

Student Initiative Grants

- The following proposal to adjust the Student Initiative Grant guidelines was approved (20-Y, 1-N, 1-Abstain) by the plenary body:
 - SIG applications are due by October 1st for events being held prior to spring SIG vote (i.e., Oct. 20th – Feb. 20th) and February 1st for events being held prior to Fall SIG vote (i.e., Feb. 20th – Oct. 20th, excluding summer)
 - GSAC finance committee will confirm the eligibility of the applications based on the following criteria:
 - Events must occur in the future and cannot be funded retroactively.
 - No individual student group can receive over \$1000 in one academic year.
 - The grant will not cover for speakers' honorarium, airfare, lodging or any travel fees.
 - The event should not be political or religious in nature.
 - Groups that have previously received SIG grants have submitted a report to the Budget and Finance Chair after the conclusion of the funded event
 - Every member of the GSAC finance committee will grade the applications based on 6 criteria (below). Each criterion will be graded on a scale 0-10, for a total of 60 points possible (10 = best).
 - The event should attract significant number of GSAS students
 - The event should improve graduate student life at Columbia
 - The event should promote interaction between various departments
 - The event should be reasonable (i.e. will the event be successful? Has the group run a similar event? Does the application demonstrate appropriate planning?)
 - Expenses are reasonable (the estimated amounts provided in the budget are reasonable for the expense items listed).
 - The funding is being used for necessary/important aspects of events (i.e. venue fees, necessary supplies, etc. will be given preference over unnecessary food for events)
 - The Budget and Finance chair will collect and average the grades for each application. Applications receiving >50 points will be recommended for full funding, 20-50 points will be recommended for partial funding, and <20 will be recommended for no funding. The GSAC finance committee will then meet (either in person or via electronic communication) to determine the amount that each partially funded application should receive. This will be done on a case-by-case basis and will allow applications to be compared with each other.
 - The Finance committee's recommendation and comments explaining the recommendation will be emailed to the contact person for each application on or near 10 days after the deadline
 - A meeting of the Finance committee will be held on or near 15 days after the deadline, at which point any groups that wish to appeal the committee's

decision can present their case for increased funding and the Finance committee can further explain their decision. The Finance committee will discuss the cases and make a final decision for funding recommendations.

- The Finance committee's final recommendations will be summarized by the chair (including the average grades and explanatory comments) and emailed to the full GSAC plenary at least one day before the 2nd plenary meeting of the semester. At the 2nd plenary meeting of the semester the plenary would be asked to approve the finance committee's recommendations (after amending them, if necessary).

Note: the organization representatives will not present at the plenary meeting under this process

<i>Tentative Timeline</i>	<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>
Deadline for receiving applications	October 1 st	February 1 st
Committee's recommendation sent to the student group	October 10 th	February 10 th
Appeal process and finalize recommendations	October 15 th	February 15 th
Plenary votes on the committee's recommendations	2 nd Fall Plenary	2 nd Spring Plenary

- The following SIG grants were awarded after suggestions by the Finance committee and voting by the plenary body:
 - **Columbia University Renewable Energy Society (CURES)**- Requesting 1000, Finance committee suggests 500 as new board has been formed. Approved partial funding (Full-2, Partial-15, Deny-0, Abstain-0)
 - **EALAC, Department of History**-Approved full funding (Full-16, Partial-0, Deny-0, Abstain-1)
 - **E3B, WEEDS (Weekly Ecology & Evolution Discussion Seminar)**- Retreat for research and spending money on food and transportation. As it benefits a single department, partial funding of \$300 is approved by the body (Full-0, Partial-13 Deny-4, Abstain-0).
 - **Germanic Languages and Literatures**- Advertising and food for 2 years. Non-GSAS students-about 50 in number. Benefit students only from one department. (Full-6, Partial-15, Deny-0, Abstain-0).
 - **Women in Science at Columbia (WISC)**- Board suggests full funding. Approved separately for all events.
 - **Columbia and NYU Philosophy Departments**-Around 50-60 people. Question about how much NYU is contributing. Reasonable amount even though the event benefits just one dept. Full funding is approved-21.

GSAC updates: Hamdi

- 301 Philosophy may be open during the Spring 2013 semester and should be open 24X7. Construction went well during the summer break. Question about the piano from the Music department-will discuss with Dean Alonso.
- The proposed Columbia Graduate Council is forming a proposal so that none of the funding is distributed. Funds will be distributed via the Inter-School Governing Board (IGB). There are 14 divisions and no structure currently. Using

the IGB is not transparent way to disperse funds related to all divisions since it has one representative who is not accountable to GSAC and is selected ad-hoc.

- A&E - 2 concerts next week. Subsidized tickets at Carnegie hall.
- Social Chair – TEASE events, poker night with EGSC. Second TEASE with EGSC.
- Communications-New facebook page has been formed, one does not need to be a user on facebook to access it.
- Plenary moved to Dec 17th, as this has been a late November Plenary.