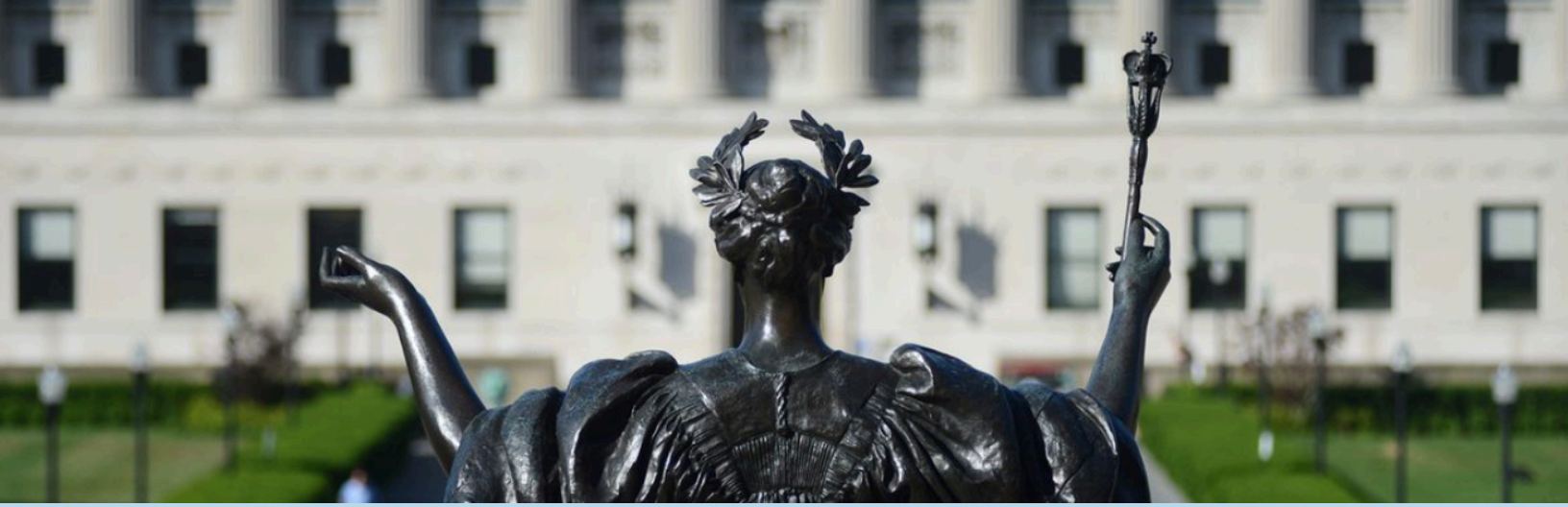




2026-2027 SESSION

University Senate Plenary

Friday, October 2, 2026

1:15 PM • VIA ZOOM

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate

Proposed: October 2, 2026

Adopted: October 2, 2026

University Senate

Friday, October 2, 2026 at 1:15 p.m., via Zoom

[Registration required](#)

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

PROPOSED AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of the minutes of July 16, 2026
3. President's report and questions
4. Chair's report and questions:
 - a. Welcome new senators
 - b. Nominations to University Senate committees
 - c. Shared Governance in Our Community: A Self-Study
5. Old business:
 - a. Resolutions:
 - i. Resolution to Amend the University Senate By-Laws to Establish Term Limits on University Senate Service (Structure and Operations)
6. New business:
 - a. Resolutions:
 - i. Resolution to Amend the University Senate By-Laws to Establish Term Limits on Chairs' Service (Structure and Operations)
 - ii. Resolution to Amend the University Statutes to Rename the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology to the Department of Ecology and Evolution (Education)
 - b. Committee reports, statements, and updates:
 - i. Statement on Term Limits (Student Affairs)
 - ii. Report on the Establishment of the Dual Degree Linking the Master of Science in Climate and the Master of Science in Journalism (Climate and Journalism) (Education)
7. Adjourn

Minutes of the Meeting of July 16, 2026

58 of 101 University Senators were present.

Senator Jeanine D'Armiento (Ten., P&S), Executive Committee Chair, called the University Senate Plenary to order at 1:18pm. Sen. D'Armiento welcomed everyone to the eleventh Plenary of the 2025-2026 session. Sen. D'Armiento reminded attendees that only Senators may vote, that nonsenator members of committees with business before the Senate may also have the floor, and that recordings are not permitted in Plenary meetings.

Senators adopted the [agenda](#).

Senators then adopted the [minutes](#) of June 18, 2026. Sen. D'Armiento noted that one typo correction had already been received and that any further minor corrections should be sent to her or to the Senate staff.

Remarks from President Mnookin and Questions

Sen. D'Armiento turned the floor over to President Jennifer L. Mnookin, welcoming her to her first Plenary as President of the University. President Mnookin thanked Sen. D'Armiento and stated that she was delighted to be with the Senate. The President said that she had been in the role for a little over two weeks, during which she had met with a wide range of faculty, staff, student leaders, Trustees, community partners, and elected officials, as well as with the Senate [Executive Committee](#). The President stated that she is strongly committed to shared governance and that she has great respect for the work of the University Senate and its roughly sixty-year history. She stated that Columbia is a university of many disciplines, perspectives, and viewpoints, and that the University, at its best, should engage rather than flatten those differences.

The President stated that she wanted to make sure that Senators had seen the comments that the University submitted to the Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) earlier in the week in response to [proposed revisions to the rules](#) governing federal grants and other federal financial assistance. She stated that the proposed revisions would significantly increase the politicization of the grant review process, create funding uncertainty by expanding the government's ability to terminate awards midstream, restrict lawful international collaboration, and could discourage open dissemination of research results. The President thanked Executive Vice President for Research Jeanette Wing and her team for their work on Columbia's comments, as well as all those across the University who contributed. The President then took questions.

Sen. Gerard Ateshian (Ten., SEAS) welcomed the President and asked about her strategy and timetable for reopening the campus. The President stated that she did not yet have a timetable but that she had begun

discussions with her senior team about how to balance a desire for a more open campus with legitimate public safety and operational concerns, and that she is committed to continuing to work on the issue.

Sen. Simon Ogundare (Stu., P&S) stated that he appreciated the President's engagement with the Senate and with student leaders on the subject of institutional neutrality. He noted that Columbia had lowered its flags for the late Senator Lindsey Graham but that, by contrast, nursing students had not been permitted to issue their own statement following the killing of ICU nurse Alex Pretti by federal immigration agents in January. He stated that flag lowering under a presidential half-staff order is not binding on private institutions and asked what criteria determine when Columbia departs from institutional neutrality, who makes that determination, and whether the President would commit to engaging with the Senate on such decisions in advance. The President responded that she understood the University's flag policy to be one of following federal, state, and local officials' orders, though she noted this was not something she had independent, longstanding knowledge of given her short tenure. She agreed that this represents a choice rather than an obligation and stated that institutional neutrality, while not absolute, is valuable because it protects the ability of individual faculty and students to speak in their own voices rather than substituting the institution's voice for theirs. She stated she would not be comfortable making such determinations unilaterally, nor did she think it appropriate for the Senate to make them, but that the question of when and how the University departs from neutrality was a fair one to continue examining.

Sen. Helen Han Wei Luo (Stu., GSAS/HUM) thanked the President for her early engagement with the Senate. She stated that the Senate, and students in particular, have grappled with the fallout from the release of both the Hadden Report and the Department of Justice's Epstein files, which revealed connections to Columbia, and that students are concerned about normalizing sexual exploitation and a lack of accountability for Columbia affiliates. She asked whether the President would commit to removing [Richard Axel](#) and [Jay Lefkowitz](#) from the University in light of documented ties to Jeffrey Epstein described in DOJ files. The President responded that the abuse detailed in the Hadden Report and Jeffrey Epstein's conduct were both despicable, and that ensuring best-in-class practices to protect patients is critical. She stated that she would continue to learn more about these matters and would evaluate any new information that came to light, but that she did not intend to reopen matters that had already gone through significant review.

Sen. Henry Ginsberg (Ten., P&S) asked about the progress of a unified approach among American universities in response to the current federal administration. The President responded that significant progress has been made, citing several lawsuits brought by the [Association of American Universities \(AAU\)](#) and other organizations such as the [APLU](#) and [AAC&U](#) challenging the administration's use of procedurally anomalous mechanisms. She acknowledged that individual universities' interests do not always align and that collaboration has limits, but stated that engagement among university leaders on these issues remains personally important to her.

