ASGC Plenary Meeting Agenda
April 19, 2022, 6:30 PM
Zoom Link | password: 720730| https://council.gsas.columbia.edu/

1. Welcome (President, Ashley Wells, asgc.president@columbia.edu)
   a. Turn on cameras if you feel comfortable
   b. Award Recipients: Chinweike Okegbe Service Award & Faculty Mentoring Award
      i. The Chinweike Okegbe Service Award
         1. Emma Ianni
         2. Aubrianna Decker
         3. Alison Doyle
   c. End of Semester Dept. Rep Mixer tonight: 8-10 p.m. at Amity Hall
2. Guest: Kate Daloz, Director of the GSAS Writing Studio
   a. Kate shared a link for the website: https://gsas.columbia.edu/content/gsas-writing-studio and invited students to write any ideas or wants in terms of support in the chat. (And if later on there are ideas or questions, please contact: gsas-writingstudio@columbia.edu.)
      i. The GSAS Writing Studio mainly offers support for Ph.D. dissertation writing through:
         1. 1-on-1 consultations, which are about 45-minutes of working time. It is not particularly critical and all with interdisciplinary staff who are trained listeners who can help you explaining your arguments, etc. Students coming in for consultations should not feel like they must have to have a polished draft before coming in to see the Writing Studio. Appointments are available through the booking webpage online.
         2. Workshops, many of which will be offered in the summer. The different types of workshops offered include:
            a. How to Make a Plan, which can be especially helpful for people entering their dissertation fellowship.
            b. Copyright, which the Writing Studio is using in collaboration with Copyright office in the library
         3. Groups, which are facilitated by a Writing Studio consultant, but are interdisciplinary with different PhD students around GSAS. Some groups read each other’s work, some just cowork, others do a combination of both, depending on group members’ needs/preferences. Those are advertised through the newsletter and email.
         4. The Writing Studio also offers Dissertation Writing Retreats, which tend to be four-day retreats with food provided, so students can get work done. These have been more online during the pandemic but hopefully will return to being in-person.
         5. They also offer writing events and fellowship support. That type of support has always been present but not centralized, so the Writing
Studio is doing its best to help make that work better before it is fellowship time in the fall.

ii. Changes are coming in the fall, but because they are unofficial at this point, Kate could not share them, but there has been a lot of interest in the Writing Studio expanding to better support people in the pre-dissertation phase of the PhD as well as masters students.

b. Questions:
   i. Are there plans to do Prospectus workshops over the summer?
      1. Yes! Every semester the Writing Studio do at least one Prospectus workshop, and during the fall and spring semesters, it usually does two. They call it Prospectus Club, and it is part writing group and part structured sessions with (again) interdisciplinary groups between fields. Typically it is four weeks with two sessions per week, which lead the cohort from wherever they are in their thinking to a draft. Depending on interest, the Writing Studio could do more than one, and information will be updated on the website when details about it are available.
      2. Master students can still get 1-on-1 support from the Columbia Writing Center at https://www.college.columbia.edu/core/uwp/writing-center. It offers summer programs, and if students contact them early in the semester, they hold a number of sessions for those students even as it gets pretty busy later on.

ii. Are there no resources at the Writing Studio for masters students presently?
   1. Right now, there are not. Presently, the way the Writing Studio is set up is narrowly focused on Ph.D. post-M.Phil, but it has heard feedback that expand services may be helpful. Hopefully updates will be coming in the fall.
   2. Master students can still get 1-on-1 support from the Columbia Writing Center at https://www.college.columbia.edu/core/uwp/writing-center. It offers summer programs, and if students contact them early in the semester, they hold a number of sessions for those students even as it gets pretty busy later on.

3. Sign-in Instructions (Communications Chair, Mariah Noble, asgc.communications@columbia.edu)

4. Updates
   a. President, Ashley Wells (asgc.president@columbia.edu)
   b. VP, Administration, Laura DiNardo (asgc.vpadministration@columbia.edu)
      i. End of Semester Dept. Rep Mixer
   ii. For anyone here who is a member of an ASGC recognized student group, Laura will be sending out a call for the end of the year report from leadership within the next week.
   c. VP, External Affairs, Bhargav Gopal (asgc.vpexternalaffairs@columbia.edu)
      i. Senate Election Updates
         1. Giorgi Mtchedlishvili will be one of the Senators for next year, and Saxon Stahl has also expressed interest and hopefully this will be finalized later this week. Each new senator is slated to serve for two years.
   d. Finance, Tea Crnkovic (asgc.finance@columbia.edu)
      i. Travel Grants
         1. The final deadline for this academic year is this Friday, and we are finally back to pre-pandemic levels of applications, which is great news.
      ii. Student Initiative Grants
         1. The next deadline is in the fall.
      iii. Budget and spending information is available on our website. The Events Chairs have utilized quite a bit of funding, which is good.
e. Communications, Mariah Noble (asgc.communications@columbia.edu)
   i. Reminder: Department Representatives should fill out the End of Year Department Representative Form. If they do not fill it out, they’ll receive emails in the coming year.

f. Quality of Life, Megan Reddy (asgcqualityoflife@columbia.edu)
   i. QoL Report is still in process, just finishing editing it. We’ll keep everyone posted on that when it is complete.

g. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Arden Lee (ga2448@columbia.edu)
   i. Diversity Initiative Grants
      1. We have awarded five DIGs since last time we met, including for a MESAAS conference and others. Arden also offered additional funding for students who were already awarded funding this academic year for new projects.
      2. If you are planning to have an event over the summer, you are welcome to apply for funding.
   ii. Progress with the Letter of Support about GRE Requirement/application fee waivers
      1. At this point, we are working to get the letter of support to DGSSs and Department Chairs. Mariah sent an email last Monday requesting that department chairs send that on to your departments, but there are many who still haven’t responded. If anyone else is willing to send it, please let Arden know. Otherwise Arden will email the DGS and Department Chairs directly about it.
         a. Link: https://forms.gle/F3Y4k1Ki4JTPY9yY6

h. Events, PJ Robinson and Thu Hai Pham events.asgc@columbia.edu)
   i. Upcoming Events
      1. Come From Away - April 26
      2. ASGC + Young Alumni Boat Cruise - April 28
         a. Sold out for GSAS students

5. Masters Affairs, Hannah May (hm2192@columbia.edu)
   a. N/A

6. External Representative Updates (VP, External Affairs, Bhargav Gopal, asgc.vpexternalaffairs@columbia.edu):
   a. Health, Bhargav Gopal (asgc.vpexternalaffairs@columbia.edu) and Pragya Gupta (pg2705@columbia.edu)
      i. No updates as of now. There was a recent student issue that was handled and resolved quickly.
   b. Libraries, Rahim Hashim (rh2898@columbia.edu)
      i. Rahim was unable to attend the last Libraries meeting, but it focused on library resources in virtual space. Rahim is expecting the minutes and will pass along to anyone who is interested.
   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. No updates, but the last meeting of the year will be Friday.
PhDC, Brett Stine (bls2187@columbia.edu), Karen Perez (kip2105@columbia.edu), Sara Shabani (ss5558@columbia.edu)

i. The PhDC just had a meeting where Dean Alonso gave a sort of history lesson on the higher ed structure, how it’s working, and why they are considering potentially making Ph.D. admittances smaller for departments. There were no details yet, but they discussed strategies being considered.

ii. A question Brett is planning to follow up on is about the PhDC’s role. He will also look into a question that was sent to the Executive Board about where to go to report discrimination, etc.

New Business (Open Forum)

a. Thanks, everyone, for the opportunity to serve and learn from you! It’s been a great year.

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