

GSSC Meeting Minutes 09/28/10

Meeting convenes at 7:37 p.m.

Introduction

Jacqueline Thong (Student Body President):

In order to contact GSSC, including Dean Limardo, email gssc@columbia.edu. In order to contact GSSC's E-Board, contact gsidea@columbia.edu. In front of Dean Limardo's office, mailboxes for Dean Limardo as well as all GSSC members will be available.

Attendance

GSSC Members:

Student Body President: Jacqueline Thong
VP Policy: Elliot Shackelford
VP Communications: Katrin Nusshold
VP Finance: Daniel Lagana
VP Student Life: Candice Arakelian
University Senator: Jose Robledo
Social Chair: Marita Wright
Academic Affairs Representative: Rena Mukherji
Alumni Affairs Representative: XiXi Fu
Student Services Representative: Andrew Choufrine
Student Worker Representative: Alexander Lee
International Students Representative: Kristiina Wells
Delegate-at-Large Policy: Benjamin Paladino
Delegate-at-Large Communications: Mahogany Wright
Delegate-at-Large Finance: Sara Moradi
Delegate-at-Large Student Life: Jennifer Wisdom
Community at Large Delegate: Audra Dochenetz
Comptroller: Kevin McWilliams
Senior Class President: Henry Wells
Senior Class VP: Kristen Hutzler
Junior Class President: Chin Kim
Junior Class VP: Wojciech Skrzypczak
Sophomore Class President: Keenya Powell
Sophomore Class VP: Joseph Patito
First Year Class President: Kelly Braga
First Year Class VP: Joshua Lewin-Jacus

5-Point-Plan

Jacqueline Thong (Student Body President):

- 1. Standardize branding and promotion to increase visibility of GSSC on campus
 - Problem last year: People didn't know which ones were GSSC events

- Solution: Always include GSSC logo (owl)
- 2. Plan events by quarter, anchored by one big event per quarter
 - Plan by quarter, every two months
 - Post cards list all events for Sept/Oct
 - Helps to plan in advance
- 3. Relaunch GSSC website on Columbia web infrastructure and make a coherent communication strategy a priority
 - Relaunch gssc website to Columbia server, because we could lose access to the site due to monthly payments, GSSC members cannot be found through Columbia server, and current website has proven difficult to edit
 - One-time investment of \$8,000-10,000
 - gssc.columbia.edu
- 4. Utilize resources at Columbia, such as DOS, CU Arts, alumni relations, and other departments to plan specialized events
 - GSSC hasn't connected with the other groups on campus; besides the DOS Office, also work with Alumni, CU Arts, and CCE offices, etc.
 - Use their resources to provide to GS students
- 5. Review constitution to improve organization structure and streamline event planning processes
 - Everyone needs to be aware of their role, GSSC policies on absences, etc.
 - Change constitution to reflect GSSC
- No questions.

Overall meeting structure

Jacqueline Thong (Student Body President):

- Quick updates (less than 30 seconds for everyone)
 - Based on last week's commitments
 - Standup
 - Take attendance
 - One person speaks (with owl)
 - "Pass" is okay
 - Uni-directional with no discussions
 - Identify blocks and someone can volunteer to help
- Open forum (4-5 opportunities each week)
 - Requires 1-pager before meeting to present
 - Anyone can present, subject to review
 - Ends with audience questions
- Budget Review
 - Review spend against budget (burndown chart)
 - Show allocation of budget "slots"
 - Answer questions about budget
- Vote and Debate
 - All voting item must be submitted before meeting.

