
Student Senate Meeting

Friday, Mar 6th, 2020 | 5-8pm | Grace Dodge 363

154 Thorndike Hall | Box 44 | 525 West 120th Street New York, NY 10031 | E-mail: student-senate@tc.columbia.edu
[Robert Rules](#)

Call to Order: Attendance

Present: (take attendance)

Absent:

Agenda

Old Business (2 min)

- Approve minutes from last Senate Meeting
- Approve today's agenda

Gallery, Comments & Senatorial Reports (30 min)

- Gallery Report: Azsanee Truss (Podfest); Afaf/Kairat (limited computer labs)
 - a. Afaf/Kairat petition to extend library hours and computers**
 - b. Students have been leading the efforts and petitions toward increasing longer hours at computer labs
 - c. Hours in the lab were decreased, no prior announcements, kicked out at 7pm. 3 years ago, there were public computers on the 2nd floor, and some in the 1st floor.
 - d. Petition: demand increasing the library and computer labs. Signed by just over 20 students. Talk to Tom Rock and the computer department. Variety of student needs, some need extended hours for specific software. Students regardless of social class, should receive the services they need to succeed. Some of us need the computers to read.
 - e. The labs are under-advertised; handling should have been better. Lab on Macy 345, hours are inconsistent, no one knows the hours, it's cold.
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- f. Comments from other students: they have tried to ask the library, limiting our right/access to the college. TC is gradually decreasing access. We deserve better services.
- g. Lights for study rooms on campus are dim and uncomfortable. Horace mann lab: spacious, more comfortable than others. We are asking for 2am hours extensions - family + life means some students can't work til 9pm.
- h. Some students are afraid to go to outside resources, feeling unsafe walking down the street.
- i. Maria (advisor): did a 6 month study, 100 students come between 11pm-2am. Cost to keeping it staffed versus the amount who use it was seen as feasible.
- j. Want for transparency regarding historical attempts made to extend library hours.
- k. Vending machine for hot beverages.

l. Slide presentation link:

m. Presentation link:

n. Azsane: Podfest, MASC Lab event

- o. Social change through scholarship is the mission of MASC Lab.
- p. Podfest: Smith Learning, multimodal celebration of podcasting and media making. Turn theater into museum, shows work throughout the year
- q. April 24th
- r. Request for Additional funds from senate.
- s. Question: Just Lit PD, is it related and is it rescheduled? Event will be rescheduled, June 4th (Friday). Yes they are related
- t. Question: Had applied for a student org grant? MASC isn't a student org so not at the moment. Student orgs haven't used their full budget, maybe others are interested
- u. Contact Azs if you'd like to sponsor!: aat2178@tc.columbia.edu
- v. Send email on the slack and in the chat on Zoom

w. Slide presentation Link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AAExsON2RLqbKDeobyWzsv0CPKmP12TZ/view>

- Advisor Reports: Tom, Maria
 - a. Maria: No events (cancelled or postponed) going on til after break due to cautions for Covid-19, til after spring break
 - b. Question: classes given in person, same process?
 - i. No. They are giving faculty options.
 - c. Questions: Members of student group: Is this going to extend to office hours; what determines what is a necessary event
 - i. Anything faculty or academic is still on, they may offer virtual/online office hours. Today, it is not impacting the classes and academics are essential.
 - ii. No word on interruption on classes or office hours. Other events and gatherings have been cancelled
 - d. Question: Students felt like community is something they want at a time like this, it's scary intimidating, double whammy on not meeting; Virtual community event
 - i. Health fee, they are doing virtual and in person support groups! A resource they have for students. We can look into virtual chat/cavas group/something place where students try to connect while we're going through this
 - e. Question: Attempt being made to share info
 - i. It's on the preparedness website, everything related to this event, On TC's and Columbia's health website. It's updated daily. Working on separate email with Alana to send to student
 - ii. This is not self isolation; this is cancelling events that are not essential. Doesn't mean that we can join together; organized non essential events are cancelled
 - f. Is TC taking any steps to address xenophobia/bias towards asian community?
 - i. Yes. Resources available to students, and sent out an email.
 - ii. Student advocate for the arts of columbia, Solidarity statement against xenophobia/bias
 - iii. Maybe there's something more we can do
 - g. GSC Graffiti, anti-Chinese on two buildings
 - i. Advisors (and some senators) were unaware of this. Will find out more from University Life office

