Meeting Agenda
October 10th 2017; 6:30 PM
Alfred Lerner Hall, Room 477
http://gsac.columbia.edu/

1. Sign-in
   a. Issue with room setup, lacking projector and screen; first 5 minutes taken up with waiting to see if IT would come with projector and screen

2. Approval of September 2017 Minutes (President) → approved

3. Presentation by Center for Career Education (Kelly Ahn)
   a. Initially planning to reschedule on account of missing IT setup; moved to later in schedule once screen and projector arrived
   b. Background to CCE: Located across from Faculty House; focus is on MA and PhD students. Services = far more than looking over resumes and cover letters → provide tailored advice to help students
   c. Website features: (must log in with uni to access job opportunities)
      i. Internship opportunities from various industries
      ii. Industry showcase: go online to calendar to find out about opportunities; can filter by industry
      iii. Company info sessions: diff companies have different ways of recruiting; go and see how they are active;
      iv. Campus jobs: can find on LionShare -> live campus opportunities available now (can filter results based upon what selected on LionShare profile).
      v. Site visits: go to headquarters/branch office directly → do search for
   d. LinkedIn: good way to connect with alumni → linkedin.com/alumni; Connect with one another so can make use of networks and grow LinkedIn power → go for 500 (10 ppl/month). Second connection = most important → those with many connections
   e. Make Appointments with CCE: make online with LionShare; can also visit M-F, 1-4 drop in times. Good idea for those not sure what industry want to go into, etc… reflect and discuss these types of things. Can perform formal/informal career assessments (2/person for free; alumni as well).
   f. Free services: clothing services ~ reserve suits to borrow; subscriptions: Going Global, Chronicles of Higher Ed… all free but people don’t know and don’t use them despite being excellent guides
   g. Career Fair app: Columbia has own career fair app in app store; “Columbia Career Fair Plus” ~ over 120+ companies. Filter to interests/priorities for career fair.
   h. Newsletter/workbook: we should all be getting newsletter; every week has a ton of information. Additional opportunities = things that employers don’t directly send them but things they find out about through other means (go at the bottom)
   i. Workshops: Come to the special workshops b/c employers looking for people in different ways. Keep up to date. Special workshops and networking with alumni for international students ~ very tailored.
   j. LionShare: (cc.columbia.edu → blue lion image)
i. LGBTQ special event ~ many major companies coming to this workshop
ii. Much more than just finance and resumes; especially big field = non-profit &
education
iii. Many opportunities throughout USA
iv. If don’t set profile right, system won’t work for you; go in, add photo, add
undergrad;

k. **Columbia Career Connections**: join to see Columbia network very active ~ specific
groups on LinkedIn ~ connect with professional network and associations → our official
group

4. Social Committee Update (GSAC Social Chair)
   a. **Mystery Room event** this Friday - 7:00 and 8:30 slots; 2 tickets available for 8:30 (1
      online, 1 being sold directly)
   b. **Some future ideas**: fundraiser for Puerto Rico

5. Announcements (President)
   a. Update on **Dodge Gym Access for CUMC PhD Students** → issue has been resolved
   b. Vote to support **Dean’s initiative in improving meeting frequency of thesis
      committees**
      i. During discussion, it was pointed out that there is a lot of variation amongst
different departments, meaning that requiring all committees to meet each
semester is not necessary or not possible for all students/professors.
      ii. Based on this feedback, we shelved the vote.
   c. **Student Representation and GSAC Funding Sources**: A Conversation (the main
      content for this section is contained in a related PowerPoint, which can be made available
upon request; the presenter was Frank)
      i. **Important notes**:
         1. Potential changes proposed here would happen after end of academic year
         2. Today’s objective is not to vote on this issue but rather to develop and vote
            on NEXT month
      ii. **Background information**:
         1. GSAC covers 2 separate bodies: all PhD students, all GSAS MA & PhD bodies
            → difficult to meet student needs, especially with MAs
         2. Reason for 2 bodies we cover is b/c the GSAS office of the dean similarly
            serves these two roles (dean of GSAS + Vice President of Graduate
            Education → issues all PhDs on campus)
         3. Explanation for how CU organization is set up (various schools, faculties,
departments etc...) ~ GSAS is covered twice, part of confusion
         4. GSAS ONLY responsible for academic needs of non-GSAS PhD students
      iii. **Issue**:
         1. GSAS students only covered by GSAC; non-GSAS PhD students covered by
            both GSAC and school specific government body (ie GSO, EGSC, etc.); Non
            GSAS MA students covered by specific government bodies
         2. 67% of GSAC students are GSAS students; 33% are Master’s; 33% =
            non-GSAS students
3. Currently, only GSAS pays into GSAC funds - non-GSAS students do not pay into the fund but we still do activities for them.

