
Student Senate Meeting

Friday, Apr 17th, 2020 | 5-8pm | Zoom: <https://teacherscollege.zoom.us/j/576052135>

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 (1 h)

- Gallery Report
 - a. Dr Katie Conway (Chief of Staff); Jeree Matherson (Director of Special Projects); Steven David Torres (Former Senate Vice President/SQE); Dana Asby (Former Senator/SQE)- speaking on the Thorndike renaming project
 - i. SQE was formed as a result of unarmed black men being killed, bringing light to the topic, spun off as a conversation of racial inequity
 - ii. Bias related incident was a result of SQE
 - iii. Thorndike Initiative: discussions of names would be, the mission of changing the name. There is only one report, blessed/cosigned by all admin and student senate.
 - iv. Went to the Board of Trustees, there are lots of leadership changes and graduations of students working on the project
 - v. Thorndike would be a learning opportunity, why we want to change the name, meaning behind changing the name, and how it aligns with TC's mission
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- vi. There are still faculty and students who view Thorndike as an important scholar in education and psychology, so there are different perspectives throughout TC
- vii. How should we get on the same page with all these different perspectives?
- viii. AMNH: did an interesting portrayal of a problematic exhibit “analog pop-up video”
 - 1. NYTimes: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/20/arts/design/natural-history-museum-diorama.html>
- ix. Plan: have conversations and invite Student Affairs Committee to see the exhibit, the committee can bring a suggestion to the full board, potentially for action
- x. It has not brought them to the board, a student senate president raised this as a potential issue for topic of discussion to the board
- xi. Question: what’s the best approach to get everyone on board?
 - 1. Educational exhibit
 - 2. Other ideas
- xii. Question: Engage with the impact of knowing Thorndike’s eugenicist views on students who come to study topics related to racial/social equity topics...?
 - 1. Some students/faculty still may not agree; they are looking for unanimity
 - 2. Views are not widely known, educating the community would go a long way and more powerful statement
 - 3. SQE wanted to have a town hall, there were other ideas as well, but it just didn’t happen
- xiii. Question: how do we grapple with TC’s mission of social justice and the thorndike building’s existence?
 - 1. Katie Conway has been advancing this issue in many conversations with senate and other rooms
 - 2. Jeree: Some of the foundation is laid, the momentum wants to be picked up, and we can coordinate to continue this effort, that’s what’s next. Perhaps the ad hoc committee on Senate that would keep it going

B. Advisor Reports: Tom, Maria

1. Tom: Coming Together Website place for resources, support, and continued connection on TC homepage:
 - a. OISS hosted a Town Hall meeting with President Bailer and Provost Rowley
 - b. Weekly Program called international homeroom: wellness and topics beyond wellness, hosted by Student support and counseling with invited guests. Last week's topic: impact of pass failure
 - c. Virtual Everett cafe; hosted weekly; also fitness, music, booktalks
2. Maria: Alana has sent nominations for leadership awards, ceremonies around the awards. Please nominate!
 - a. Maria is managing student wellness/need resources, refer students to her (regardless of health fee)
 - b. Fall 2020 might be virtual for Orientation; will adjust to in person if permitted, but preparing for both

New Business (1 h)

- Go Green Senator position removal - [vote](#) (needs $\frac{2}{3}$ pass)
 - a. Passed
 - b. Constitution will be amended to remove this position, and E-board will publicize this amended Constitution to the TC student body
 - c. State as an asterisk "this position was replaced by the Sustainability Chair"
- Historian position addition - [vote](#) (needs $\frac{2}{3}$ pass)
 - a. Passed
 - b. Constitution will be amended to add this position, and E-board will publicize this amended Constitution to the TC student body
- Discussion of reallocation of extra Senate funds for TC Student Emergency Fund - [programming proposal: vote](#)
 - a. Food Pantry donation has been slower to process (still processing)
 - b. SEF has helped 120+ students in the past month, which is \$30,000+
- Find out what graduating students want / need to land a job in this economy

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- a. How could we find this information out through the Institutional Research survey for graduating students?
 - i. If I'm looking for a job in ____ (location) ____, using cover letters from other universities? Eg. Language is different used in NYC is different from DC. Could have an option for people to look to this as a resource
 - ii. Question that pertains to people's career goals and how they have shifted over the course of COVID. Maybe students have turned attention to other jobs that they have transferable skills in, and if so, which other fields students are suddenly looking at
 - iii. Where are people living and where are people looking for jobs? People are leaving the city or country indefinitely, so are they now looking for jobs internationally?
 - iv. How are people staying motivated during this time? Are there resources that students are looking for to help?
 - b. Virtual Resources available to all students from the Career Ed Team
 - c. Career Advisors and their specialty areas
 - d. Services to graduates will be extended (i.e. they will be treated as "students" for continued services for period of time so that they can utilize full services)
 - Discussion of Thorndike Hall Renaming Petition and Formation of Ad Hoc committee to work on Thorndike Hall Renaming
 - a. Katie just posted on Slack! (Parliamentarian oversees formation of ad hoc committees)
 - Discussion on [work-study petition](#)
 - a. Can't modify the work-study minimum wage for this particular year - this is done by the federal government
 - b. TC's fiscal year starts in Sep 2020, starts sept. 1, 2020.
 - c. Were we thinking about Sep 2021 for the 2021-22 academic fiscal year?
 - d. Goal is to provide part-time employment to finance their education, and having a BA/BS is not the min requirement. The requirement is that you are a student and demonstrate need for work-study. Provides compensation for work completed, it's not a grant, work-study is taxed. Each school can set their own work-study compensation. TC agreed on NYC min wage. We could consider a higher min wage or variable rate, but we might need to reconsider the number of hires. Our payout to students could change but the amount from the federal government is set.