New Business (1 h)

- Proposal voting results - all proposals have passed!
 - a. Bagel Brunch, Silence isn't Surrender, CBS Social Enterprise Info
 - b. Quick vote for CBS poster
 - i. Publicize summer fellowship. Poster is on Slack. This would be posted on social media or print
 - ii. Voted and passed
 - c. Bagel Brunch has been cancelled
 - d. SIS is pending.
 - e. CBS Cancelled
- Sustainability Committee - [petition for amendment](#) (Mercer, Karen, Katie)
 - a. Voting
 - b. Plans to draft amendment to change Go Green Senator to Sustainability Chair
 - c. Also plan to reach out to existing sustainability task forces
 - d. Will faculty be a part of ? Wrote it with the help of Dr. Oren. Plan to work with both student groups and faculty/staff. Hopefully the faculty who are working on the sustainable futures, no specific but will do so
 - e. Voted: approved!!
 - f. Would fall under article 10, section 9
 - g. Will be posted for the TC community for 2 weeks before being official in the constitution.
- Sustainability Roundtable update (Karen)
 - a. TC-wide event: what TC students are doing in regards to sustainability, great seeing who was in the room. CONversation with all stakeholders, food services, hazardous waste, e waste, residential services, energy usage, all departments and did a short PPT. Great step toward transparency.
 - b. Residential services about general awareness, composting, food waste, and Ozzi box. Student orgs and OSA awareness as well.
 - c. If anyone is interested in going efforts or has recommendation, contact the sponsoring senators: Quinta, K Aren, Katie, Mercer
 - d. College is actively working on sustainability efforts

- Students' request for battery recycling bins at TC
 - a. Engineering school as e-waste bins. How do we get them? Contact their facilities to see how they got them? We can figure out how they got them. People in the diversity office, some collection of batteries. How we are going to recycle all the various times of waste.
 - b. Whittier doesn't have an area to put batteries? Actually have some in laundry rooms. Just sent the email earlier this week.
 - c. Will reach out to Selema on moving out recycling.
- Communication Officer duties
 - a. Current duties are shared on eboard, currently
 - b. Late night unapproved emails were sent. Suspended her email duties, not following policy.
 - c. Did not want to meet with eboard or advisors. Transfer of duties were delayed.
 - d. Hasn't resigned and we haven't gone through with expulsion.
 - e. Senators will reach out to unresponsive senators and move forward with expulsions.
 - i. Carolyn will check in with Moira
 - ii. Taylor will check in with Emi
- Stole Decoration for Convocation Celebration: Black Student Network + LGBTQ + Coalition of Latinx Scholars (Cha Cha)
 - a. Students from major affinity groups - host a graduation related event for stoles related to the affinity groups
 - b. Stole decoration or stole distribution event
 - c. Utilize remaining funds from after a specific date
 - d. How much funding is anticipated? Not sure at the moment. Look at funding that we have after voting on Mar 27th to get a rough estimate on funds we haven't used; can also look at remaining funds from vacant seats
 - i. BSN is willing to sponsor too
 - ii. Maybe this is also a way where students orgs can use their current funding from senate
 - e. Considerations about distribution / logistics
 - f. 2100 person's who graduate - that's a ton!

- g. We need to leave some money for the summer
- h. Creating a proposal for funds
- i. Ask the groups how many would be interested
- j. Could be a raffle to win the stole in case we don't have it. Maybe narrowing it down to student orgs?
- k. Follow up with Trish and send updates via Slack, see what parameters we want to make, start the proposal after a green light.
- Interdepartmental Happy Hour Thursday April 2nd assistance (Amity & Shavonna)
 - a. Looking for \$400 of sponsorship
 - b. Graduate student appreciation week: April 2nd, Thursday night. We have \$150 so far.
 - c. Location: Amity Hall
- Student Action Forum update (Cesar & Katie)
 - a. Talking to senators about issue, specifically the xenophobia via coronavirus
 - b. Continue to facilitate talking to senators
- "Dinner's on us/Please join us!" (Jonthon)
 - a. Students in the Anthropology department will be attending Lambros Comitas funeral on Monday
 - b. Student funded conferences on Climate Change from C&T. Katie and Jonthon will be meeting with them and will be drafting a proposal thereafter
 - c. DCI, offer some of the senate funds from those
 - d. M/Th/F - distribute food, also inform people to nominate themselves for election
 - e. Still unclear on whether we will doing nonessential events post spring break
 - f. When? A week before announcing elections or the week of