Sen. Nasser Odetallah (Stu., ARTS) stated that students have been vocal over the past year about concerns regarding the influence of the [federal resolution agreement](#) on Columbia's academic programs, including the new Global Affairs and Public Policy major, which the [Student Affairs Committee](#) has [previously](#)

[stated](#) is cited as evidence of Columbia's fulfillment of the federal government's requirements concerning Middle East-related curricula. He noted subsequent [reporting by the Columbia Spectator](#) that the major had been privately funded in part by donors who fund pro-Israel organizations and efforts, and that draft proposals containing details on Middle East-related elective clusters had been withheld from the Student Affairs Committee. He asked how recent reporting could be reconciled with prior assurances that the major is unrelated to the federal agreement. The President responded that she understood and believed the major to be unrelated to the resolution agreement, that it had gone through Columbia's regular approval procedures, and that she generally supports expanding this type of academic opportunity for students, noting that she had overseen the creation of similar programs at other institutions.

Sen. D'Armiento thanked the President for her remarks and responses. The President returned the floor to Sen. D'Armiento for her Chair's report and to continue to preside over the remainder of old and new business.

Chair's Report and Questions

Sen. D'Armiento welcomed the President on behalf of the Senate and stated that the Senate looks forward to partnering with her. She stated that on July 9 and 10 the Senate had sent an email to the Columbia community regarding the OMB's proposed financial assistance rule, and she thanked the President's office, EVP for Research Jeanette Wing, Vice President for Research Compliance, Training and Policy Naomi Schrag, and Vice President for Government and Community Affairs Loftin Flowers for their work on the statement from the Office of the President. She stated that more than half a million comments had been submitted to OMB on the proposal nationally and that the changes could take effect as soon as October 1, 2026. She further noted that the Senate and relevant committees would continue to monitor the issue and update the community.

Sen. D'Armiento then turned the floor over to Sen. Matthew Beck (Stu., (Graduate), SEAS), former Co-Chair of the Student Affairs Committee, to provide an update on graduate student payment concerns. Sen. Beck stated that on June 12 the Student Affairs Committee sent an email to the graduate student body regarding financial hardship, delayed stipends, and other compensation issues after learning that summer stipend payments due in May had been delayed until mid-June, with some students reporting no payment since January. He stated that the Committee received approximately 70 responses indicating the issue was systemic, and that Committee members had since met with administrators in the Provost's Office and Columbia Human Resources. He asked that affected students contact cuhr@columbia.edu and stated that follow-up meetings with the administration are planned in the coming weeks.

Sen. D'Armiento then reviewed the agenda for the remainder of the Plenary: an update on the title and track of Professor of Instruction established by the April 10, 2026 resolution; an update on the draft resolution regarding Senate term limits; and annual reports from the External Relations and Research Policy Committee and the Structure and Operations Committee. She then took questions.

Sen. Odetallah stated that, in addition to his earlier question about the Global Affairs and Public Policy major, the Student Affairs Committee has broader concerns about educational decision-making across the

University, including [allegations that the School of Professional Studies has overcharged students for tuition](#) in the majority of its classes, and the [launch of a new joint master's degree program between Sciences Po and the Columbia Climate School](#) that, to their knowledge, was never brought to the Senate even for notice. He asked what steps the Senate and faculty plan to take to address these educational issues. Sen. D'Armiento responded that this represents an opportunity for a fresh start with the new administration, and that she could commit to examine these items with the President's office and to work to restore the trust of students and the broader Senate community that existing policies are being followed.

Update on Implementation of the Resolution to Establish the Title and Track of Professor of Instruction (Faculty Affairs, Academic Freedom and Tenure)

Sen. D'Armiento turned the floor over to Sen. Holger Klein (Ten., A&S/HUM), Vice Chair of the Executive Committee and Co-Chair of the Faculty Affairs, Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee, for an update. Sen. Klein stated that the Committee continues to work with the Provost's Office and Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Eugenia Lean on implementation of the new title and track, in advance of an expected Board of Trustees vote in August to establish the title in the University Statutes. He stated that preliminary draft language for an update to the Faculty Handbook had been received the previous day, and that the Committee is still awaiting school-level data on the percentage of faculty currently serving in Special Instructional Faculty ranks, which will inform discussions with deans about caps. He stated that the Faculty Affairs, Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee and the Provost's team would meet the following day to begin discussing the draft Handbook language, with further conversations with deans of school to follow in the coming weeks.

Provost Angela Olinto added that the conversations had been very helpful, and she thanked the Committee for its partnership. Sen. D'Armiento thanked Sen. Klein and Provost Olinto for their work. There were no further questions.

Discussion of Draft Resolution to Amend the University Senate By-Laws Regarding Term Limits (Executive; Structure and Operations)

Sen. D'Armiento introduced a discussion, not a vote, on [draft language to amend the University Senate By-Laws regarding term limits](#), noting that the Senate would gather comments from this Plenary and via email, and that the Executive Committee and [Structure and Operations Committee](#) would meet jointly to consider all contributions before returning a resolution to the community for further comment and, ultimately, a vote in the fall.

Sen. Joseph Slaughter (Ten., A&S/HUM), who helped draft the language with members of the Executive Committee and the Structure and Operations Committee, stated that the draft was intended to establish a 12-year cumulative service limit on voting membership in the Senate, balanced against the value of institutional memory through a "Senator Emeritus" mechanism. Under the draft, a committee could nominate a term-limited member who had served on that committee to continue in a non-voting, consultative capacity for up to four years, subject to annual review and approval by the Executive Committee, during a mandatory four-year non-voting "cooling off" period. He noted a drafting error:

language stating that a term-limited person “may not serve in any capacity” should instead read “any voting capacity.” He also described a vacancy exception, permitting a term-limited individual to run again only if no other candidate is available for a school or constituency, as well as an automatic exception for administrators and Presidential appointees.

Sen. Elizabeth Adeoye (Stu., CC) stated that the Student Affairs Committee had not been consulted on the term limits proposal and had concerns about its intentions and implementation, particularly the risk that well-informed, engaged elected Senators could be prevented from continuing to serve, though she noted that Sen. Slaughter’s clarifications had addressed some of those concerns.

Sen. Odetallah stated that the Student Affairs Committee’s concerns stem in part from the fact that deliberations occurred largely over the summer, when students are not present and when the Committee will see roughly half of its membership turn over in September, leaving incoming Senators to cast one of the most consequential votes of the year without adequate preparation. He stated that many student Senators believe the resolution, if passed, would weaken the Senate at the request of the Board of Trustees, and he asked that the faculty honor the Senate’s prior votes allowing the current Executive Committee Chair to serve through the end of the 2026-2027 term.

Sen. D’Armiento responded that the draft is now public because it was presented at Plenary, that the Student Affairs Committee and other constituent committees would have the opportunity to discuss it before the joint Executive and Structure and Operations Committee meeting, and that there was no intention to exclude any constituency from the conversation.

Sen. Ateshian stated that a recent survey showed only a small number of Senators have served, or are near serving, 12 years, raising a concern that the resolution is narrowly targeted, and he asked what would happen if the Senate voted against the resolution, specifically whether the Trustees would seek to overrule the Senate.

Sen. Lydia Goehr (Ten., A&S/HUM) asked for clarification of the draft’s language, noting that, as written, it appeared a Senator could serve 12 years, take a year off, and return for an additional 12-years, potentially serving 30 years or more. Sen. D’Armiento responded that this specific point — service, a step back, and a potential return in some capacity — had been discussed in committee but had not yet been agreed upon, and that the language required further clarification, including the four-year non-voting cooling-off period. Sen. Goehr stated that the point remained confusing to her.

Sen. D’Armiento stated that some long-serving Senators contribute an enormous amount of volunteer service to the University and cautioned against language or rhetoric that could be seen as insulting to colleagues who have dedicated many years of service.

Sen. Greg Freyer (TTOT, SPH) stated that he was opposed to term limits and agreed with Sen. Ateshian that this was a solution in search of a problem. He further stated that, if the Senate were to adopt term limits, he would like to see transition rules to prevent individuals from leaving mid-term.

Sen. Klein asked if Sen. Slaughter could clarify the rationale behind allowing committee chairs, not the Executive Committee, to define Senator Emeritus status. Sen. Slaughter clarified that the proposal required the committee membership to nominate a person who would be approved for one year of service by the Executive Committee.

Sen. Raimondo Betti (Ten., SEAS) stated that he has served 24 years on the Senate, having been repeatedly reelected by the School of Engineering and Applied Science, and that he viewed the term limits proposal as an effort by the Trustees to reduce the voices of a small number of outspoken Senators. He stated that very few Senators have served beyond 12 years, and suggested that limits could instead be placed on committee chair tenure rather than on eligibility for reelection, noting that the School of Engineering and Applied Science had difficulty finding candidates for open seats this year.