- Sentiment check before official voting (thumbs up/down)
- “Thumbs down” can voice the *why*
- Discuss and debate as needed
- Motion to vote for approval
- Commitment (task board, everyone makes a commitment for current week, then reports on it the following week)
 - Step through each new or in-progress project/event
 - Identify task and assign owner/partner to commit to “do something”
 - Group commitment to end meeting
 - After official meeting ends, small group offline discussion to resolves issues

Introduction to University Politics

Jose Robledo (University Senator):

The University Senate:

- Founded 1969
- 107 members, 24 students
- 62 Faculty, 6 RO, 2 staff/ librarians/ Alumni, 8 SA
- Monthly plenary
- Work concentrated in standing committees
 - Executive Committee
 - Student Affairs
 - Budget Review
 - Education
 - IT & Comm Tech
 - Libraries
 - Alumni Relations
- Campus Planning
- Phys Dev
- Faculty Affairs
- Honors & Prizes
- Housing Policy
- Research Officers
- Structure and Operations
- Commission on Status of Women
- Elections Commission
- Rules of Univ Conduct (inactive)
- External Relations

What does the Senate do?

- Address issues and policies affecting multiple University schools or the University as a whole
- Manhattanville
- New degrees
- Academic calendar

- Tenure
- Research policy
- Libraries
- Information technology
- external relations
- Etc.

How does the Senate work?

- The Senate works on through committees which focus on the different functional areas
- Proposals are born in individual committees and researched by multiple ones
- Proposals have findings and they are voted on by committees on whether to propose a resolution or a report
- Reports are summarized for the entire senate during a plenary
- Resolutions are proposed for vote by entire senate during plenary
- Resolutions are binding by the University's by-laws

Council Appointments

Jacqueline Thong (Student Body President):

In order to promote council collaboration, GSSC representatives will attend the meetings of the other councils, as representatives from other councils attend GSSC meetings.

Last year, every week, a different GSSC member attended the meetings of the other councils, which made effective council collaboration difficult. Consequently, several GSSC members need to be appointed to take on this responsibility, with two members being in charge of each school's council, which will enable them to alternate.

Volunteers:

- CCSC: Ryan and Josh
- SEAS: Daniel and Xixi
- Barnard: Jennifer and Keenya

Possibly recruit new nonvoting members to fill these positions?

Appointments for Council Events

Jacqueline Thong (Student Body President):

- Casino Night: Chin
- Basketball Mania: Wojciech
- Homecoming (football game): Andrew
- Finance Committee Representative (nonvoting): Ryan
- Communication Representative (nonvoting): Laura

S.A.V.E. Program

Jacqueline Thong (Student Body President):

Currently, GSSC pays approximately a \$20/hour fee for technology at Lerner (projectors, etc.). With this program, council members will be able to be trained and certified as S.A.V.E. Technicians.

Volunteers: Jennifer, Marita, Wojciech, Keenya, Mahogany, Laura

Budget Review

Daniel Lagana (VP of Policy):

- Preliminary budget received today
- Meeting with Deans on Friday
- Expenditures until now: \$24,701.36
 - Largest expenditure (Rooftop Kickoff Party): \$15,000.00
 - Student Life expenditures until now: \$8,875.36

Completed Events

Jacqueline Thong (Student Body President):

- Rooftop Kickoff Party
- Orientation Welcome Party
- “In the Heights”
- Law School Panel
- Pizza Tasting Competition
- Picnic in the Park
- Game Night
- International Student Dinner

Events in Progress

Jacqueline Thong (Student Body President):

Assign leads and partners

- Fall Fun Day (Chin and Lorna)
- Mets Game (Henry and Kristina)
- Snack Attacks (Candice, Henry, and Laura)
- Spanish Social (Joseph and Kelly)
- Alumni Lunch (Alex, Josh, and Xixi)
- Philharmonic (Henry and Kristina)
- Thursday Happy Hour (this week Mahogany and Sarah, next week Jose and Kristen)
- Visit to the Met (Ben and Wojciech)
- Lincoln Center Tour (Elliot and Jennifer)
- Rangers Game (Henry, Kristina, and Wojciech)
- Thanksgiving Dinner (Kristina)
- Thanksgiving Volunteering (Jose and Keenya)

Senior Cocktails

Henry Wells (Senior Class President):

- Event for seniors graduating this semester
- GSSC splitting costs with DOS Office, \$5,000 each
- At Faculty House
- Cocktails

Thumbs up?

Motion: Elliot

Second: Henry

For: 23

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

Nomination for Delegate-at-Large Communications

Jacqueline Thong (Student Body President):

Candidate nominated: Mahogany Wright

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.