University Senate Plenary

July 18, 2025

UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate

Proposed: July 18, 2025

Adopted:

PROPOSED AGENDA

University Senate

Friday, July 18, 2025 at 1:15 p.m., via Zoom

Registration required

After registering you will receive a confirmation email.

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of the minutes of June 13, 2025
3. President's report and questions
4. Chair's report and questions:
   a. Brief history of University governance
5. New business:
   a. Resolutions and other voting actions:
      i. Resolution to Update the Academic Calendar to Establish September 1 as the Fall Degree Conferral Date in Lieu of October (Teachers College) (Education)
      ii. Appeal of Elections Commission decision in College of Physicians & Surgeons TTOT election
   b. Committee reports and updates:
      i. Rules of University Conduct Committee update
6. Any other business
7. Adjourn

Attendees to this Plenary meeting are reminded not to post this meeting, or any portion of this meeting, online as such a posting could result in a violation of the University's Acceptable Usages of Information Resources Policy.

University Senate

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Minutes of the Meeting of June 13, 2025

61 out of 91 Senators were present.

Senator Jeanine D'Armiento (Ten., P&S), Executive Committee Chair, called the University Senate to order at 1:18pm. Sen. D'Armiento welcomed Senators and guests to the ninth Plenary of the 2024-2025 session. Sen. D'Armiento reminded attendees of the Parliamentary procedures and that recordings are not permitted in Plenary meetings.

Senators adopted the agenda for the Plenary.

Senators then adopted the minutes of the May 5th, 2025 Plenary.

Sen. D'Armiento then turned over the meeting to Acting University President Claire Shipman.

Updates from President Shipman

President Shipman began her remarks by outlining her priorities that she has been working on this summer. She stated that the top priority was the research mission, which had to do a lot with the health of the institution. President Shipman stated that, while the administration remains in active dialogue with the government, the freeze on research funding has caused a lot of disruption and distress in the University community. She added that it was not just the termination in previous grants that was harming the research mission but also the cancelation of current grants and inability to apply for future grants as well. She added that the University was on the precipice of a dire situation, especially for graduate students and postdocs. President Shipman stated that the Mailman School of Public Health was the hardest hit School because of its reliance on federal funding and that many of the other schools and institutes at Columbia were greatly affected as well. She stated that the conversation around research funding was the main topic at the recent Board of Trustees meeting and that the University was able to bring different scientists to speak at these meetings. President Shipman stated that the Presidential Task Force on Columbia's Research Mission, CFO of CUIMC William McKoy, Interim Dean of Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians & Surgeons James McKiernan, Provost Angela Olinto, and Executive Vice President of Research Jeannette Wing, are working daily to make the acute decisions. She added that, while the administration is still dealing with the certain urgent issues, the team has been able to start thinking about medium- and long-term solutions and strategic decisions down the road.

President Shipman discussed that the administration is facing a new landscape from the government, which all higher education institutions are facing. She stated that there was a number of potential federal actions that could impact funding for the University in the future. President Shipman stated that she was at a conference for Ivy League university presidents where the Presidents discussed the issues facing all university. She added that she has been going to Washington, D.C. to meet with United States Senators. She stated that Vice President of Government and Community Affairs Loftin Flowers is working on a plan to bring a number of faculty to Washington, D.C. a few times this summer, adding that she hopes it can become a once-a-month trip. President Shipman stated that she would like to figure out a way to create once place where community members can stay informed about decisions the University takes on these issues. She added that there would be a webinar for faculty run by Executive Vice President Anne Sullivan and EVP Wing to discuss the financial situation at the university and asked for feedback about which topics to focus on.

President Shipman discussed the concern around the student community in advance of the fall semester. She stated that the administration needed to do more practically and programmatically to help the student community. President Shipman ended by saying that it is an incredibly pressured moment for the institution, especially with the visa situation for international students. She added that there has been a lot of outreach to admitted and current international students to support them. President Shipman mentioned that the community might begin to think about what Columbia will look like decades from now in order to plan for after the current crisis.

Senator Greg Freyer (TTOT, SPH) stated that the issue for researchers is urgent and cannot wait any longer. He added that researchers by the dozens are job-hunting and planning on leaving. Sen. Freyer stated that, once senior researchers are gone, replacing them will be very difficult. Sen. Freyer added that there is a reputational issue that Columbia is suffering in order to fix the issue of both students and faculty wanting to come Columbia. President Shipman responded that she has talked with all of the Deans and is aware of the issue of retention for faculty and researchers. She added that she hopes that the Deans at each School are communicating about what Columbia is trying to do and reporting on any talent exodus to central administration.

Oscar Luckett (Stu., CC) asked about Columbia's decision to withhold joining the Harvard amicus brief against the government. President Shipman said that she would not be able to get into the specifics of the University's legal strategies but that the administration has been in touch with all parties.

Senator Elisa Konofagou (Ten., SEAS) added that there has been a lot of harm done through the NIH funds being rescinded. Sen. Konofagou asked if there had been conversations about loans and what the plan will be over the next few years in order to keep researchers and faculty at the University. President Shipman responded that the University is continuing to fund as much research as possible. She added that she is not sure that this practice could continue for the next few years. President Shipman stated that the Research Mission Task Force is considering what strategic decisions need to be made to maintaining

research for the future. She added that other funding sources will not be sufficient to match what the government was providing researchers.

