

University Senate Plenary

April 1, 2022



University Senate

Proposed: April 1, 2022

Adopted: April 1, 2022

PROPOSED AGENDA

University Senate

Friday, April 1, 2022 at 1:15 p.m. via Zoom

[Registration required](#)

After registering you will receive a confirmation email with meeting details.

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of the minutes of March 4, 2022
3. President's report
4. Executive Committee Chair's report
5. New business:
 - a. Committee reports and updates

Community Initiatives and Allyship on Anti-Asian Hate: Commission on Diversity

MEETING OF MARCH 4, 2022

Executive Committee chair Jeanine D'Armiento called the Senate to order at 1:15 pm on Zoom. Seventy-three of 99 senators were present during the meeting.

Sen. D'Armiento reminded senators that only they have the floor at plenaries. She reviewed the procedure for voting on Zoom.

Adoption of the agenda. The [agenda](#) was adopted as proposed (see March 4 Plenary Binder, p. 2).

Adoption of the minutes. The [minutes](#) of February 4 were adopted as proposed (Binder, 3-7).

President's report. Sen. D'Armiento said President Bollinger was unfortunately unable to join the meeting. She invited senators to send her questions to relay to him.

Executive Committee chair's remarks. Sen. D'Armiento said that as the University was emerging from the pandemic after almost two years, she recalled sitting in the March 2020 plenary, just before the University shut down. She said everyone was now saddened by the tragic events in Ukraine. She said there's always some challenge that we face moving forward, but it's important to embrace coming out of Covid and reestablishing connections with people, while keeping the people of Ukraine mind.

--Update on plans to return to in-person Commencement ceremonies. Carrie Walker, Deputy Chief of Staff in the Office of the President, was happy to report that Commencement preparations were in full swing not only for the graduates, but for their families and guests as well, with University ceremonies on May 18 and the regular Class Day and school events all week. All guests would be asked to abide by whatever public health guidelines are in place at the time. Those rules are always changing, she said, but it was clear that everyone would need to be fully vaccinated, though they may not have to wear masks. Most, but not all, events would be outdoors. All efforts were being made to make sure that all Columbia schools have the space they need.

In addition to the regular ceremony on May 18, there would be additional University ceremonies the next day, May 19, to welcome back the classes of 2020 and 2021.

Ms. Walker said the May 19 events would be like the University Commencement, but not just a repeat of the digital ceremonies that these graduates have already had. There would be added fun and excitement, followed by school celebrations that would vary depending on choices to be made by alumni groups.

Ms. Walker said that since there would be two days of University events, organizers would also welcome both veteran and beginner volunteers on both days. She looked forward to seeing senators resume their customary role in the academic procession and remember what the University ordinarily does at Commencement.

She said senators would be hearing from her about procedures for signing up as volunteers.

Ms. Walker said that for the University Commencement ceremony itself undergraduates would have three extra tickets and graduate students would have two. Schools set their own limits for their own ceremonies.

She said all guests would register in advance through a formal ticketing system and receive an electronic ticket on their phone. This process would include an attestation about their vaccination status. There would also be spot checks of vaccination cards. Children above the age of 5 would have to be vaccinated.

New business

Resolutions:

● Resolution to Approve an Academic Program Leading to the Master of Science in Quantum Science and Technology (School of Engineering and Applied Science): Education Committee. Sen James Applegate (Ten., A&S/Natural Sciences), Education Committee co-chair, presented the [resolution](#) (Binder, 8-14). Two of the program's proponents, Prof. Dmitri Bassov, Higgins Professor of Physics and department chair, and Alexander Gaeta, the David M. Rickey Professor of Applied Physics in Materials Science and Professor of Electrical Engineering, were on hand to answer questions.

