STEERING COMMITTEE:

President: Sarah Joseph
Vice President Administration: Lisa Kahl
Vice President Communications: Ian Bradley-Perrin
Budget & Finance: Sarah Arkebauer
Quality of Life: Sandra Chiritescu
Alumni & Career Development: Tauriq Jenkins
Culture: David Mejia
Social: Frank Cusimano
DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATION

VOTING SEATS: 60 (39 GSAS; 21 NON-GSAS)

- Filled: 24
- Vacant: 36

ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING & PRESERVATION (0/2)

- Unrepresented: Architecture, Urban planning

ARTS & SCIENCES: BIOMEDICAL* (4/10)

- Unrepresented: Biomedical Informatics; Genetics & Development; Genetics and Development; Cellular, Molecular & Biomedical Studies; Microbiology, Immunology & Infection; Neurobiology & Behavior; Pathobiology & Molecular Medicine

ARTS & SCIENCES: HUMANITIES (8/13)

- Unrepresented: Art History & Archaeology; Classical Studies; Classics; MESAAS; Music; Slavic Languages

ARTS & SCIENCES: NATURAL SCIENCES (4/9)

- Unrepresented: Astronomy; Biological Sciences; Earth and Environmental Sciences; Mathematics; Physics; Psychology

ARTS & SCIENCES: SOCIAL SCIENCES (3/5)

- Unrepresented: Anthropology; Sociology

BUSINESS (1/1)

ENGINEERING* (2/10)


INTERNATIONAL & PUBLIC AFFAIRS (1/1)

JOURNALISM (0/1)

- Unrepresented: Communications

PUBLIC HEALTH (1/4)

- Unrepresented: Biostatistics, Epidemiology; Sociomedical Sciences

NURSING (0/1)

SOCIAL WORK (0/1)

MA PROGRAMS (0/1)

*The GSAS Biomedical programs and the Engineering programs are represented by GSO and EGSC, respectively. These two groups send at least one representative to our monthly meetings.

ADMINISTRATIVE

IVY+

In October, GSAC attended the Ivy+ conference held at Brown. Each of the other Ivy League schools, MIT, and the University of Chicago were present. There were open discussions about Unionization efforts, Advocacy, and Resources. A major topic from the
meeting is whether to expand Ivy+ to include the University of Chicago including a vote, who recently requested to join. By the vote held, University of Chicago was voted to join, however, there was some push back from the opposition and therefore their inclusion is still up for debate. The next conference will be held at Harvard University. We also learned that the 2017 national NAGPS meeting will be held at Columbia University.

SENATE ELECTION
The GSAS Student Senator for the Pure Sciences term ended at the beginning of the summer term. In May we held elections via ElectionBuddy to fill this open seat. Two candidates were self-nominated. Stuart Aidan Quinn, a 3rd year student in the Pathology and Cell Biology program, was elected to fill the position with 61 votes (62.9%) to 36 votes of the 965 students eligible to vote.

In September the Social Science senator left the position. Voting was held in November during the plenary meeting. One candidate was self-nominated. Cristy Lynn Vo, a student in the Political Science department was elected to fill the position with 2 votes out of 2 eligible voters.

EMERGENCY ELECTION
Due to unforeseen circumstances, Tauriq Jenkins stepped down as Alumni and Career Development Chair. An election was held in December and Adam Blajez, a self-nomination, and only candidate was elected to fill the position for the Spring Semester.

INVITED PLENARY SPEAKERS
• September 2016: Office of University Life
• October 2016: Student Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL)
• November 2016: Center for Career and Education (CCE)

CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION (OCTOBER)
Addition of Sections 14-16, Article X. Usage of GSAC Funds

Verbiage:
"Section 14. GSAC shall allocate a portion of its funds to award two graduate students from Appendix I and one non-student for their outstanding contribution to GSAC and the GSAS community called the ‘Chinweike Okegbe Service Award’.

Section 15. GSAC may receive nominations by the penultimate Plenary Meeting of the academic year. The GSAC Steering Committee will subsequently select the recipients of the ‘Chinweike Okegbe Service Award’ and announce the winners at the final Plenary Meeting of the academic year.

Section 16. Recipients of the ‘Chinweike Okegbe Service Award’ will receive a certificate of commendation and an equal share of the portion of the funds allocated from Section 14.”