Committee Reports (30 min)

- University Affairs Committee
 - a. Rules and Regulations Committee - all about protesting. Looking to follow up with Pres Bailey, hopefully we have one soon. Columbia has strict guidelines on how to protest, after the 1969 riots.
 - b. Plenary meeting updates next week

- Professional Development Committee
 - a. Columbia Business School Social Enterprise Fellowship! TC students can also apply if they are working with a non-profit over the summer.
 - i. The website is a bit confusing. MBA application and another for all columbia, tc, barnard application. Link is on the poster
 - b. International Alumni Panel (April) - hosted by Ziyuan, Selene. Drafting questions and hopefully people will RSVP
 - c. Business site visit: under construction, think of possible sites we could go to. Career Ed isnt sponsoring so maybe the Senate could do one. Maybe NYTimes. Alumni to contact the business. Any ideas/contacts, reach out to Vela. Thinking about big companies, maybe presentations on their hiring process and the talent they're looking for.
- Student Life Committee
 - a. Bagel Brunch (Mar 11th) - but postponed/cancelled
 - b. Finals Coffee-Tasting
 - c. Stole Decoration
- Diversity Affairs Committee
 - a. Campus Cousins - week of Admitted Students Day or after
 - i. OISS - gaining interest of students who are going to be around this fall (training session for them)
- Academic Affairs Committee
 - a. Assisting at C&T Graduate-Led Conference
 - i. Katie asked for a request for funding.
 - ii. Still trying to come up with an event or sponsoring another (maybe Dinner on us, please join us)

Executive Board Reports (15 min)

- Treasurer Updates
 - a. Have 42% of funds remaining
 - b. 7 events happening this semester.
 - c. Allocating funds for resigned senators?
 - i. Using relevant position funds sponsoring relevant events
 - ii. Maybe create a form, apply through the form to use additional funds

- iii. Considering gathering or non-gathering events, enriching digitally, like the stole decoration
 - iv. Summer funding, may-may year instead of sept-sept. Sept-Sept is the way the university works
- Vice President Updates
 - a. Update on First-Gen/Diversity Convocation
 - b. Committee for Community & Diversity Meeting
 - i. TC Office of College Events has a new website, very detailed and thorough. For major conferences that department would hosts, with timelines and resources
 - ii. A lot on coronavirus, creating the flyers
 - iii. Student Research in Diversity Grant - research that addresses diversity
 - c. Will be looking for a new GLSD Director with the search committee
- President Updates
 - a. Interviewed TC NEXT candidates
 - i. Down to 2 or 3 finalist
 - b. Interviewed Associate Dean & Vice Provost for Research candidates
 - i. New position that the Provost created
 - ii. In charge of setting research direction, DEI issues, mentorship with graduate students.
 - iii. VP-elect Marion is on the committee as well
 - c. Committee for Community & Diversity Meeting
 - i. Above
 - d. Attended TC Board of Trustees Meeting
 - i. Coronavirus.
 - ii. Bailey announced there is a task force set up. Keeping on close tabs about the update, and collaborating with CU Health. New website, sent out through an email, also on TC twitter, where you can find more updates on corona

Announcements (10 min)

- Career Workshop Series in March and April from 12-2pm on Tuesdays at HM 438!

- Jonthon: Katie Embree meeting on work study policy, reachout to Jonthon if interested in the meeting or the topic
- Creating a historian position Katie
 - a. We used to, the work study position, we got rid of it (past senates).

Adjournment (1 min)

Next Meeting Agenda Items

(to fill)