Sen. Applegate said the proposed program was a collaboration between the Department of Physics in the Arts and Sciences and the Department of Applied Physics and Applied Math in the School of Engineering and Applied Science. He said the electronic devices that have shaped the modern world contain a large number of atoms. But the number of atoms in these devices has gotten smaller and smaller, a condition with the potential to unleash the potential of quantum mechanics.

The present proposal was for a 30-point, three-semester master's degree program designed to train people in the art and science of quantum mechanics to design new devices using ever smaller numbers of atoms and molecules. It appears that companies both established and unknown are eager to hire graduates of this program. The curriculum consists of five required core courses, a few courses to be selected from a larger list, and then an extensive list of electives. Sen. Applegate said that if the program is successful, many other institutions may copy it.

Without further discussion the Senate voted 59-0 to approve the resolution to establish the proposed program.

Prof. Bassov praised Sen. Applegate's summary of the program, and thanked the Senate for its support.

Prof. Gaeta added thanks to all the colleagues, in Arts and Sciences and SEAS, who helped to prepare the proposal.

Committee reports and updates

Practice and performance space initiatives update: Campus Planning and Physical Development.

CPPD chair John Donaldson (Ten., Bus.) offered what he called a [plenary update](#)—an informal preview of a more detailed report the committee hoped to present later in the semester (Binder, 15-18). Since the start of the academic year, he said, CPPD had been investigating the practice and performance space needs for performing arts programs across the University, with particular attention to the Music Department, including the Music Performance Program; the School of the Arts Master of Fine Arts (MFA) program, and the Columbia/Barnard undergraduate theatre program.

Sen. Donaldson said the inquiry revealed an acute shortage of space, for performances—concerts, theatrical productions, rehearsals—and storage of musical instruments, props, costumes, etc. He gave detailed examples of these problems, and listed four recommendations for addressing them, including the creation of a new performance space and a new electronic reservation system for practice rooms.

At the end of the presentation Sen. Lydia Goehr (Ten., A&S/Hum) said she totally supported any recommendations that the committee would offer. She said the situation of facilities for the arts was shocking. But it was also decades in the making. She mentioned her disappointment that Lenfest Hall had failed to address any of these longstanding student concerns. She added that the Music Department had suffered from the inability of Miller Theatre over time to share its space with students, focusing almost exclusively on professional performances. She invited Sen. Donaldson to comment.

He said the committee study of the main Lenfest performance space concluded that there is no storage space.

Sen. Steven Chaikelson (TTOT, Arts) said one benefit of Lenfest is that it enables third-year MFA theatre students to put on their “thesis” productions in a School of the Arts facility, instead of having to rent spaces all over Manhattan. But the Lenfest performance space, and a rehearsal space in the basement of the building, are almost entirely given over to these productions. Sen. Chaikelson also agreed with Sen. Donaldson that the lack of storage space in Lenfest was a significant flaw.

Sen. Daniel Savin (Research Officers) asked Sen. Donaldson to have the CPPD take up serious issues raised by Local Law 1997, which has set high standards for energy conservation in all New York City buildings, with major fines for non-compliance. Sen. Savin worried about the impact of such an approach on energy-intensive scientific research in Columbia labs.

Sen. Donaldson said the committee’s next project would focus on this very issue, including the viability of the planned electrification of the Columbia campus.

Sen. Patrice Derrington (TTOT, GSAPP), co-chair of Campus Planning, pointed out that Local Law 97 does include allowances for certain vital activities of non-profit institutions, including scientific research. Her point was not to make light of energy conservation imperatives, but to call attention to the difficult work of balancing priorities that universities must continually attend to. She said there was also some good recent news about new ways to conserve and store energy of various kinds.

Sen. Donaldson thanked CPPD colleagues who had just spoken, as well as Sen. Giuseppe Gerbino (Ten., A&S/Hum) of the Music Department, who had provided vital information for the committee's report.

Other reports and updates:

- Retirement program updates: Anne Sullivan, Executive Vice President for Finance and Information Technology.