Sen. Adam Cannon (TTOT, SEAS) stated that he shared concerns about the concentration of power but wanted the debate to focus on the substantive merits and drawbacks of term limits, including possible mitigations such as emeritus status or a cooling-off period, rather than on the fact that the Trustees requested the change.

Sen. D'Armiento stated that the Senate's purpose in this discussion is to determine what would benefit the Senate itself, and that she and Vice Chair Sen. Klein would continue to communicate the Senate's reasoning to the Trustees.

Sen. Odetallah reiterated that the Student Affairs Committee had not previously discussed term limits until the Trustees' public letter, and that the compressed summer timeline made it difficult for incoming student leadership to prepare their constituents. He requested a written commitment from the Trustees regarding the process and expressed concern that the proposal could be a first step toward reducing student power on Senate committees, including the Executive Committee.

Sen. Janie Weiss (Admin. Staff, CUIMC) stated that she had advocated for term limits prior to the Trustees' involvement and had previously suggested allowing long-serving members with institutional knowledge to remain on committees in some capacity.

Sen. Luo stated that term limits are less applicable to Senate elections than to competitive public offices, given the difficulty the Senate has historically had in filling seats, including her own, and cautioned against discouraging experienced volunteers from continuing to serve.

Sen. D'Armiento thanked Senators for the discussion, stated that a joint committee meeting with the Executive Committee and Structure and Operations Committee would follow, and that a document would then be circulated to the community for further comment. The President stated that she appreciated the range of voices and perspectives shared, as well as the service of all Senators, whether for one term or many.

External Relations and Research Policy Committee Annual Report 2025-26

Sen. D'Armiento turned the floor over to Sen. John Santelli (Ten., SPH) and Sen. Elizabeth Adeoye, Co-Chairs of the [External Relations and Research Policy Committee](#), to present the Committee's [2025-2026 annual report](#). Sen. Adeoye stated that the Committee's mandate covers the University's external relations, including research strategy, relations with sponsors and government, and Columbia's broader public standing, and that the Committee's work this year focused on three questions: how the University accounts for its past, particularly regarding the release of the Hadden Report; how it safeguards research integrity through its updated research misconduct policy; and how it protects its mission under external pressure, including in response to the proposed OMB rule.

On the Hadden Report, Sen. Adeoye stated that the Committee, primary author of the Senate's unanimous [2023 resolution](#) on the matter, continues to view oversight of the Report's implementation as an ongoing obligation. She stated that the Committee had reviewed the investigators' report as an important step toward transparency but continued to raise questions about the level of accountability reflected in it, including through the [Resolution on Institutional Accountability and Governance Following the Hadden Report](#) (adopted May 8, 2026), proposed by the Commission on the Status of Women and co-sponsored by the Committee, which sought greater transparency regarding Trustee oversight, the independence of the investigation, the \$1.2 billion in settlements, and whistleblower protections.

On research integrity, Sen. Adeoye stated that the Committee had worked, with committee member Naomi Schrag, on the Institutional Policy on Misconduct in Research brought to Plenary in December, updated in response to revised federal regulations effective January 1, 2026.

On the Forums on University Governance, Sen. Adeoye stated that the Committee held [two forums](#) in March, at the Morningside Campus and at the Columbia University Irving Medical Center, in response to concerns raised by multiple constituencies, including members of the AAUP, about the state of shared governance amid leadership transitions and Trustee actions. She stated that the forums explored how universities can and should be governed, featuring Professor David Pozen on university democracy, Professor Emerita Jean Howard on the AAUP board reform proposal, and Sens. D'Armiento and Slaughter on shared governance at Columbia; a synopsis of the forums is included in the Plenary binder and will continue to shape the Committee's agenda.

Sen. Adeoye stated that, going forward, the Committee will continue to monitor the implementation of the Hadden Report's findings, as well as the proposed OMB rule and its potential October effective date. Sen. D'Armiento thanked Sen. Adeoye for the report. There were no questions.

Structure and Operations Committee Annual Report 2025-26

Sen. D'Armiento introduced the annual report of the Structure and Operations Committee, noting that Co-Chairs Sen. Daniel Savin (Research Officers) and Professor Brendan O'Flaherty, Parliamentarian, had prepared the report, which was included in the Plenary packet. Sen. Savin stated that any comments or questions on the report should be directed to the Committee or to Senate staff by email for consideration and response. There were no further questions.

Sen. D'Armiento noted that the Senate would conclude slightly early and turned the floor back to the President.

President Mnookin thanked everyone for their participation and service, noted that there would be no Plenary on August 6, and stated that the next Plenary would take place on October 2, 2026. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Senate staff



UNIVERSITY SENATE • 2026-2027 SESSION

Parliamentary Procedure Guide

QUORUM

Half of all sitting Senators (typically 90 to 111 senators). The online list of participants is the basis for determining a quorum. If you are not speaking, please try to be muted at most times.

SIGNING IN

Please rename yourself when you enter the meeting by putting "Sen." in front of your name. This helps everyone identify you as a Senator during the meeting.

VOTING

- Only Senators present may vote. "Present" means on the online list of participants during the vote.
- **How to vote:** Generally you vote by raising your virtual hand.
- **Confidential votes:** Occasionally Senators request a confidential ballot. If this happens, please make sure you have access to your CU email account so you can vote.
- **Default:** A motion passes if more Senators vote for than against it. (This always applies to amendments to motions even if the main motion requires a super-majority.)

EXCEPTIONS

- **Parliamentary exceptions:** 2/3 vote required for certain motions. The motion passes only if twice as many Senators vote for as vote against it. This includes:
 - Previous question (close debate and vote)
 - Suspend the rules (allow something normally not allowed)
 - Change the order of business
 - Limit or extend debate
- **University Senate exceptions:** Several kinds of actions require at least 3/5 of all Senators to vote in favor.

DEBATE

- Only Senators can speak, with limited exceptions (officers of schools or committee members presenting reports).
- You ask to speak by raising your virtual hand. You may speak only when the chair calls upon you. Remember to unmute yourself. Please lower your virtual hand and mute yourself when you are finished.
- **Germane:** Speak only about the merits of the motion on the floor.
- **Courteous:** Never speak ill of another Senator. Use of negative emojis has been disabled.
- **Brief:** No more than 10 minutes without permission of the Senate (2/3 vote).
- **Engaged:** No reading from lengthy documents without permission (2/3 vote).
- **Don't hog the floor:** Don't speak more than twice on same motion without permission (2/3 vote).

AMENDMENT RULES

- Must be germane to the main motion.
- Cannot just reverse the main motion.
- Can be amended only once (no amendments to amendments of amendments).
- Must be voted on before the main motion. (To postpone a vote on an amendment, you must postpone the vote on the main motion.)

SOME PRIVILEGED AND INCIDENTAL MOTIONS: ALMOST ALWAYS IN ORDER

- **Point of order:** To point out that the rules are not being followed. Chair rules on it immediately. Chair's decision may be appealed. Appeal is decided by majority vote—ties go to the chair.
- **Point of privilege (personal or general):** To point out an urgent condition preventing one or more Senators from fully participating. Chair rules on it immediately and acts.
- **Call for the order of the day:** If the Senate is not following its agenda. Chair rules immediately.
- **Adjourn:** To close the meeting.

Committees 2026-27	Constituency	Member [New members in bold]	Chair	Delegation	Sen. / Nonsen.
Executive (15)	Ten.	Jeanine D'Armiento	Chair	P&S	Sen.
	Ten.	Holger Klein	Vice Chair	A&S/HUM	Sen.
	Ten.	Adana Llanos		SPH	Sen.
	Ten.	Clarisa Long		LAW	Sen.
	Ten.	Henning G. Schulzrinne		SEAS	Sen.
	Ten.	Joseph Slaughter		A&S/HUM	Sen.
	Ten.	Brent Stockwell		A&S/NS	Sen.
	TTOT	Sarah Hansen		A&S/NS	Sen.
	TTOT	Nicole Wallack		A&S/HUM	Sen.
	Stu.	Liane Bdair		CC	Sen.
	Stu.	Nasser Odetallah		ARTS	Sen.
	Stu.	Simon Ogundare		P&S	Sen.
	Research Officers	Daniel Wolf Savin		Professional - Research Officers	Sen.
	Admin.	Jennifer Mnookin		Adm.	Sen.
	Admin.	Angela Olinto		Adm.	Sen.
Alumni Relations (7)	Ten.	Gareth Williams		A&S/HUM	Sen.
	TTOT	Open			
	Stu.	Kwamina Vandyke		BUS	Sen.
	Research Officers	Nancy J. Lolacono		Research Officers - Professional	Nonsen.
	Admin.	Lisa Rosen-Metsch		Adm.	Sen.
	Alum.	Reed Auerbach		Alum.	Sen.
	Alum.	Carlos Cruz	Co-Chair	Alum.	Sen.
Budget (12)	Ten.	John Hunt		A&S/NS	Sen.
	Ten.	Holger Klein	Co-Chair	A&S/HUM	Sen.
	Ten.	Elisa Konofagou		SEAS	Sen.
	Ten.	Clarisa Long		LAW	Sen.
	Ten.	Michael Thaddeus		A&S/NS	Sen.
	TTOT	Christopher Munsell		GSAPP	Sen.
	TTOT	Amir Ziv		BUS	Sen.
	Stu.	Jolee Cobb		GS	Sen.
	Stu.	Bruce Fan		SIPA	Sen.
	Research Officers	Daniel Wolf Savin		Research Officers - Professional	Sen.
	Alum.	Carlos Cruz		Alum.	Sen.
	Executive Chair/ Designee	Jeanine D'Armiento	Co-Chair	P&S	Sen.

