ASGC Plenary Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2022, 6:30 PM
Zoom Link | password: 297506| https://council.gsas.columbia.edu/

1. Welcome (President, Ashley Wells, asgc.president@columbia.edu)
   a. Invitation to turn on cameras if you feel comfortable.
   b. Final 2022 ASGC Plenary Meeting will be April 19 at 6:30 p.m.
2. Sign-in Instructions (Communications Chair, Mariah Noble, asgc.communications@columbia.edu)
3. Updates
   a. President, Ashley Wells (asgc.president@columbia.edu)
      i. Chinweike Okegbe & Faculty Mentoring Awards
         1. Nominations are still open: Chinweike Okegbe Service Award and Faculty Mentoring Award
         2. Selection committee is needed (2-4 volunteers); anyone who is not planning to nominate someone is welcome to volunteer
         3. Chinweike Okegbe Service Award will be given at final Plenary of the year (April 19) and Faculty Mentoring will be awarded at GSAS Convocation
   b. VP, Administration, Laura DiNardo (asgc.vpadministration@columbia.edu)
      i. Student Group Vote - Columbia Investment Club
         1. Giorgi Mtchedlishvili gave a brief presentation
            a. Giorgi formed this group with other founding members from the Math and Engineering departments. Its main objective is to create financial literacy and long-term investment and saving strategies among students. The hope is that this will have a positive impact on the environment around GSAS students, and it is particularly important in light of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This group would also like to engage with other organizations on campus to make a difference.
            2. No questions or comments from ASGC Department Reps.
         2. ASGC Department Reps voted to approve the new club.
      ii. End of Semester Dept. Rep Mixer is scheduled for April 19th after our Plenary Meeting
   c. VP, External Affairs, Bhargav Gopal (asgc.vpexternalaffairs@columbia.edu)
      i. Initiatives for open-access for research are being discussed.
      ii. Senate Election Updates
1. So far, just one candidate has applied for Senate elections, and we would like to have a wider selection. Anyone interested is encouraged to contact Bhargav (asgc.vpexternalaffairs@columbia.edu). To learn more about the Senate, visit the website here.

d. Finance, Tea Crnkovic (asgc.finance@columbia.edu)
   i. Travel Grants
      1. There is an upcoming deadline in April, but we have plenty of funding, so please encourage people in your departments to attend conferences.
   ii. Student Initiative Grants

e. Quality of Life, Megan Reddy (asgc.qualityoflife@columbia.edu)
   i. Annual Quality of Life survey has been launched and is scheduled to remain open until Saturday. Students are asked to please take the survey.
      1. Extra help is needed! Particularly, we would like more people to help with analysis of responses to create the report. Anyone interested in assisting is asked to please contact Megan directly at mdr2185@columbia.edu.

f. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Arden Lee (ga2448@columbia.edu)
   i. Diversity Initiative Grants
      1. A project titled “Recoloring Latin America” has been approved.
   ii. Vote on letter of support, regarding GRE requirement and application fee removal
      1. ASGC Department Reps were given time to read/review the letter of support. There were no questions.
      2. ASGC Department Reps voted to approve ASGC signing onto the letter.

g. Events, PJ Robinson and Thu Hai Pham (events.asgc@columbia.edu)
   i. March Events
      1. ASGC Ski Trip
      2. In Conversation: Ta-Nehisi Coates and Black Thought at Apollo Theater
      3. SEAS + GSAS Mixer at the Craftsman
   ii. Further out
      1. April show of “Funny Girl”
   iii. Upcoming Event with Yale’s Student Senate
      1. Registration Closed