EVP Sullivan, referring to a set of [slides](#) (Binder, 19-29), presented a set of changes that her office was making in the organization of the retirement investment program for Columbia officers. She was accompanied by Human Resources VP Daniel Driscoll; Michael Bloom, Associate Vice President for Benefits and Compensation, and Giselle Monroe, Executive Director of Retirement Plans.

EVP Sullivan said this team was part of a large group of people working on this reorganization effort. She said she appreciated the opportunity to speak at the Senate, as well as two productive meetings she had held with the Senate Budget Committee. She particularly thanked Sen. Eli Noam (Ten., Bus.), the current Budget Committee chair, whom she had consulted at length both about the substantive changes now under way in the retirement program, and about how to communicate them to the Columbia officer population.

At the conclusion of EVP Sullivan's presentation, Sen. D'Armiento asked Sen. Noam to comment.

Sen. Noam's response. Sen. Noam began by thanking EVP Sullivan and her colleagues for a terrific collaboration over the last few months, which he saw as a model for the future. He also acknowledged Soulaymane Kachani, who had recently left the Senate to become Senior Vice Provost, for his 16 years of leadership of the Budget Committee. Sen. Noam said he and Sen. Kachani had served as co-chairs during the present academic year, and he added that he too would be stepping down at the end of it. So the Budget Committee would undergo some major changes next year.

Sen. Noam called on senators and other officers in the room to pay attention to the presentation he was about to give, saying it was about huge amounts of money—their money. He then shared his screen and gave his [presentation](#) (Binder, 30-40).

At the end of Sen. Noam's presentation, Sen. D'Armiento invited EVP Sullivan to respond.

Discussion. EVP Sullivan said Sen. Noam and the Budget Committee had provided consistently direct, valuable feedback throughout the present process. She thought his presentation had hit on the main points that her group—and most peer institutions—have grappled with. One was the problem of addressing the needs of participants whose holdings don't map neatly onto the new set of investment options. She said the Budget Committee was asking exactly the right question: Was the University providing the right resources to support this group of participants?

Sen. D'Armiento said she had already made the case that the Senate should join in the effort to get people to pay attention, because it has an important role in fostering communication.

Sen. Benjamin Orlove (Ten., SIPA) thanked EVP Sullivan for her presentation. He said he found himself trying to channel a colleague, Eric Johnson, a cognitive psychologist in the Business School who has done important work on the question of how people address financial choices. He thought that work could be of help to colleagues unsettled by the complexity of the choices they will have to make about their retirement program.

Sen. Will Hunnicutt (Research Officers) asked (in the Chat) what would happen to investment vehicles in an officer's portfolio that don't map to Columbia's revamped lineup of options. EVP Sullivan said the officer could decide to retain that investment vehicle, but now it would have to be through the brokerage window in Tier 3, managed for higher fees. She said that if the officer doesn't speak up about keeping the investment, it will be mapped onto a Tier 1 Target Date Fund (TDF).

Sen. D'Armiento said it might help reduce anxiety to know that officers would be free to move their investments across Tiers 1, 2, and 3 in a variety of ways.

VP Driscoll said the University would continue to manage funds that are no longer mapped onto Tier 2, but it would no longer *monitor* them, to try to assure the best performance at the lowest fees.

Sen. Henry Ginsberg (Ten., VP&S) said his next comment might reveal his disengagement from the issue of his own retirement, but he noted that 65 was the age EVP Sullivan had identified as the time for a major determination about retirement. Some people at CUIMC think they are only halfway through their careers at 65.

EVP Sullivan said she would explain this better than she had before. She said TDFs are a default investment alternative for people who don't announce a decision on how to invest their money. People can also choose a TDF set to a particular date. But if they don't make a choice, the University will use 65 as a default.

Sen. Noam said TDFs are conservative, and if people have a greater appetite for risk they should not act their age. So if they're 60 they should pretend they're 50, and invest accordingly.