INFORMATION ABOUT CHINWIEKE OKEGBE AWARD
Link: http://columbiagsac.wpengine.com/gsac-administration/awards/chinweike-okegbe-service-award/

The Chinweike Okegbe Service Award (formerly GSAC Service Award) is presented annually to two graduate students (Masters or PhD) and one non-student for service to the Columbia graduate
community, with a special emphasis placed on their support of the Graduate Student Advisory Council. Recipients may only receive the award once. The award was established as the GSAC Service Award in 2015, and became a named award in honor of Dr. Chinweike Okegbe in 2016. The Chinweike Okegbe Service Award is awarded at the final GSAC plenary meeting of the year, traditionally in mid-April. The steering committee of GSAC selects the recipients of the award (and are thus ineligible to receive the award during their term). All current Columbia graduate students are welcome to place nominations by contacting members of the steering committee with letters of support. The award includes a certificate of commendation and a token of recognition for their service to the University (see GSAC Constitution, Article X, Section 14-16).

STUDENT GROUP APPROVAL FALL 2016
New approved student groups: 4
Unapproved group applications: 0

Kurdish Studies Student Association (September)
The aim and purpose of the Kurdish Studies Student Association (KSSA) is to advance scholarship about Kurdish histories, cultures and languages. The KSSA will first and foremost serve to foster graduate student community around a shared interest in Kurdish Studies. In addition to organizing graduate student conferences, faculty panels, films and cultural events and other academic activities, the Kurdish Studies Student Association strives to cultivate relationships between Kurdish Studies and adjoining academic subfields such as Turkish, Armenian and Assyrian Studies.

Khorlo Tibetan Studies Graduate Student Group (October)
The aim purpose of the Khorlo Tibetan Studies Graduate Student Group is to promote broader awareness and interest on Tibet and Tibetan Studies

South Asian Women’s Collective (October)
The SAWC will be a space where women of South Asian origin (India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Maldives, Nepal and Bhutan) or nationality can bond as a part of a larger support system. While this is a large group on campus, they are usually first generation feminists who are exploring the concepts of independence and freedom of living. Once they graduate, South Asian women, both in the U.S.A. and in their home countries seldom follow through to their career trajectories in comparison to their Western counterparts. Where spaces like APIA and Kappa Phi Lambda exist for women of East Asian origin and nationality, South Asian women have no such resources. Our mission is to put in place a student organization that is a combination of the aspects of sorority sisterhood and individual empowerment through robust programming, outreach and lifelong bonds that can substitute for the societal, familial and cultural bonds they sacrifice to lead modern lives.

Bliss and Wisdom International (November)
The purpose of this organization is to achieve a cooperative society that embeds genuine and trustworthy relationships, to create an everlasting natural environment, to experience an eternal spiritual bliss, and to establish a venture of wisdom to benefit the public.

BUDGET & FINANCE

STUDENT INITIATIVE GRANTS
APPLICATIONS:
Number of grants submitted: 17
Total funding requested: $13750
Maximum funding requested by one group: $1000
Minimum funding requested by one group: $450
Median funding requested: $1000

**AWARDS:**
Number of grants awarded: 14 (82% of requested grants)
Total funding awarded: $8450 (61% of requested funds)
Maximum funding awarded to one group: $1000
Minimum funding awarded to one group: $450
Median funding awarded: $500

**TRAVEL GRANTS**
**APPLICATIONS:**
Number of grants submitted: 21
Humanities: 9
Social Sciences: 2
Natural Sciences: 7
Biomedical Sciences: 0
Professional Schools: 3

Average funding requested: $487
Total funding requested: $10215

**AWARDS:**
Number of grants awarded: 17
Humanities: 6
Social Sciences: 2
Natural Sciences: 6
Biomedical Sciences: 0
Professional Schools: 3

Average funding awarded: $300
Total funding awarded $5100

**QUALITY OF LIFE**

**NAGPS ADVOCACY SUMMIT & LEGISLATIVE ACTION DAYS**
This semester the GSAC Quality of Life Chair attended the National Conference hosted by the National Association of Graduate and Professional Schools in Stony Brook. This conference provides student representatives an opportunity to network and interact with graduate student leaders from across the country.

**ISSO**
This semester the GSAC Quality of Life Chair discussed with ISSO the idea to potentially open up a selection of CCE’s services to spouses of international students to facilitate their job search
on the US market.

