



Meeting Agenda and Reports  
Monday, April 17th, 2017

**Upcoming Events / Meetings**

1. Mental Health Task Force Open Meeting, Kent 405, April 23rd 5:15 - 6pm
2. Funding at Columbia University (F@CU), location TBD, April 28th - 30th
3. SEAS the Day, Lewisohn Lawn, April 30th 1 - 3pm
4. COI, Wednesday April 19 1:15

**Position Updates**

1. President
  - a. Council Expectations
    - i. No laptops, no phones
    - ii. Promote engaging & productive discussions!
    - iii. Attendance/timeliness important—be ready to go at 9:30
  - b. Lunch with Deans
    - i. Productive discussion with Deans Kachani (Senior Vice Dean for Academic Programs) and Morrison (Vice Dean of Undergraduate Programs)
    - ii. Updates off-the-record; will share at end of meeting
  - c. Meeting with Scott Wright (Vice President for Campus Services)
    - i. Conversation about Lerner space changes in the future
    - ii. Columbia Health website redesign
      1. Ask students to take online feedback survey and attend a feedback workshop
      2. Currently difficult to navigate
  - d. Friend2Friend ESC Training
    - i. 3-hour skills-based training designed to help students effectively recognize and respond to others exhibiting indicators of stress
    - ii. Best days and times:
      1. Monday, April 24th 6-9pm
      2. Wednesday, April 26th 6-9pm
      3. **Friday, April 28th 1-4pm**
2. VP Policy
  - a. CCSC Pad/Tampons Initiative
    - i. Abby Porter + others are resolution writing
    - ii. If you have feedback, there is a survey: please respond!
  - b. Carlton Arms Chairs

- i. Huge discomfort: graduate students got in touch with admin
    - ii. Rizwan and I – attending meeting with them and UAH later this week
  - c. COI meeting again tomorrow
    - i. Danielle will be serving this year
    - ii. Lot of talk with minors, CS waitlists - fun stuff
  - d. EGSC Final Exam Schedule Resolution
    - i. Meeting Michael on Wednesday to begin drafting proposal
    - ii. Solidify projected schedules before drop date, ask professors to make changes before then
    - iii. This affects SEAS classes only: expansion work with CC/GSAS etc. is a bit more complicated, so we will tackle this smaller wave first
  - e. Better Engagement with Student Groups on Campus
    - i. Open Office-Hours (scheduled ahead of time, JCCC-style) at the end of our weekly meetings on Sundays: trying to be a better resource/liaison/advocate for student groups + centralized info/how to/how not to/effectiv methods
    - ii. Attendance to student meetings and sessions on campus to remain engaged and relevant with community discourse
  - f. Coordinating meeting with SVR
    - i. To gather full info on current training procedure
    - ii. Compare with complaints criticizing sexual violence reporting & assess
- 3. VP Comms
  - a. Website updates
    - i. Meeting Minutes Tab
    - ii. New Council Pictures!
  - b. Student Group List
  - c. Wikithon
    - i. Admin access seems unlikely at this point
    - ii. Plan going forward without admin access
      - 1. Re-do website, try to get url from Bwog
      - 2. Make google form for editing/vetting of contributions
  - d. Peer mentorship program
    - i. Sending out survey this week to mentors to gauge success of project
  - e. ESC Instagram
  - f. SoulCycle Bonding
    - i. Potential dates next week
      - 1. Tuesday @ 5:30pm
      - 2. Wednesday @ 7:30pm
      - 3. Friday @ 9:30am
    - ii. Will send signup sheet in email & GroupMe!
- 4. VP Finance
  - a. Project grants
    - i. FTF for Lion Piercer \$93.34

- ii. Committee is reaching out to groups about SEAS the day
  - b. Transfer to \$154 to Ivy Policy Conference
  - c. Met with VPFs in regards to F@CU constitution
    - i. Pre-F@CU Summit on Tuesday April 25th (time and location TBD)
  - d. Class council budget requests for next year
- 5. VP Student Life
  - a. SEAS The Day
    - i. April 30th 1-3pm
    - ii. Lewisohn Lawn reserved 11am-5pm
    - iii. If it rains, will move to Lerner
    - iv. Lerner Furniture, sound system + set-up + sound permit
    - v. Games -- Cornhole, basketball, big jenga, water-pong → Thanks 2018
    - vi. Project Grants -- Final Showcase
    - vii. Vendors: Shake Shack, Sprinkles, Panera
    - viii. Tank-Tops, Flip-Flops → final design submitted
    - ix. Using SGO surplus + Eweek Shirts
    - x. Event Review: Tuesday 4/18
    - xi. Will send out volunteering sheet
      - 1. Everyone volunteer for at least an hour!
      - 2. Will send out google sheet
  - b. Days on Campus Engineering Fair
    - i. Friday April 21st 12:30-3:30 -- Roone
    - ii. Need Volunteers → will send out sheet
- 6. U. Senator
  - a. GSSC and possible CCSC support for exam rescheduling resolution
    - i. Resolution details
      - 1. Current policy of no more than 2 final exams in one calendar day
      - 2. Want to implement no more than 2 final exams in a 24-hour period
      - 3. Student contacts CSA advisor, then CSA goes to registrar, then goes to professor to reschedule
      - 4. Eliminates students needing to directly ask their professor to reschedule final exam
    - ii. CCSC will vote on it on the next meeting
    - iii. GSSC E-vote passed
  - b. Transition from Piazza Page to Curated FAQ page
    - i. Met with Dean Plaa and Dean Morrison
    - ii. Pushback on format of Piazza page
    - iii. Alternative is Curated FAQ page
    - iv. Already have FAQs for major-specific
    - v. Thinking about more interactive format—new weekly questions
- 7. Professional Dev/AA Rep
  - a. Increased visibility/mentorship opportunities for non-CS/finance jobs