4. **Concern:** those who aren’t contributing to pot still covered by GSAC; also, those students divided into which organization can help them with what

**iv. Proposed changes:**

1. Create new GSAS-dependent Student government that only represents GSAS MA & PhD students (either GSAC transforms into this or GSAC is shut down and there is a new group) -> sole, main governing body for all MA & PhDs; still serve as liaison with dean’s office, but only for GSAS.

2. PhD governing board - PhD reps from all PhD schools’ student governments across campus; meet monthly with VP of Graduate Educatio

**v. Proposed ad hoc committee:** recommend changes and explore possibility of transformation/changes to GSAC; work with VP of Admin as well as Dean Alonso on the transition

**vi. VP of Admin:** responsible for informing student groups of changes; every group knows who is responsible for what → every student will know who to go to to address needs, etc...

**vii. Q&A: (Frank provided the answers)**

1. Q: Is Dean Alonso aware of this? A: Yes. He proposed this, but it’s really up to us. This isn’t being imposed; probably would be easier for students, but it’s up to GSAC to determine

2. Q: How is this better if it’s still 2 different bodies? A: The improvement is that MA students would have better representation with student government, all GSAS-specific students would make sure that only the students paying into the pot are taking advantage of events; also, help clean up administration. When we meet with Dean Alonso, we are bringing up issues relevant to 2 sets of groups, and that can complicate matters b/c pulled in different ways. We aren’t fully representing MA students even though they’re paying into this

3. Q: What about the funding allocations? A: The subcommittees, etc. - the funds will come from each school's government; GSAC wouldn't share their funds with other committees, because those committees don't pay into them

4. Q: What is the timeline and what would the steering committee do? A: Up to ad hoc committee; logical choice would be to use the year to answer questions and set up; probably set up elections earlier so new committee starts forming early next year, already ready and prepared for the new academic term

5. Q: Does GSAS-specific governing body mean there would be more funds available to GSAS funds than before? A: By percentage-wise, yes; amount would not increase, but it would be more focused on GSAS students; example: currently, any GSAC student is eligible for travel grant, but in the future, only GSAS would be able to get them
6. Q: Have you ever talked to anyone not in GSAS? A: 400 of the non-GSAC people are GSO, but Frank is the new president → engineering being voted out anyway and they're fine; The 400 at Biomedical campuses will be greatly affected, but Frank is going to be more involved; most concerned = doctoral subcommittees

7. Q: More so about the doctoral-wide committee - have you talked to any of the other schools who would be brought in? A: It hasn't been shared with those committees, but it's not like they'd have official meetings, etc... it's just a rep who meets with a dean once and they talk about their issues with the dean. More like a "meet with the dean" for those reps; not extra work than an extra hour a month

8. Q: The students not in GSAS will lose so much; even with Frank as new GSO president, probably would take a long time to get comparable services A: Yes, that’s why told all the subdoctoral committees that they need to be here for the vote. It's a small representation within the GSAC group, but there's a lot to lose.

9. Q: Can they vote? A: Only the Department Representatives can vote on this.

10. Q: So, if this gets approved, in a year from now, there’s not going to be this type of meeting? A: Department Reps wouldn’t be part of a group anymore

11. Q: Was GSAC integrated into other schools b/c they shared interests with other GSAS students? Is there going to be a committee that allows for logistic connections between student governments? A: That's going to be the PhD governing body

12. Q: So, decisions made by that body would affect MAs? A: No, only PhDs.

13. Q: But there are times that there are issues that affect ALL grad students, can they all be involved? A: At that level, those issues would go straight to the senate. This would make it easier to work with the union - if it goes through - so no matter what, everyone gets fair representation

14. Q: Senate representation from us? A: Yes, we have three GSAS senators. You should take super large issues to them, such as housing.