Sen. D'Armiento enthusiastically thanked EVP Sullivan for starting this discussion. This was an education that she said all officers need about their retirement. It was a matter of personal

responsibility for all officers to study and understand this. She repeated that the Senate would serve as a partner in efforts to encourage people to pay attention, so the learning doesn't have to occur at the last minute (as it often does with her). She said the current initiative would make it easier for many people to address retirement.

She thanked the Budget Committee for the contributions it was making to the communication effort.

Sen. D'Armiento hoped for an event before the end of the year when senators could meet in person. She adjourned the meeting shortly after 2:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Mathewson, Senate staff

Diversity Commission

Community Initiatives & Allyship on Anti-Asian Hate

Tina Lee, Brandon Shi, Colby King

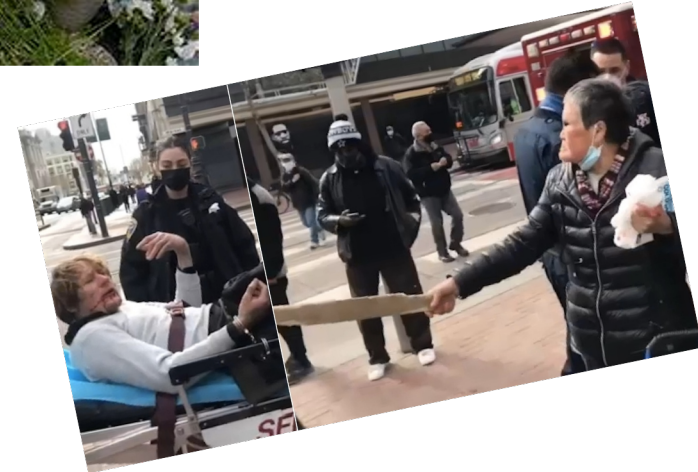
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What do you carry?







Anti-Asian Violence (2020-present)



As attacks against Asian Americans spike, advocates call for action to protect communities



By Harmeet Kaur, CNN

Updated 1:12 PM ET, Sat February 13, 2021

Anti-Asian hate crimes increased 339 percent nationwide last year, report says

The Tragic Untold Story Of The 1871 Chinese Massacre



China Is the Real Sick Man of Asia

Its financial markets may be even more dangerous than its wildlife markets.



By Walter Russell Mead

Feb. 3, 2020 6:47 pm ET

PRINT TEXT

CRIME 04/01/2020 02:07 pm ET

Stabbing Of Asian American Toddler And Family Deemed A Hate Crime: Report

NEWS

700 Anti-Asian Hate Incidents Reported in Bay Area During Pandemic - True Figures Might Be Even Worse

NATION

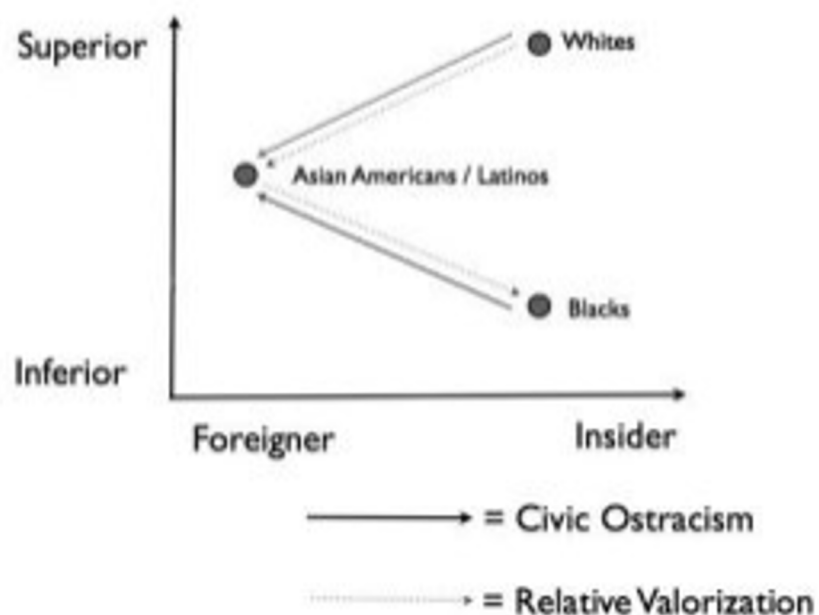
'Stop killing us': Attacks on Asian Americans highlight rise in hate incidents amid COVID-19