- i. Talked to Alumni Relations assistant dir (general) - could host panels (+ networking events) in fall/spring -- need to gauge student interest first
  - b. Consolidated list of events
    - ii. AA would appreciate a consolidated events list (which includes pre-professional club events + relevant events from other parts of administration to help them plan their own events better (could also help students) -- will get in touch with clubs this week/next fall
  - b. Meeting with CEAA next Monday
    - i. Interested in hosting alumni and student dinners next semester
- 8. Campus Affairs Rep
  - a. Working with JED Foundation on Mental Wellness Steering Group
    - i. Send input by Wednesday
  - b. Ivy Policy Conference this past weekend
- 9. 2020 President
  - a. Finished last t-shirt distribution
    - i. Pick up shirts in JJ13
    - ii. Potential resale

## Discussion Topics

1. Group discussion expectations (Aida - 10)
  - a. Discussions should be respectful, inclusive, and efficient
  - b. One mic one diva: give the floor to the one person who is speaking
  - c. Importance of stepping up and stepping back
  - d. Don't be afraid to give a point that isn't in agreement with the entirety of the council
  - e. Respectful conflict, disagreement can be productive but demands respect
  - f. Don't forget who you are representing
  - g. Address the idea and not personally who presented the idea (no personal attacks)
  - h. Use of "I" statements instead of "you" statements
  - i. Making sure that everyone feels like their voice is valued and accepted
  - j. No laughing, no inappropriate reactions
  - k. Speak loudly! This meeting is livestreamed
  - l. Come prepared—read discussion points ahead of time
  - m. Don't be scared to contribute, use your voice!
  - n. Be engaged in the discussion, listen to what other people are saying and add to the discussion instead of repeating discussion points
2. Developing sensitivity training; prevention in response to physics TA incident (Zoha - 10)
  - a. This is a very open discussion tackling a large and open-ended issue. All reactions/thoughts are welcome as we move forward from this - just trying to collect our thoughts on this because we have to address it, even if it's seems like a delicate and long-term project.
  - b. Are there such programs or workshops we see succeeding at other schools?

- c. Are there any immediate, concrete measures we can take (whether issue or symptom-facing)? One already implemented is the mass printing of the stickers to be put on doors across Engineering offices/classrooms.
- d. Imperative for ESC to act on this issue, it affects so many people in an extremely personal way, needs to be some sort of response quickly
- e. What already exists for TA training?
  - i. CS: no training
  - ii. Graduate TAs don't have the same training that undergrads have during NSOP
- f. Could graduate TAs have NSOP-style training?
- g. All SEAS faculty and student-facing staff now have to undergo gatekeeper training, planning to implement with TAs in the fall
- h. Gatekeeper: suicide prevention training, 1 hour training session
- i. TA bio still on the website? Could we review TA bios before they go up on the website?
- j. Could we implement some sort of TA report system?
- k. Require some sort of sensitivity training?
- l. This issue should have been seen beforehand by the Physics department, his opinions were very clear, some sort of screening needs to take place
- m. Need to make sure we aren't policing people's ideas and opinions
- n. More frequent feedback loop that could be compiled in the middle of the semester—professor could be notified of feedback
- o. Feedback often offered by students with strong opinions
- p. This is SEAS related, this is a community issue, many students in SEAS were personally affected by this
- q. Should be an established method of stopping these actions
- r. Professors and departments should take responsibility for screening TAs, could put emphasis on departments to review policies or have a point person to screen TAs
- s. Making resources more available for students, making them more aware about where they can complain about these issues in a protected way is critical
- t. 1 person looks at TA evals after a semester, and if there is nothing significantly wrong, you move on—should be more comprehensive
- u. Provide some sort of accessible complaint form that all departments could comply to, could be submitted directly to professor, could put on syllabus?
- v. Might be more useful to go to third party (like CSA?), professors may not really care what their TAs do or want to deal with repercussions
- w. Anonymous form to ESC, could send to professor and require professor to follow up—ESC might not be correct party to handle the results of the form
- x. Next steps? Policy will take the lead on this—come to policy meeting next Sunday if you want to be involved, will bring this up with administration and advocate for these kind of changes
- y. Reach out to Aida, E-Board, council when these issues come up