Injustice: Review

11. 11. 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.