DEMOGRAPHICS

➤ 419 total responses (13% of GSAS population)

➤ 60.8% female, 38% male

➤ 80.9% PhD, 18.1% free-standing MA students

➤ 72.4% domestic, 27.4% international students

➤ Outreach needs to be improved, especially among international and MA students
FINANCIAL STABILITY

➤ 48.5% of overall respondents and 46.3% of Ph.D students disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement “I feel adequately financially stable at Columbia.”

➤ Of such Ph.D. students, 89% are on a fellowship; only 16% of those are outside fellowships only
Housing

➤ 60% of respondents spend more than 45% of their income on rent.

➤ Of these, 66% are in Columbia Housing

➤ Back to the fellowship-funded Ph.D.-s who feel financially unstable: 69% in Columbia Housing, 48% spend more than 45% of income on rent.

➤ Adjusting housing prices might significantly reduce the financial strain
➤ 65.7% feel that their relationship with their advisors is productive; 63.3% feel “nurtured and encouraged”; 65% are comfortable having differences of opinion with their advisors

➤ 48.4% were not aware of the GSAS mentor-advisee expectations prior to the survey

➤ While 42.2% feel that they are likely to face consequences if they fail to comply with these expectations, only 11.8 feel the advisor would face consequences if they failed to comply.

➤ However, only 30.6% feel that stronger regulation of advisor/advisee is needed
INTERNATIONAL

➤ Although they are the majority of graduate student population, international students are underrepresented in this survey

➤ Few (7%) were directly affected by the travel ban, and few (8.7%) have been harassed at the border; nonetheless, many are concerned about future restrictive policies (37.5%) or harassment (49.7%).

➤ 46.5% are happy with the resources available, although most (68%) are aware of their availability

➤ Only 32.7% feel that the support for non-native English speakers is adequate

➤ Of the 16 extended comments from international students, 5 called for more support around taxes; 3 for more support around immigration issues, specifically for students who require medical leaves or are at the end of their 5-year funding packages.
10% of respondents identified as having a physical or mental disability

57.5% said they disagree or strongly disagree with the statement “Do you feel comfortable informing the university/your department of your disability without fear of discrimination?”

52% said they experienced discrimination based on their disability

47.5% said their disability “somewhat” affects their research; 42.5% agreed or strongly agreed that it does. Teaching is only somewhat less affected

45% have sought help with the Disabilities Office, but of them, 76% felt that the accommodations offered did not cater to or only “somewhat” catered to graduate student-specific concerns
GENERAL REMARKS

➤ When asked to elaborate on quality of life in comments, the following trends emerge in addition to those previously mentioned.

- Insufficient health coverage (dental and vision)
- Insufficient workspace
- Insufficient supervisor/advisor accountability
- Confusion over administrative procedures, accessibility or timely delivery of information
- A general sense of neglect and dishonesty from the administration, and of inaccessibility/inadequacy of communications channels