Adopted: October 2, 2026

Committees 2026-27	Constituency	Member [New members in bold]	Chair	Delegation	Sen. / Nonsen.
Campus Planning and Physical Development (16)	Ten.	Ben Orlove	Co-Chair	SIPA	Sen.
	Ten.	Henning Schulzrinne		SEAS	Sen.
	Ten.	David Benjamin		GSAPP	Sen.
	Ten.	Open			
	Ten.	Open			
	TTOT	Christopher Munsell		GSAPP	Sen.
	TTOT	Christine O'Hea		CDM	Sen.
	Stu.	Michael Britt		CDM	Sen.
	Stu.	Jolee Cobb		GS	Sen.
	Stu.	Nasser Odetallah		ARTS	Sen.
	Libraries	Katherine Brooks	Co-Chair	Libraries	Sen.
	Admin. Staff	Open			
	Research Officers	Open			
	Admin.	Honey S. Fishman		Adm.	Nonsen.
	Admin.	Kamala C. Kiem		Adm.	Nonsen.
	Alum.	Reed Auerbach		Alum.	Sen.
Education (19)	Ten.	Stuart Firestein		A&S/NS	Sen.
	Ten.	Lydia Goehr		A&S/HUM	Sen.
	Ten.	Mark Hansen		JOURN	Sen.
	Ten.	Ulrich Hengst	Co-Chair	P&S	Sen.
	Ten.	Letty Moss-Salentijn		CDM	Sen.
	Ten.	Melanie Wall		P&S	Sen.
	Ten.	Gareth Williams		A&S/HUM	Sen.
	Ten.	Open			
	TTOT	Babi Kruchin		SPS	Sen.
	TTOT	Nicole Wallack		A&S/HUM	Sen.
	TTOT	Alan Yang		SIPA	Sen.
	Stu.	Katherine Brown		SEAS	Sen.
	Stu.	Simon Ogundare		P&S	Sen.
	Stu.	Madeleine Gordon		SEAS	Sen.
	Stu.	Nasser Odetallah		ARTS	Sen.
	Libraries	Jeffrey Wayno		Libraries	Sen.
	Admin.	Andrea Solomon		Adm.	Nonsen.
	Admin.	Weiping Wu		Adm.	Nonsen.
	Alum.	Carlos Cruz		Alum.	Sen.

Adopted: October 2, 2026

Committees 2026-27	Constituency	Member [New members in bold]	Chair	Delegation	Sen. / Nonsen.
External Relations and Research Policy (18)	Ten.	Mark Barenberg		Law	Sen.
	Ten.	Jeanine D'Armiento		P&S	Sen.
	Ten.	Victoria Frye		SSW	Sen.
	Ten.	Adana Llanos		SPH	Sen.
	Ten.	Aliou Niang		UTS	Sen.
	Ten.	John S. Santelli	Co-Chair	SPH	Sen.
	Ten.	Howard Worman		P&S	Sen.
	TTOT	Anika Navaroli		JOURN	Sen.
	TTOT	Open			
	Stu.	Elizabeth Adeoye	Co-Chair	CC	Sen.
	Stu.	Madeleine Gordon		SEAS	Sen.
	Stu.	Simon Ogundare		P&S	Sen.
	Libraries	William Vanti		Libraries	Nonsen.
	Research Officers	Benjamin Bostick		Research Officers - Professional	Sen.
	Research Officers	Open			
	Admin.	Loftin Flowers		Adm.	Nonsen.
	Admin.	Naomi Schrag		Adm.	Nonsen.
	Alum.	Reed Auerbach		Alum.	Sen.
Faculty Affairs, Academic Freedom and Tenure (17)	Ten.	Gerard Ateshian		SEAS	Sen.
	Ten.	Raimondo Betti		SEAS	Sen.
	Ten.	Jeanine D'Armiento		P&S	Sen.
	Ten.	Kristina Douglass		CS	Sen.
	Ten.	Holger Klein	Co-Chair	A&S/HUM	Sen.
	Ten.	Clarisa Long		LAW	Sen.
	Ten.	David B. Lurie		A&S/HUM	Sen.
	Ten.	Mahmood Mamdani		A&S/SS	Sen.
	Ten.	Letty Moss-Salentijn		CDM	Sen.
	Ten.	Kim Phillips-Fein		A&S/SS	Sen.
	Ten.	Nachum Sicherman		BUS	Sen.
	Ten.	Joseph Slaughter		A&S/HUM	Sen.
	Ten.	Howard Worman		P&S	Sen.
	TTOT	Adam Cannon		SEAS	Sen.
	TTOT	Greg Freyer	Co-Chair	SPH	Sen.
	TTOT	Sarah Hansen		A&S/NS	Sen.
	TTOT	Jonathan Susman		P&S	Nonsen.

Adopted: October 2, 2026

Committees 2026-27	Constituency	Member [New members in bold]	Chair	Delegation	Sen. / Nonsen.
Honors and Prizes (15)	Ten.	Andrew Einstein		P&S	Sen.
	Ten.	Julia Hirschberg		SEAS	Sen.
	Ten.	Gregory Mann		A&S/SS	Sen.
	Ten.	Michael Thaddeus		A&S/NS	Sen.
	Ten.	Open			
	Ten.	Open			
	TTOT	Michael Gerrard		LAW	Sen.
	TTOT	Christine O'Hea		CDM	Sen.
	Stu.	Simon Ogundare		P&S	Sen.
	Stu.	Open			
	Libraries	Jeffrey Wayno		Libraries	Sen.
	Research Officers	Open			
	Admin.	Carlos J. Alonso		Adm.	Sen.
	Admin.	Lisa Rosen-Metsch		Adm.	Sen.
	Alum.	Hartley du Pont		Alum.	Nonsen.
Housing Policy (11)	Ten.	Nachum Sicherman	Chair	BUS	Sen.
	Ten.	Tian Zheng		A&S/NS	Sen.
	Ten.	Open			
	Ten.	Open			
	TTOT	Steven Chaikelson		ARTS	Sen.
	TTOT	Adena Bargad		NURS	Sen.
	Stu.	Liane Bdair		CC	Sen.
	Stu.	Open			
	Research Officers	Dhan Cardinal		Research Officers - Staff	Nonsen.
	Admin.	Carrie Marlin		Adm.	Nonsen.
	Admin.	Diego Rivera		Adm.	Nonsen.
Information and Communications Technology (13)	Faculty	Adam Cannon		SEAS	Sen.
	Faculty	Andrew Einstein		P&S	Sen.
	Faculty	Julia Hirschberg	Chair	SEAS	Sen.
	Faculty	David Kessler		P&S	Sen.
	Faculty	Anika Navaroli		JOURN	Sen.
	Stu.	Open			
	Stu.	Andrew Puthumana		CC	Sen.
	Libraries	Jessica Noble		Libraries	Nonsen.
	Admin. Staff	Zahid Mehmood		Admin. Staff: Morningside-Lamont	Nonsen.
	Research Officers	Nancy J. Lolacono		Research Officers - Professional	Nonsen.
	Admin.	Maneesha Aggarwal		Adm.	Nonsen.
	Admin.	Rich Hall		Adm.	Nonsen.
	Alum.	Open			