N'dea Yancey-Bragg USA TODAY

Published 11:00 p.m. ET Feb. 11, 2021 | Updated 1:24 p.m. ET Feb. 12, 2021

Positioning AAPI against other Communities of Color

Claire Jean Kim's Theory of Racial Triangulation



Model Minority v. *Perpetual Foreigner/Yellow Peril*

Hate Incidents at Columbia University Campuses



Bwog
COLUMBIA STUDENT NEWS



FEATURES

As Anti-Asian Hate Surges In New York, Asian Columbia Students Reckon With The Consequences

By [Phoebe Lu](#) on Mar 30, 2021

0 Comments

Staff Writer Phoebe Lu speaks with Asian students and club leaders as they reflect on the recent hate-crimes against the Asian community.

NEW YORK (WABC) -- The NYPD's Hate Crimes Task Force is investigating after a woman reported that a man hit her with a bicycle and then made anti-Asian slurs towards her.

Atsuko Obando, 54, was on her way to work as a nurse and had just gotten off of a 1 subway train at the 116th Street-Columbia University station around 6:30 p.m. Sunday when the suspect slammed into her from behind with his bicycle.

NEW YORK - The [NYPD](#) Hate Crimes Task Force was investigating another unprovoked attack on an Asian woman in Manhattan.

This time, the 23-year-old victim was exiting the northbound 1 train in [Morningside Heights](#) at about 6:45 a.m. on May 12 when a man swung his walking cane at her multiple times striking her on the head and hip, said police.

Effects on Learning Environment

- Increased discrimination and safety concerns (physical, social, emotional, psychological) of Asian and BIPOC students
- Absence of institutional interventions
- Invisibility of a community that continues to suffer.



Greater need for institutional intervention to address the increased discrimination/xenophobia

Initiatives at Other Universities

- Bias hotline and office for anti-Asian discrimination reports.
- Bystander/upstander trainings events.
- Education panels on Asian American history and xenophobia.
- Community support spaces and resources.
- Dismantling false media portrayals of anti-Asian hate crimes, especially Black on Asian crime.



Peer University Responses

Partnerships with Asian community organizations and leaders.

Incorporate Asian and Black stakeholders.

Highlight stories and gather data from community members.

Address the need for AAPI representation in curriculum, administration, and faculty.

Address the need for culturally competent mental health providers and resources.

<https://global.upenn.edu/global-initiatives/stopping-hate-and-starting-heal>

Stopping the Hate and Starting to Heal:
Living With and Through the COVID-19 Pandemic

Sponsored by



<http://asianamerican.mit.edu/recs/>

MIT Asian American Initiative

Student-run organization for pan-Asian American advocacy, allyship, and civic engagement

Safety in Solidarity with Black Communities



Reconceptualizing what community safety means.

Regular opportunities for cross-community dialogues.

Incorporating upstander, self-defense, anti-bias trainings into orientation.

Stories of Asian student experiences with public safety.

Education on impact of violence, racial trauma, and Asian diversity.

Gendered violence and the (in)effectiveness of public safety.

Community Responses in NYC



Maddy from Cafe Maddy Cab

Helping the Asian American Community feel safe in NYC

CafemaddyCab is offering Uber and Lyft vouchers for the Asian elderly, women, and the LGBTQ+ community. No one should feel scared in the city they call home for being Asian.



safewalkx.com

THANK YOU



SOLIDARITY

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