15. Q: Under this PhD new committee, would GSAS have one representative or one from Humanities, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences? A: I couldn’t answer that myself; it’ll be up to the ad hoc committee, but 3 reps would make sense.

viii. **Vote:** next meeting on ad hoc committee. If interested in joining, talk to Frank.

ix. **Final point:** constant issue for steering committee and board “you’re all suffering through messiness, trying to clean it up.

6. **Changes to the Constitution**
   a. **Change in representation of SEAS PhD students** - **Verbiage** → **approved**
   b. **Q&A:**
      i. Q: So, those engineering students have no access to Dean Alonso? Are these changes happening already? A: This is a different change; they are OK with this, they
have more money, and they are better organized; we have months to work on various issues and prepare for this

7. Committee updates
   a. Alumni & Career Development
      i. Updates:
         1. 5 year plan to develop goal of helping grad students stay connected with Columbia;
         2. Virtual Networking Event (11/10, 11/11, 11/13) -> meet with alumni from program or in desired field ~ great opportunity for upcoming graduates who are looking to network;
         3. Annual alumni and student mixer in spring (similar to last spring but regular event to bring alumni in each year);
         4. TEDEx Seminar on Skype or online ~ give graduates the chance to participate and “give back” to Columbia without having to come onto campus. More info about what they’re doing now, etc... ;
         5. Specific networking and job searching skills for international students, how to network in US and abroad, etc...
      ii. Feel free to contact Frank if want to join committee
   b. Budget & Finance
      i. Updates: SIG deadline is on Friday; 11/17 = Travel Grants (for conference in spring); $500 1 time
      ii. Committee: meet to discuss allocating funds
   c. Culture
      i. Joshua Bell Performs Bernstein’s Serenade (October 25th) - Sold Out
      ii. White Light Festival: Pergolesi: Stabat Mater (dance) (November 2nd) - Sold Out
      iii. White Light Festival: Jordi Savall: The Routes of Slavery (November 15) → Sold Out
      iv. Committee: Talk afterwards
   d. Quality of Life
      i. Updates: seen a lot of issues amongst students working out various offices and organizations around Columbia to arrange leaves, etc...
      ii. Currently working on developing handbook of various issues and how to answer those problems
      iii. About 6 people on committee; others can join
      iv. GSAS has responded well to initiative and wants to integrate our work into the GSAS handbook ~ try to figure out how a grad student actually trying to solve these issues would go about doing so and what obstacles are in the way → make comprehensive and clear to solve some stress, etc...

8. External Representatives Updates:
   a. Health (Morningside, CUMC): meeting on Thursday ~ had been some miscommunications with AETNA and dental plan offered to students, stopped offering that without telling students; students signed up but didn’t get. In compensation, giving those people a free access to a discount plan called "Vital Savings." Anyone else can also sign up for this
discount plan ~ $25 for academic year. Probably send to different dental offices. Unsure of deadline
b. Libraries: Graduate student grading room: go to checkout desk, ask for key (12 keys), return before end of business hours; 2M11; cold, bring sweater; tiny space but with computer and bookshelves; who is room open to? Will get back if open to engineering students
c. Graduate Workers of Columbia (GWC)/Union: 2 of bargaining committee members graduated in May and they hung around for summer, but now need to elect new members; should be getting emails from union if filled out union authorization card (not same as declaring support for union); also, check spam; everyone eligible to run, emails went out to mailing list to volunteer to run; voting held at Nous from 10-6 on Oct 6; votes counted afterwards at Brownies
d. IGB: no updates
e. Disabilities: Senate disabilities subcommittee will meet for first time on 23rd
f. ISSO: meeting with David Austell on Friday; will get some info from ISSO then
9. Senators’ Updates: none
   a. Social Sciences ~ do you know anyone who would be willing to run for Senator, b/c our Social Science senator would like to step down, but cannot fully represent us anymore; usually a 2 year term, but can be 1; really good position, do lots of legislative work with university; meet once a month on Friday
10. New Business (Open Forum)
11. Committee sign-ups & Adjournment (President)