Adopted: October 2,
2026

Committees 2026-27	Constituency	Member [New members in bold]	Chair	Delegation	Sen. / Nonsen.
Libraries and Digital Resources (17)	Ten.	Charly Coleman		A&S/SS	Sen.
	Ten.	David B. Lurie		A&S/HUM	Sen.
	Ten.	Alan Stewart		A&S/HUM	Nonsen.
	Ten.	Lori Qingyuan Yue		BUS	Sen.
	Ten.	Aliou Niang		UTS	Sen.
	Ten.	Open			
	TTOT	Maria Luisa Gozzi		A&S/HUM	Nonsen.
	TTOT	Open			
	Stu.	Simon Ogundare		P&S	Sen.
	Stu.	Open			
	Stu.	Open			
	Libraries	Katherine Brooks	Co-Chair	Libraries	Sen.
	Libraries	Jeffrey Wayno	Co-Chair	Libraries	Sen.
	Research Officers	Open			
	Admin.	Ann D. Thornton		Adm.	Sen.
	Admin.	Open			
	Alum.	Sara Coffield		Alum.	Nonsen.
Research Officers Caucus (9)	Research Officers-Senator	Benjamin Bostick		Professional - Research Officers	Sen.
	Research Officers-Senator	Kara D. Lamb		Professional - Research Officers	Sen.
	Research Officers-Senator	Rohan Munoth		Staff - Research Officers	Sen.
	Research Officers-Senator	Giovanni Oliveros		Postdoctoral - Research Officers	Sen.
	Research Officers-Senator	Daniel Wolf Savin	Chair	Professional - Research Officers	Sen.
	Research Officers-Senator	Open			
	Research Officers	Dhan Cardinal		Staff - Research Officers	Nonsen.
	Research Officers	William Hunnicutt		Staff - Research Officers	Nonsen.
	Research Officers	Nancy J. Lolocono	Vice Chair	Professional - Research Officers	Nonsen.
Rules of University Conduct (16)	Ten.	Susan Bernofsky		ARTS	Sen.
	Ten.	Ciamac Moallemi		BUS	Sen.
	Ten.	Joseph Slaughter		A&S/HUM	Sen.
	Ten.	Open			
	TTOT	Jackie Dugard		A&S/SS	Sen.
	TTOT	Michael Gerrard		LAW	Sen.
	Stu.	Liane Bdair		CC	Sen.
	Stu.	Sean Eren		GSAPP	Sen.
	Stu.	Rebecca Xu		SSW	Sen.
	Stu.	Marc Younger	Co-Chair	LAW	Sen.
	Stu.	Reesa Venterea		CC	Nonsen.
	Libraries	Candice Kail		Libraries	Nonsen.
	Admin. Staff	Janie Weiss		Admin. Staff: CUIMC	Nonsen.
	Research Officers	William Hunnicutt	Co-Chair	Research Officers - Staff	Nonsen.
	Admin.	Carlos J. Alonso		Adm.	Sen.
	Admin.	Jenny Mak		Adm.	Nonsen.

Committees 2026-27	Constituency	Member [New members in bold]	Chair	Delegation	Sen. / Nonsen.
Student Affairs Committee (25+1)	Stu.	Elizabeth Adeoye		CC	Sen.
	Stu.	Liane Bdair	Co-Chair	CC	Sen.
	Stu.	Jake Borden		JOURN	Sen.
	Stu.	Michael Britt		CDM	Sen.
	Stu.	Katherine Brown		SEAS	Sen.
	Stu.	Emanuel Clemente		SPH	Sen.
	Stu.	Jolee Cobb		GS	Sen.
	Stu.	Sean Eren		GSAPP	Sen.
	Stu.	Bruce Fan		SIPA	Sen.
	Stu.	Madeleine Gordon		SEAS	Sen.
	Stu.	Daniel Li		GSAS/SS	Sen.
	Stu.	Mahlon Mathieson		NURS	Sen.
	Stu.	Afa Nuriyeva		BAR	Sen.
	Stu.	Nasser Odetallah	Vice Chair	ARTS	Sen.
	Stu.	Simon Ogundare	Co-Chair	P&S	Sen.
	Stu.	Andrew Puthumana		CC	Sen.
	Stu.	Maeghan Sill		TC	Sen.
	Stu.	Kwamina Vandyke		BUS	Sen.
	Stu.	Rebecca Xu		SSW	Sen.
	Stu.	Marc Younker		LAW	Sen.
	Stu.	Open		GSAS/HUM	Sen.
	Stu.	Open		GSAS/NS	Sen.
	Stu.	Open		BUS	Sen.
	Stu.	Open		CS	Sen.
	Stu.	Open		SPS	Sen.
	Stu. Observer	Open		UTS	Stu. Observer
Structure and Operations (13)	Ten.	Henry Ginsberg		P&S	Sen.
	Ten.	Gregory Mann		A&S/SS	Sen.
	Ten.	Brendan O'Flaherty	Co-Chair	A&S/SS	Nonsen.
	Ten.	Henning Schulzrinne		SEAS	Sen.
	Ten.	Brent Stockwell		A&S/NS	Sen.
	Ten.	Susan Witte		SSW	Nonsen.
	TTOT	Greg Freyer		SPH	Sen.
	Stu.	Simon Ogundare		P&S	Sen.
	Stu.	Andrew Puthumana		CC	Sen.
	Admin. Staff	Michelle Rivera-Lopez		Admin. Staff: CUI MC	Sen.
	Research Officers	Daniel Wolf Savin	Co-Chair	Research Officers - Professional	Sen.
	Admin.	Zeid Sitnica		Adm.	Nonsen.
	Admin.	Open Admin			

Committees 2026-27	Constituency	Member [New members in bold]	Chair	Delegation	Sen. / Nonsen.
Commission on the Status of Women (15)	Ten.	Rebecca Schnall		NURS	Sen.
	Ten.	Susan Witte		SSW	Nonsen.
	Ten.	Open			
	Faculty	Ovita Williams		SSW	Sen.
	Faculty	Amy Zhou		BAR	Sen.
	TTOT	Monica P. Goldklang	Co-Chair	P&S	Nonsen.
	TTOT	Paola Valenti		BUS	Nonsen.
	Stu.	Mahlon Mathieson		NURS	Sen.
	Stu.	Open			
	Stu.	Maeghan Sill		TC	Sen.
	Stu.	Open			
	Librarians / Admin. Staff / Research Officers	Candice Kail		Libraries	Nonsen.
	Librarians / Admin. Staff / Research Officers	Kara D. Lamb		Research Officers - Professional	Sen.
	Librarians / Admin. Staff / Research Officers	Michelle Rivera-Lopez		Admin. Staff: CUIMC	Sen.
	Librarians / Admin. Staff / Research Officers	Open			
Commission on Diversity (12+1)	Stu.	Elizabeth Adeoye		CC	Sen.
	Stu.	Liane Bdair		CC	Sen.
	Stu.	Afa Nuriyeva		BAR	Sen.
	Stu.	Open			
	Stu.	Open			
	Faculty	Adela Gondek		CS	Sen.
	Faculty	Andrea White		UTS	Nonsen.
	Faculty	Open			
	Faculty	Open			
	Librarians / Admin. Staff / Research Officers	Melinda Aquino		Admin. Staff: Morningside-Lamont	Sen.
	Admin.	Celina Chatman Nelson		Adm.	Nonsen.
	Admin.	Open			
	Student Observer	Open			
Elections Commission (5)	Ten.	Brendan O'Flaherty		A&S/SS	Nonsen.
	TTOT	Sarah Hansen		A&S/NS	Sen.
	Stu.	Kiara Chiddick		LAW	Nonsen.
	Librarians / Admin. Staff / Research Officers	Melinda Aquino		Admin. Staff: Morningside-Lamont	Sen.
	Admin.	Ann D. Thornton		Adm.	Sen.
Commission on Benefits (9)	Faculty	Greg Freyer		SPH	Sen.
	Faculty	Holger Klein		A&S/HUM	Sen.
	Faculty	Clarisa Long		LAW	Sen.
	Faculty	Michael Thaddeus		A&S/NS	Sen.
	Research Officers	Dhan Cardinal		Research Officers - Staff	Nonsen.
	Libraries	Amanda Bielskas		Libraries	Nonsen.
	Admin. Staff	Melinda Aquino		Admin. Staff: Morningside-Lamont	Sen.
	Nonsenator Expert	Miriam Laugesen		SPH	Nonsen.
	Executive Chair / Designee	Jeanine D'Armiesto		P&S	Sen.

