



# ENGINEERING GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL

## COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

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### **AGENDA 02-01-2019**

#### **AROUND THE CAMPUS**

- Michael Higgins from The Food Pantry at Columbia
- Bargaining Committee Elections: Interact with SEAS candidates Yash Amonkar (Earth & Environmental Engg) and Jake Rabinowitz (Electrical Engg)

#### **BUSINESS**

- Senator updates: Student Affairs Committee
- Chair Updates
- EGSC: Department Representative elections

#### **UPCOMING**

- Campus Life Fair 3-5 PM (Carleton Commons) today! Visit the EGSC table
- GSA Training for EGSC Student Groups - Feb 08
- EGSC PhD Social: Arts & Crafts - Feb 08

EGSC  
Minutes of the Meeting (02/01/2019)

**I. Food Pantry: (Michael Higgins)**

- Has been existing for 2-3 years now
- Showed the current website at the meeting
- There are 2 open board seats:
  - o Advisory chair of communications
  - o Advisory chair of Finance
- A form needs to be filled up on their website to enrol
- They both are intense position because it's for the entire University. It's a huge commitment
- Work Load: 15-20 hrs/week
- The medical centre gets access to the food pantry space
  - o They are allocating space to get them a deal with the medical centre
- Campus Hunger awareness week
  - o 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> February
  - o Happens every spring
  - o Schedule is given on their website
  - o The University does not allow them to touch perishable food
    - They have partnered with a food project which gives them the access to it now
    - 35 individuals have already requested for perishable food

**Q&A:**

Mali: Last time SEAS were the biggest recipients?

- Food pantry date from the last time was shown (with respect to different colleges). And it was indeed true.

Brittany: Any data normalised? SEAS having more people using this service?

- They don't have the service available right now.

Namha: Volunteers needed?

- Absolutely. There's a volunteer agreement on the website. Go do it!

Arvind: Do you collect degree program information?

- Yes. They changed the form because of that. It's a valuable information.

Ashritha: Both perishable and non-perishable have financial challenges?

- Not really. Perishable if free of cost. They cover for it entirely. If they split, that confidentiality will be lost.

Anirudh: If it's a matter of dignity for people to take free food, they can pay a minimal amount?

- Never thought about it. They'll look into it. Either they'll pay the food pantry or the corporate bill

Michael: Can have donation boxes to accept money?

- They cannot accept money during the open hours. Not a great idea.

## **II. Senator Updates:**

- To meet the director of ISSO (David). Issues:
  - International student full tuition, how is the International Student fee utilised?
  - If the Morningside and CUMC ISSO offices are closed on Wednesdays, do they have open office hours?
  - Student visa holders can qualify for health plans. Effective Fall-2019.
  - Recommendation: State vs Federal, allowances. Not a US Citizen? No tax No benefits that tax payers get. Options for students not paying insurance.

## **III. Bargaining Committee Elections:**

- Candidates Yash Amonkar (Dept. of Earth and environmental engg.) and Jake Rabinowitz (EE) interacted with the EGSC members and pitched to vote for them at the next bargaining committee elections.

## **IV. Miscellaneous:**

- DR elections for vacant spots to be held soon.
- Campus life fair today at Carleton. 3-5pm.
- EGSC sweatshirts are here. Can pick them up next Friday.
- GSA training for members on February 8<sup>th</sup>.
- PhD social @ Arts and Crafts on February 8<sup>th</sup>.