4. Masters Affairs, Hannah May (hmm2192@columbia.edu)
   a. N/A

5. External Representative Updates (VP, External Affairs, Bhargav Gopal, asgc.vpexternalaffairs@columbia.edu):
   a. Health, Bhargav Gopal (asgc.vpexternalaffairs@columbia.edu), Pragya Gupta (pg2705@columbia.edu)
      i. Insurance policy next year will be slightly different
   b. Libraries, Rahim Hashim (rh2898@columbia.edu)
      i. A meeting is scheduled for next month, so we should have updates then.
   c. ISSO, Anzhen Tang (at3399@columbia.edu)
i. N/A
d. Student Workers of Columbia (UAW)/Union, Alex Jensen (caj2167@columbia.edu)
   i. N/A
e. IGB, Colton Klein (colton.klein@columbia.edu)
   i. The IGB met a few weeks ago and considered a letter of support from NYU that
   would include some kind of city-wide pass, but it did not hold a vote. Colton
   shared the letter with the ASGC.
f. PhDC, Brett Stine (bts2187@columbia.edu), Karen Perez (kip2105@columbia.edu), Sara
   Shabani (ss5558@columbia.edu)
   i. A meeting is scheduled for next month, so we’ll have some updates at the next
   meeting.
6. ASGC Executive Board Elections (President, Ashley Wells, asgc.president@columbia.edu)
a. Procedure
i. Candidates will have a chance to speak. Then there will be an opportunity for
   questions. Candidates will then leave the meeting while the ASGC discusses the
   candidates and holds a vote. Upon the conclusion of the vote, the candidates
   will be readmitted to the meeting and the result will be announced.
b. Elections for President, VP Admin, VP External Affairs, Finance, Communications, QoL,
   DEI, Events (2 seats), Media (in this order)
   i. President
      1. Ruoyu Gu gave a brief presentation. Though this is Ruoyu's first time
         running for a position as a student leader, Ruoyu is enthusiastic and
         eager to speak up, particularly as an international student and Asian
         woman. Ruoyu hopes to gain more experience and lead the ASGC
         Executive Board with confidence.
      2. No other candidates
      3. ASGC Department Reps elected Ruoyu Gu as ASGC President for
         2022-23.
   ii. VP of Administration
      1. No candidates at this time
      2. The position will be decided through an appointment process. Anyone
         interested in the position is asked to contact Ashley Wells
         (asgc.president@columbia.edu).
   iii. VP of External Affairs
      1. Susanne “Susy” Prochazka gave a brief presentation. This included Susy's
         extensive experience in student leadership, particularly in law school, as
         a ASGC Department Rep for two years, as a member of the ad hoc
         Senate Elections Committee, and as a student leader for HRSMA,
         organizing to meet student needs in a small, underfunded department.
      2. No other candidates
      3. ASGC Department Reps elected Susy Prochazka as Vice President of
         External Affairs for 2022-23.
iv. Finance Chair

1. Rodrigo Gomez was not present, but President Ashley Wells read relevant portions of Rodrigo's application for the ASGC. This included Rodrigo's desire to address social issues.
2. Giorgi Mtchedlishvili gave a brief presentation. This included Giorgi's experience in finance and desire to make a positive impact and build relationships with fellow graduate students.
3. ASGC Department Reps voted Giorgi Mtchedlishvili to be Finance Chair for 2022-23.

v. Communications Chair

1. No candidates at this time
2. The position will be decided through an appointment process. Anyone interested in the position is asked to contact Ashley Wells (asgc.president@columbia.edu).

vi. Quality of Life Chair

1. No candidates at this time
2. The position will be decided through an appointment process. Anyone interested in the position is asked to contact Ashley Wells (asgc.president@columbia.edu).

vii. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Chair

1. Gabrielle DaCosta was not present, but President Ashley Wells read relevant portions of Gabrielle's application for the ASGC. This included Gabrielle's work in various student groups and priority to reassess funding dispersal for DEI grants.
2. Arden Lee gave a brief presentation. This presentation highlighted Arden’s experience over the last two years as DEI Chair, including awarding grants, putting forth initiatives, and working with various departments at Columbia to improve services to students.
3. Jacquelyn Sullivan was unable to attend in person, but Ashley Wells read a letter on behalf of Jacquelyn to the ASGC. The letter highlighted Jacquelyn’s desire to see DEI commitments implemented at an institutional level and eagerness to create a support system for fellow students.
4. ASGC Department Reps elected Arden Lee as DEI Chair for 2022-23.

viii. Events Co-Chairs

1. Thu Pham was unable to attend in person, but Ashley Wells read a speech on behalf of Thu to the ASGC. The speech highlighted Thu’s experience as an Events Co-Chair for the 2021-22 academic year.
2. No other candidates at this time
3. ASGC Department Reps voted Thu to be Events Co-Chair for 2022-23
4. The vacant position will be decided through an appointment process. Anyone interested in the position is asked to contact Ashley Wells (asgc.president@columbia.edu).

ix. Media Chair
1. No candidates at this time
2. The position will be decided through an appointment process. Anyone interested in the position is asked to contact Ashley Wells (asgc.president@columbia.edu).

7. Senators’ Updates
   a. N/A

8. New Business (Open Forum)
   a. N/A

9. Adjournment (President, Ashley Wells, asgc.president@columbia.edu)

**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.