Committees 2026-27	Constituency	Member [New members in bold]	Chair	Delegation	Sen. / Nonsen.
Commission on the Status of Health Sciences (13)	Ten. Non-CUIMC	George Bonanno		TC	Sen.
	Ten. CUIMC	Henry Ginsberg	Chair	P&S	Sen.
	Ten. CUIMC	Despina Kontos		P&S	Sen.
	Ten. CUIMC	Ian Kronish		P&S	Sen.
	Ten. CUIMC	Melissa Stockwell		P&S	Sen.
	TTOT CUIMC	Adena Bargad		NURS	Sen.
	TTOT CUIMC	David Kessler		P&S	Sen.
	TTOT CUIMC	Christine O'Hea		CDM	Sen.
	TTOT Non-CUIMC	Open			
	Research Officers Non-CUIMC	Open			
	Research Officers CUIMC	Giovanni Oliveros		Research Officers - Postdoctoral	Sen.
	Student CUIMC	Michael Britt		CDM	Sen.
	Student Non-CUIMC	Katherine Brown		SEAS	Sen.

University Senate | Proposed Committee Assignments 2026-27

Overview

Background | The [policy on committee preferences](#) (May 2026) is intended to make “the nomination process more transparent, more responsive to patterns of underrepresentation and oversubscription, and more supportive of broad Senate participation over time. It does not alter the By-Laws allocation of authority to the Executive Committee as the Senate’s committee on committees, nor the Senate’s authority to elect committee members.”

The 20 committees and commissions of the University Senate count 279 seats in total. These bodies are populated by 111 University Senators from seven constituencies: Administration, Administrative and Support Staff, Alumni, Faculty (Tenured and Tenure-Track and Off-Track), Librarians, Research Officers, and Students. In 2025-26, these bodies met over 180 times. Members also met in subcommittee, participated in monthly plenaries, participated in quarterly committee meetings of the Board of Trustees, and represented the University Senate on external bodies.

Assignments 2026-27 | In preparing the proposed assignments for 2026-27, all 94 mid-term and newly elected senators were asked to provide their preferences, ranked at least 1 through 3 (1=highest preference). Over 90 percent of senators provided their preferences, with the last preferences received on August 10, 2026. In addition to information on preferences, information on prior service and participation was collated to inform matching at the individual level. At the committee-level, criteria used in the matching process included representation by school, particular expertise required for certain committee work, and, as the policy noted, “past service on a committee where continuity is important to the committee’s work.”

For 2026-27, the five most preferred assignments, measured by both first choice and preferences weighted by rank, are:

- Faculty Affairs, Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee
- Education Committee
- External Relations and Research Policy Committee,
- Budget Committee
- Commission on the Status of Health Sciences

Over 90 percent of senators have been assigned their first preference. 94 percent of senators have been assigned their first or second preference, and 100 percent of senators have been assigned their first, second, or third preference.

Following this matching, senators from smaller constituencies reviewed assignments, understanding the need for a reasonable workload. We understand that student schedules may shift as classes are finalized and that elections to five student seats will be conducted at the beginning of the Fall semester. In the coming month, we will, therefore, review assignments with the leaders of the Student Affairs Committee. We thank the small number of senators who were available to restate their preferences based on the needs of the committee.

Following confirmation of University Senator assignments, committee membership will be completed by confirming nonsenator member service, also listed here. It should be noted that with eight elections scheduled to take place early in the Fall semester, a number of open seats are maintained for incoming senators.

As the University Senate monitors this policy, we note two items for consideration:

- Future preference requests would consider also on how many committees a University Senator would be available to serve.
- Understanding that one policy goal is to improve engagement, members' participation would be noted on the committee's website page.

The University Senate | Shared Governance in Our Community: A Self-Study

September 29, 2026

I. Purpose

In 1969, Columbia University fully implemented the principle of shared governance with [*A Plan for Participation: Proposal for a University Senate with Faculty, Student, Administration and Other Membership*](#).

In July 2025, the University Senate examined the [evolution of governance at Columbia](#) since its founding in 1754, the establishment of the University Senate constituting a critical moment in this history. More recently, in Spring 2026, the University Senate convened a [Forum on Shared Governance](#) with the purpose “*to explore and critically examine how universities can and should be governed, and to ask how university governance can best be organized to support excellence in scholarship, teaching, and service to the broader world.*” The Forum considered broad questions of academic and institutional governance and their application at Columbia University, noting that the discussion was taking place at a critical moment in the university’s history.

Now, in Fall 2026, the University Senate Executive Committee proposes moving to the next step in its review of shared governance at Columbia: a self-study to be undertaken by the University Senate. Once again, this effort takes place at a critical moment in the University Senate’s history. In her final [announcement](#) as Acting President, Claire Shipman informed the Columbia Community of the creation of a presidential Task Force on Shared Governance, to which President Jennifer Mnookin appointed members in September 2026.

By undertaking its own self-study, the University Senate Executive Committee intends to review and assess the work and workings of the University Senate, its effectiveness, areas for improvement and reconsideration, all with a view toward ensuring that it continues to serve as a platform for shared governance at Columbia University. Consistent with the work undertaken to date, the self-study is intended to facilitate policy decisions and processes, thus contributing to an improved University Senate overall. It will address the desire of many community members to better understand the work of the University Senate. It will serve as an opportunity for all members of our community—faculty (tenured, tenure-track, off-track), students, administrators, researchers, administrative and support staff, alumni and librarians—to bring their understanding, insights and expertise to bear on this critical work.

We expect that the report of this self-study will be informed by meetings with the presidential Task Force on Shared Governance and will contribute to its work. This self-study will be undertaken in a manner consistent with academic reviews conducted by schools, divisions, and departments, and the University Senate's engagement with the Columbia Community will continue, including through townhalls and forums. Over recent years, the Columbia Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) has engaged in an in-depth assessment of shared governance at Columbia, and we will seek its insights and expertise in this self-study.

At a moment when shared governance, governance structures, and best practices are being reviewed at institutions across the United States, sometimes with a view toward efficiency rather than participation or accountability, this self-study is intended to help us understand how the University Senate can continue to bring together faculty, students, administrators, researchers, administrative and support staff, alumni, and librarians in considering the issues before us and in making policy with the greatest possible participation and engagement.

II. Areas to be considered

1. Purpose and history, structure and authority
2. Assessment of current structure, representation and engagement
3. Responsibilities
4. Comparison with peer institutions
5. Administrative practices
6. Inclusivity

III. Composition of Self-Study Group

- 1 administrative member to be identified following consultation with the President and the Provost
- 2 faculty members from among the schools of Columbia University other than the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and the Faculty of Law
- 2 faculty members from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences
- 1 faculty member from the School of Law

- 5 University Senators (Faculty, Students, Noninstructional Officers — Administrative and Support Staff, Librarians, Researchers). This would be in addition to any senators selected in the above categories.
- 2 students from student governance bodies
- 1 member of the alumni community external to the University Senate
- 1 member of the AAUP external to the University Senate
- The Chair and Vice Chair of the University Senate Executive Committee will serve as non-voting members
- Total membership should be no more than 17 and no fewer than 13 members, including non-voting members, maintaining an odd number. Membership is intended to reflect the constituencies of the University Senate.
- All assignments are to be confirmed by the University Senate Executive Committee.
- The work of this self-study will be led by two co-chairs to be appointed by the University Senate Executive Committee from among the members of the Self-Study Group.

IV. Timeline

- To begin in October 2026 and to report to the Executive Committee no later than March 2027
- Before a final report is released, a draft report will be presented in the University Senate plenary for comment.
- A more detailed timeline, specification of areas of study, et cetera, will be provided by the self-study group in due course.

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE UNIVERSITY SENATE BY-LAWS
TO ESTABLISH TERM LIMITS ON UNIVERSITY SENATE SERVICE**

BE IT RESOLVED that the University Senate amend its By-Laws to establish term limits on University Senate service, as follows:

Resolution Part 1

- **BY ESTABLISHING SECTION. 1. p. General Term Limit**
-

SEC. 1: ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE

- p. General Term Limit: No person may start a term as a Senator more than six times within any 14-year period that ends on the same day as a Senate term ending date, except as provided below. The starting date for a Senate term means the date on which the records of the University Senate show the term starting. For the purpose of the term limit, terms served as a student Senator shall not be counted.

Vacancy Exception to Term Limits: Notwithstanding the term limits set forth above, a person who is otherwise ineligible to serve as a Senator by operation of that limitation may stand for election to the Senate as a representative of a constituency if, at the close of nominations, the number of eligible candidates for that constituency is fewer than the number of seats to be filled for that constituency and the constituency contains at least one person who is term-limited but otherwise eligible to serve. In that event, all such persons shall be notified and the nomination period shall be extended for no less than four and no more than seven days to receive additional nominations, including nominations of persons who are term-limited but otherwise eligible to serve.

Ex officio Senators: The Senators who serve by virtue of Section 20.a (except subsection 5) of the University Statutes do not serve terms in the sense of this section and so their service is not limited by this section. Nor does time served by virtues of these titles limit the number of terms they can serve as Senators in other capacities.