- e. Work-study is not guaranteed; it is an offer
- f. TC has used its historical data to project the need without exceeding the total
- g. Question: Institution maximum rate?
 - i. TC chose to go with NYC min wage. But TC could consider a higher rate; might just mean that positions are more competitive
- h. Question: There aren't enough work-study jobs - there already is competition for them. We should be more fairly compensated knowing that we are coming in with at least 1 BA/BS degree. Conversation on increased amount should happen. When asked to get \$16/hour instead of \$15/hour, flat-out got a "no".
- i. Senate should keep working on this issue and continue the work-study conversation, but also consider research grants and fellowships along with this
- j. There is a \$9000 max per student. If your pay is raised, you might lose your job earlier in the year/semester (from a supervisor perspective, can't keep the student on for longer)
- k. Question: who has access to which students reach the work-study max?
 - i. Advisors could ask the Financial Aid office
- Senate nominations for 2020-21 are currently ongoing and will end on Sat Apr 18th, at 5pm EDT! You may re-apply for your current positions or a new position, and please spread the word to your friends and classmates at TC!
- Give Senators time to [write debriefs and reflections](#) for next year's senators
 - a. E-board (new + outgoing) would probably reach out to you to record reflection videos!

Committee Highlights (30 min)

- University Affairs Committee
 - a. University Senate communications
 - b. COVID-19 changed a ton of things
 - c. Family / childcare
 - d. Columbia was impressed to find out TC has a Student Emergency Fund
 - e. Rules and regulations around protesting on campus - editing the document - figure out how to apply this to TC
- Professional Development Committee

- a. Brand new committee so there was quite a bit to get started on
 - b. Address current students' needs with career ed staff
 - c. LinkedIn headshot event; spoke to intl student orgs
 - d. Had planned a company visit but this got postponed due to COVID-19
 - e. Had planned on an alum panel for intl students but this got postponed due to COVID-19
 - f. Global career service website - for international jobs - but there is a system error (unfixed at the moment)
- Student Life Committee
 - a. COVID-19 :(
- Diversity Affairs Committee
 - a. All but one senator served on the CCD (5 student reps)
 - b. Worked on initiating the Campus Cousins program with OISS - didn't work out because of COVID-19 but we are going to continue it into next year's Senate!
- Academic Affairs Committee
 - a. Worked on doctoral degree audit but it was somewhat disorganized - still worth pursuing next year

Executive Board Highlights (15 min)

- Treasurer Updates
 - a. Making sure we have \$\$\$:)
 - b. Sustainability event
 - c. Connected with Residential Services Senator for a workshop
 - d. Glad that we passed the Sustainability Committee
- Parliamentarian Updates
 - a. Glad that we passed all our amendments
 - b. Looking for feedback!
- Vice President Updates
 - a. Elections went smoothly (Amen)
 - b. Filled more than 80% of senate seats in Fall 2019
 - c. Served on search committee for GLSD Director

- d. CCD - will help marion over summer with constitutional amendments
 - DCI grant selection committee
 - SRD Committee
- e. Committee for Convocation and Diversity and First time gen ceremony
- f. DCI Grant! - International Dance Day
- g. Silence Isn't Surrender with N'dea Johnson and other Senators
- h. Committees either met their goals or prepped for the next years
- i. Connected with some of you all and made some amazing friends
 - Shout out to anyone who's been to my wine nights or that i've cooked dinner for!
- j. Made a lifelong friend in my partner, Monica <3
- k. Learned a lot about myself and what my career goals were and Senate helped with that!
- l. Oh and I introduced Tom Bailey at State of the College
- President Updates
 - a. TC NEXT
 - b. CCD / DCI
 - i. Working collaboratively with admin and students on the committees
 - c. COVID

Announcements (10 min)

- Nominate yourselves and others for the Student Leader Awards!
 - <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfrVPaMn8NXDHZwuWwCdbfBGkOspbihtMjr4ReDXhwLZft0rA/viewform>
 - Award ceremony will be on May 8th; virtual
- African Studies Working Group is hosting events about COVID-19 and education in Africa! Carolyn will send the Eventbrite link
 - Next Wed at 11am

Adjournment (1 min)

Next Meeting Agenda Items

(to fill)