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT
This semester the GSAC Quality of Life Chair assisted and accompanied two students with individual problems. One student was assisted in navigating with UAH the issue of a subletter who had not paid their rent. Another student was accompanied during a formal grievance hearing regarding faculty misconduct.

CULTURE

THEATER
SLEEP NO MORE
• Date: November 16, 2016
• Location: The McKittrick Hotel
• Tickets sold: 30/30
• Ticket purchase price: $2595
• Ticket sale price: $40
• Net: -$1395
• Non-GSAC guests allowed: Yes
• Description: Punchdrunk’s SLEEP NO MORE is an award-winning theatrical experience that tells Shakespeare’s Scottish tragedy through a film noir lens. Audiences move freely through the epic world of the story at their own pace, choosing where to go and what to see, and everyone’s journey is different and unique.

SOCIAL

ORIENTATION
YANKEES MLB GAME
• Date: Aug 28, 2016
• Location: Yankee Stadium
• Tickets sold: 45 of 48
• Ticket purchase price: $1210
• Ticket sell price: $10
• Net: -$800
• Non-GSAS guests allowed: No
• GSAC volunteers required: 2
• Description: Yankees play the Orioles.

WICKED: THE MUSICAL
• Date: Sept 1, 2016
• Location: Gershwin Theatre
• Tickets sold: 30/30
• Ticket purchase price: $1574.5
• Ticket sell price: $25
• Net: -$824.5
• Non-GSAS guests allowed: No
• GSAC volunteers required: 1
• Description: Broadway Production of Wicked
THE PARLOUR
• Date: Sept 2, 2016
• Location: The Parlour (UWS)
• Tickets sold: 226/220
• Event price: $4520
• Ticket sell price: $12 - $15
• Net: - $1652
• Non-GSAS guests allowed: Yes
• GSAC volunteers required: 3
• Description: Drinks and Appetizer event at a local venue to kick off the new school year.

FESTIFALL
• Date: Oct 8, 2016
• Location: Columbia University Ancel Plaza
• Attendance: GSAS estimate ~408
• Event cost (GSAC contribution): $3,000
• Ticket sell price: free
• Net: - $3,000
• Non-GSAS guests allowed: No
• GSAC volunteers required: 2
• GSAS administrative support: 1
• Description: Free food, drinks, music, games and the opportunity to meet graduate students from schools across campus.

TEASE
SEPTEMBER- JAKE’S DILEMMA- GSAC’S NIGHT AT THE BAR
• Date: Aug 30, 2016
• Location: Jake’s Dilemma (UWS)
• Tickets sold: 60/75
• Event cost: $1760
• Ticket sell price: $10
• Net: -$1220
• Non-GSAS guests allowed: Yes, but not eligible for open bar wristband
• GSAC volunteers required: 3

OCTOBER- HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY WITH GSAC, TC, & EGSC
• Date: Oct 28, 2016
• Location: Grace Dodge Hall, Teachers College
• Tickets sold: RSVP Only
• Event cost: $650
• Ticket sell price: free
• Net: -$650
• Non-GSAS guests allowed: EGSC and TC only.
• Description: Co-hosted with EGSC and TC. There was giant jenga, a photo booth, dancing, drinks, a costume contest and food.

NOVEMBER- POST US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION NIGHT AT THE BAR
• Date: Nov 10, 2016
• Location: The Gin Mill at the Speakeasy (UWS)
• Tickets sold: 81/120
• Event cost: $1824
• Ticket sell price: $5
• Net: -$1419
• Non-GSAS guests allowed: Yes, but not eligible for drink tickets
• GSAC volunteers required: 2
• Description: Open Bar event at the Gin Mill after the US Presidential Event for students to discuss the issues and enjoy the night.

DECEMBER- GSAC WINTER FORMAL
• Date: Dec 16, 2016
• Location: The DL (LES)
• Tickets sold: 79 of 350
• Event cost: $14700 – Currently Negotiating Partial Refund.
• Ticket sell price: $30 Student, $35 Guest
• Net: -$12290 – Currently Negotiating Partial Refund.
• Non-GSAS guests allowed: Yes, cost was $35 for them.
• GSAC volunteers required: 2
• Description: Open Bar event at The DL with a Private Room and Bar with Live DJ and Exclusive Access.