Resolution Part 2

- **BY AMENDING SECTION 3.h. as follows:**

SEC. 3: ELECTORAL CAUCUSES AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- h. In the spring of each odd-numbered year, the Senate shall nominate and elect the Chair of the Committee, and shall nominate and elect the Vice Chair of the Committee. Both officers shall take office on the following September 1. A candidate for Chair or Vice Chair must be a member of the Tenured Caucus at the time of their nomination. In addition, they must have served on the Senate at least two years in the immediately preceding four years.

However, time in which a prospective candidate was ineligible to serve in the Senate because of term limits under Section 1.p. of these By-Laws shall not be counted against the four-year limit.

Each nomination shall require a petition signed by at least six current members of the Senate, at least 3 of whom shall be members of the Tenured Caucus and at least 2 of whom shall not be members of the Tenured Caucus. The Elections Commission shall prescribe the format and timing of the nominations. The current members of the Senate shall elect the Chair and the Vice Chair by confidential electronic ballot as prescribed and supervised by the Elections Commission. A separate ballot shall be used for each position, and votes shall be tallied separately for each position. Each ballot shall include an option to abstain.

Resolution Part 3

- **The University Senate shall adopt transition rules for these amendments no later than December 31, 2026.**

Proponent: Senate Structure and Operations Committee

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE UNIVERSITY SENATE BY-LAWS
TO ESTABLISH TERM LIMITS ON CHAIRS' SERVICE**

BE IT RESOLVED that the University Senate amend its By-Laws to establish limits on the service of chairs, as follows:

- **BY AMENDING SECTION 4.f. as follows:**

SEC. 4. COMMITTEES

f. Committee Chairs. Each committee, other than the Executive Committee, shall elect its chair from among its members. No person shall serve as chair of more than two standing committees; it being understood that serving as a co-chair constitutes serving as one chair. Each committee chair shall serve a term that ends at the first plenary meeting of the Senate in the second September after their election as chair, and until their successor is chosen. However, no person shall serve as a committee chair who is not a member of the committee.

No person shall be elected as a chair or co-chair of a committee for more than three consecutive terms or partial terms. A person who becomes ineligible to be elected as chair because of the number of consecutive terms that they have been elected shall not become eligible to be elected as chair or co-chair of the same committee until the second September 1 following the end of their term as chair or co-chair.

Proponent: Senate Structure and Operations Committee

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE UNIVERSITY STATUTES ~~TO RENAME~~
THE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY, EVOLUTION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION**

WHEREAS the term “environmental biology” is not a well-defined term in the natural sciences, a name used by peer institutions, or the self-described discipline of any core faculty members; and

WHEREAS the lack of precision in the name of the associated undergraduate major creates challenges for students applying for graduate school and employment, as well as potentially dampening visibility and enrollment for the department; and

WHEREAS the term was originally used to highlight the study of human-environment interactions in a time before the Sustainable Development Major in the Arts and Sciences or the establishment of the Columbia Climate School, meaning the term’s elimination would not narrow the intellectual scope of study; and

WHEREAS the department’s application to change its name has been reviewed and approved by the Dean of Natural Sciences in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, following a unanimous vote of the faculty in support of the change;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the University Senate approve this resolution to rename the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology to the Department of Ecology and Evolution, proposing to inscribe this change in Chapter 4 (Departments), Section 40, and in Chapter 15 (Graduate School of Arts and Sciences), Section 153 (Programs of Study) of the University Statutes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University Senate forward this resolution to the University Trustees, whose approval is required for appropriate action.

Proponent: Education Committee

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ARTS AND SCIENCES
RUBEN L. GONZALEZ JR., DEAN OF NATURAL SCIENCES

December 3, 2025

To whom it may concern,

I write in my capacity as Dean of Natural Sciences to express my strong support for the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology's (E3B's) request to change its name to the Department of Ecology and Evolution. This proposal is well considered, timely, and merits approval.

Since its establishment in 2001, E3B has played a central role in strengthening organismal, ecological, and evolutionary biology at Columbia, complementing departments whose primary focus lies at molecular, cellular, or geophysical scales. Over time, however, the department's current name has become increasingly misaligned with both its intellectual center of gravity and prevailing disciplinary norms.

From the field's perspective, "Ecology and Evolution" provides a clear, widely recognized descriptor of the department's scholarly focus. The term "environmental biology," by contrast, lacks a consistent or well-defined meaning across peer institutions and can obscure rather than clarify the department's core strengths. At a moment when clarity of disciplinary identity matters for visibility, recruitment, and external perception, this distinction is consequential.

The proposed name change would also bring Columbia into closer alignment with peer institutions, where departments with comparable research and teaching profiles are typically organized under the banner of Ecology and Evolution (or Ecology and Evolutionary Biology). Aligning nomenclature in this way improves comparability in national assessments and reduces unnecessary ambiguity for prospective students, collaborators, and external audiences.

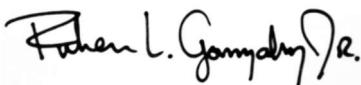
Importantly, the proposed change does not signal a narrowing of intellectual scope. The department's faculty continues to integrate applied and societally relevant questions, particularly those concerning human impacts on organisms and ecosystems, within a rigorous ecological and evolutionary framework. At the same time, the broader institutional landscape at Columbia has evolved substantially since E3B's founding, with environmental and climate-focused scholarship now robustly represented elsewhere in the University, for example, in the Climate School. Against this backdrop, a more precise departmental name will strengthen, rather than diminish, the coherence of Columbia's overall academic portfolio.

I also note that the department has followed appropriate governance procedures in bringing this request forward, including full faculty discussion and a unanimous vote in support of the change. I concur with their judgment and believe that this proposal reflects a thoughtful assessment of the department's identity, trajectory, and role within Arts & Sciences.

For these reasons, I strongly support renaming the department the Department of Ecology and Evolution and encourage its approval.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if further information would be helpful.

Sincerely,



Ruben L. Gonzalez Jr.

Dean of Natural Sciences,

Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Chair of Frontiers of Science

Professor of Chemistry

Professor of Physiology & Cellular Biophysics

Name change for the department of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology

In Fall 2025, the faculty of E3B voted to officially change the name of the department from *Ecology and Evolution, and Environmental Biology* to *Ecology and Evolution*. We arrived at this name after extensive discussion and consideration of several alternative naming options.

Rationale

E3B was formed in July 2001 and is the youngest and small natural science department in the Arts & Sciences. The rationale for establishing the department was three-fold. First, the university had lost its preeminence in biological sciences at the scales of organism, population, ecosystem, and biosphere when these fields were experiencing dramatic growth and expansion elsewhere. E3B was intended to restore the intellectual balance in biology at Columbia and regain preeminence in botany, zoology, ecology, evolution, and environmental biology. Second, growing interest in environmental issues at Columbia called for the establishment of undergraduate and graduate programs and a department to serve these emerging needs. Third, Columbia's historical association with regional cultural institutions in biology, specifically the American Museum of Natural History, the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG), and the Wildlife Conservation Society, had diminished and the formation of E3B would further restore and invigorate these associations. E3B complements the Department of Biological Sciences, which focuses on biology primarily at the molecular, cellular, and neuronal levels, and the Department of Earth and Environmental Science, which emphasizes geology, geochemistry, and the physical aspects of environmental and earth sciences.

The department's founder, the late Don Melnick, initially proposed the name *Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology*. The administration, however, sought to avoid an overly narrow focus and to distinguish E3B from Biological Sciences. A compromise was reached with the name *Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology*. The phrase "environmental biology" was intended to highlight applied aspects of human–environment interactions as distinct from the core scientific study of ecology and evolution.

Over two decades later, we believe this distinction no longer serves the department well for several reasons:

1. "Environmental biology" is not a well-defined term within the field. Rather than clarifying our focus, it introduces confusion about our intellectual identity. The 2024 external ARC review noted: "*The department might also give thought to a name change given that the current "E3B" obscures the intellectual focus of the department. Many comparable departments at peer institutions (Princeton, Yale, Cornell, Michigan, UCLA) are simply called Ecology and Evolutionary Biology [or Ecology and Evolution], even though, like E3B, they include environmental biology as part of their program.*"
2. The current name may be limiting our visibility. E3B was not included in the most recent NRC rankings, despite faculty publication impact and productivity metrics that meet or exceed those of faculty in top-ranked programs (see ARC self-study).
3. The name can create challenges for students. Our undergraduate major, titled *Environmental Biology*, often leads to confusion among graduate schools and employers. The Director of Undergraduate Studies regularly clarifies in recommendation letters that our curriculum is centered on ecology and evolution.
4. The distinction between ecology, evolution, and environmental biology no longer reflects the field. All core faculty identify as ecologists or evolutionary biologists, while integrating applied research on human impacts on organisms and ecosystems. The only faculty who fall outside this scope hold joint appointments with the Climate School.

5. The broader institutional landscape has evolved since E3B was formed. The establishment of the Sustainable Development major in A&S and the Climate School now cover much of the intellectual ground related to human–environment interactions. It is therefore essential that our department maintain a distinct and clearly defined focus on *Ecology and Evolution* within this broader academic context.

In sum, the proposed change to *Department of Ecology and Evolution* will strengthen our disciplinary identity, align us with peer institutions, and more accurately represent our faculty's research and teaching. It will also enhance our visibility and improve clarity for prospective students, collaborators, and employers.

University Senate | Student Affairs Committee

Statement on Term Limits

The Student Affairs Committee (SAC) of the University Senate opposes the *Resolution to Amend the University Senate By-Laws to Establish Term Limits on University Senate Service*. We object to the selective implementation of these term limits, and to the undemocratic manner this Resolution has been raised to the Senate.

The term limit policy was developed over the summer, when our student constituency was largely absent, and the student caucus could not convene. The first opportunity for SAC's input on this policy came during our Change of Program or shopping period with the Resolution fully drafted the day of our first meeting. The schedule for materials to make it to the upcoming plenary as per the request of the President, occurred the same day as the first meeting of the whole committee to discuss the matter, as well as the first regular committee meeting outside of the Executive Committee, to discuss term limits with student Senators present. This timeline reads as a rushed attempt to reshape the Senate without appropriate consultation. We see clear parallels to the University Senate Review of 2025-26, which based its conclusions on a survey with a response rate of below 4 percent.

The resolution limits Senators to six terms or partial terms within a fourteen-year period. In practice, a Senator who completes six two-year terms is barred from the Senate for two years before becoming eligible to run again. Notably, administrators, who serve ex officio, are exempt from this policy. No defensible rationale has been offered for either twelve years of service or two years of ineligibility, and we can only conclude that these durations are arbitrary. These numbers appear to be modeled on the term structure for membership to the Board of Trustees, but the work of an elected Senator has little in common with the work of a Trustee. In practice, there are no meaningful term limits to our Trustees and the implementation of their rules to the Senate carries no meaning. Therefore, any attempt to graft term limit restrictions from the ever-changing Trustee governing documents onto a deliberative, fully representative, and democratic body is illogical.

One stated purpose of term limits is turnover. That purpose is fully served the moment a term-limited Senator sits out one election. No clear rationale has been offered for two years. In our view, a two-year ban, which removes Senators with longstanding records of good-faith, volunteer, unpaid service, is punitive and discourages meaningful and thoughtful service to the University in service of administrative control. For many current long-serving Senators who would, or soon would, be term-limited, these proposed rules feel particularly retaliatory in light of the important and critical decisions and work the Senate has undergone over the last few years. Ethical and truthful service to the Senate should not result in de facto punishment at the request of the President and Trustees, something the student Senators of past and present have become far too familiar with. If the Senate chooses to adopt any limit, we strongly believe that this cooling-off period should last only until the next election in the Senator's constituency.

A student who arrives at Columbia next fall and joins the Senate at any point in their undergraduate career will likely graduate without ever serving alongside any Senators removed by this policy and without access to these Senators' institutional knowledge or mentorship. Students cycle through the Senate faster than any other constituency but carry a large share of its work. Cutting students off from experienced Senators would make the Senate less efficient, coinciding at the very moment the Senate has been criticized for its apparent inefficiency.

The resolution treats twelve years as a sufficiently long tenure. For a deliberative body that works through committees, resolutions, and relationships built across departments, schools, and campuses, it is not. Senators need time to learn about the needs of their own schools, to understand the policy-making processes of the Senate, and to become effective in those processes. A resolution that forces members out precisely as they become most effective is illogical on its own terms. Notably, this also hands a structural advantage to administrative members of the Senate, who, per the University Statutes, serve indefinitely on the Senate and without any term limit.

Another motive behind term limits is an alleged concentration of power, which is a legitimate concern. We have seen two approaches to this alleged concern:

There is a democratic approach. In 2020, the Senate itself raised the proposal of term limits for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Executive Committee, deliberated, and adopted them. This year, a companion resolution establishing term limits for committee chairs was again raised from within the Senate; it is now in discussion for adoption by the Senate body. When an issue is organically raised to a body by its own members, consensus is often reached quickly and democratically.

There is also an undemocratic approach. The current proposal for general term limits originated from a public declaration from the Board of Trustees, not from any given committee. Since then, this proposal has now been under discussion for nearly half a year, far longer than the draft of the committee chair limits took to reach the plenary floor. The delay is a direct product of the undemocratic manner this policy was forced onto the Senate, rather than the usual process of policymaking in many other Resolutions, which originates from Senators, elected democratically by their constituents.

Institutional memory plays a critical role in any functioning democracy. The Senators who would be removed by this resolution are also those who remember what the administration promised and when, which commitments were kept and which were forgotten, and those who have seen this University make the same mistakes before. Removing institutional memory removes the only people capable of independently holding the University to its own record. Once they are gone, history can be rewritten so long as no one remains to recall it. Without experience, we unwittingly embrace institutional amnesia: not by destroying records, but by making sure that no one in the room was present when they were made, except the administration itself. **Therefore,**

the term limit policy by definition manufactures the very concentration of power it claims to prevent.

Finally, we see the same erasure of diverse experience in the new committee tasked with reviewing the Senate. It is composed entirely of selected tenured faculty, with no off-track faculty, students, or research officers. A committee of faculty is best suited to evaluate a Faculty Senate. A committee of students is best suited to evaluate a Student Senate. A committee of administrators is best suited to evaluate an Administrator Senate. Columbia, at this moment, has a University Senate. We firmly believe that a committee charged with reviewing the Senate has no credibility to do so when it excludes all but one of the constituencies in its membership, and we reject the assumption that it can do so fairly. If concentration of power in the Senate is to be examined, that examination must be carried out by a body that looks like the Senate itself, through the democratic process the Senate has already shown it can run effectively.

In summary, we believe this specific implementation of term limits is harmful to the Senate at large: it punishes rather than rewards long-serving senators for their volunteer service, implements unjustified durations of eligibility and ineligibility, and manufactures a concentration of power.

**Report of the Education Committee on the Establishment of the Dual Degree Linking the
Master of Science in Climate and the Master of Science in Journalism (Climate and Journalism)**

September 18, 2026

What is proposed: Columbia's Climate School and Graduate School of Journalism School propose a consecutive, one-way dual degree: Master of Science in Climate followed by the Master of Science in Journalism, starting Fall 2026 (submitted to the University Senate March 19, 2026). Students spend Year 1 at the Climate School (32 credits over two semesters plus a zero-credit summer practicum), and Year 2 at the Graduate School of Journalism (the unchanged 37-credit program). The number of credits totals 69 over four semesters, versus 87 credits for the two degrees taken separately. The MS in Climate is reduced from 50 to 32 credits; its “second credential” requirement is satisfied by Journalism coursework, and so 18 credits double-count (26 percent, below the University Senate’s 30 percent cap). No new courses or faculty are needed; the sole additions are two small “Applied Integrative Seminar for Duals” courses in Year 1, added in response to University Senate Education Committee feedback on the Climate School’s first dual degree. Students apply and are admitted separately to each school and pay tuition to the school in which they are in residence. Expected enrollment is small: two students in 2027–28, increasing to five students by 2031–32.

Why: The stated rationale is a national need for individuals who can both interpret climate science and communicate it accurately, amid widespread climate misinformation; New York City’s position as a hub for both climate research and media; student demand at both schools (Climate students already take Journalism electives; Journalism has a “Climate Sequence” and climate is one of its pillars); and employer feedback from a 2021 Huron market study naming communication as a critical skill. The proposal notes that no comparable dual program exists in the Northeast, citing NYU SHERP, Stony Brook and CUNY Newmark as looser standalone analogues. It also nods to a contracting traditional journalism job market, arguing that subject-matter expertise helps graduates build their own audiences.

Action in Education Committee: The Education committee first considered the proposal during its April 17, 2026 meeting. Both constituent degrees had already completed the standard review and approval process. Because no substantive changes were suggested for either degree, the committee chose to present the matter as a report rather than a vote at the University Senate plenary. Members sought additional time to examine the proposal. At the April 29, 2026 meeting, the committee voted unanimously to advance the proposal as a report to the next practicable plenary.