Senator Joseph Slaughter (Ten., A&S/HUM) asked about the proposed punishments for students who protested at Butler Library, including one- and two-year suspensions and expulsions. Sen. Slaughter stated that this was part of the reputational damage the University has created for itself. Sen. Slaughter asked the following questions from his constituents: why the Rules Administrator can issue these punishments for students with perfect disciplinary records; how the University can claim the discipline process for student protests have any legitimacy after turning its back on the reforms of 1968 and removed students from participating from the UJB; why the students that occupied a room in Butler Library in 2017 to protest the banning of Orgo Night and who received no sanctions from the University are being treated differently than the students who are protesting the mass murder and displacement of Palestinians; and why the punishment being recommended for these students – expulsion – is being equated to the punishment received by students who kidnapped a dean in 1968. President Shipman responded that she was not the Rules Administrator and that the previous system of discipline that took over a year to move people through discipline was not working and that she had confidence in the new system and the new Rules Administrator. She stated that the students would have same the rights to appeal and make their case as before. President Shipman added that she was there at Butler Library that day and that it was more dramatic than a protest because it shut down the ability of students to prepare for finals.

Senator Henry Ginsberg (Ten., P&S) asked about communication and said that some of the short notice given to staff about layoffs and funding cuts reminds him of DOGE causing fear for federal employees. He stated that many of the projects that scientists work on take many years and that a 90-day notice is not sufficient in order to work around staffing changes or budget cuts. President Shipman said that she was sorry that the communication was not great and that she would take the information back to the administration and see if they could do better.

Senator Brent Stockwell (Ten., A&S/NS) agreed with Sen. Freyer that funding needed to be restored. He stated that, every day that the funding is not returning, people are leaving and that he hopes the Trustees and leadership understand that. President Shipman responded that the leadership is not delaying and that they are working with an unpredictable actor while the administration is doing their best to navigate the situation. She added that, even if the University gets some funding restored, the funding landscape will be very different moving forward.

Senator Daniel Savin (Research Officers) stated that Columbia needs to more to advertise the benefits that the nation has gained from Columbia research, including Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and the laser, for example, but that he doesn't see any of these types of research making its way into the news. He added that there was a recent *Wall Street Journal* article about Columbia research but that Columbia needs to have its research make its way into further right news sources like Fox News. President Shipman said that it is not always easy to get other people to cover what Columbia does but that the University is working

on its own media. She added that she has been informed a lot recently by a working group on the narrative of the University comprised of research faculty across the University and that she wants that committee to get feedback from others.

Senator Mahmood Mamdani (Ten., A&S/SS) said that the Ivy Leagues have taken different approaches against the federal government, ranging from bending over to the government and pushing back, and that there has been a lot of discuss of Harvard University and Columbia specifically. He asked where President Shipman sees Columbia on the spectrum of responses to the federal government and what her assessment of the strategy of Columbia has taken so far is. President Shipman said that she would not be able to fully discuss the legal strategy the University is taking and that she does not agree with the narrative that Columbia is bending over backwards to the federal government. She stated that she believes that it is better to start with conversation even if the University is uncomfortable with the other party. She added that there has been issues on campus that the government has regulatory authority over. President Shipman stated that if these issues can be addressed, she continues to believe that this is the right course. She stated that the administration has to think about the health of the entire University for the next few years and that she doesn't think the University wants to or can afford being at war for the next four years. President Shipman said that would not be a path that would benefit international students and researchers over the next few years. She said that the demands that Columbia received were not the same as for Harvard and that she continues to talk to leaders at many Universities to discuss their strategies and responses. President Shipman says she understands the reputational risk that Columbia is taking but that these are incredibly hard decisions and that the administration has not seen that taking a legal route would result in a better outcome.

Senator Keith Gessen (TTOT, JOURN) stated that it seemed like the federal funding is not coming back no matter what the University does and that, if the University wants to change the narrative, they need to change their behavior by suing. He added that the legal route is the only way to change the narrative about Columbia. President Shipman stated that would produce a different narrative.

Chair's Report and Questions

Sen. D'Armiento began her remarks by discussing the research mission of the University. She stated that the EVP of Research was unable to come to the Plenary.

Status of Research Funding

Sen. D'Armiento stated that there was a difference between what happened to Columbia when compared to other universities specifically regarding funding cuts. She stated that the government has taken approximately 250 grants for a total of $400 million and that it is unclear what the breakdown is per year. Sen. D'Armiento stated that there are no new grants coming through to Columbia even if they had been approved, estimated at $100 million a month of payments that are legally owed to Columbia. She stated that her understanding is that, if there is an agreement with the federal government, then that funding will begin to flow back to the University again. Sen. D'Armiento said it is not clear if the $400 million will

ever come back to the University. She stated that the layoffs that other Senators had mentioned had to do with the $400 million being taken. Sen. D'Armiento said that these were the pressures that Columbia was facing immediately.

Sen. D'Armiento also explained that in addition to the Columbia specific threats to funding the University needed to look at four different events that may occur which would also affect the research enterprise. She stated that there is a proposed federal budget decrease of 50% for the NIH. She stated that Columbia has lived through a similar budget cut before and that Columbia will be a strong competitor for those funds than other schools even if the federal funding is lowered. Sen. D'Armiento also stated that the funding payline could go to the 8th percentile, whereas it is currently at the 16th percentile. She also stated that there is potentially a threat to indirect costs, and other agencies are lobbying to not reduced the indirect cost rate which is presently 65%. Multiple sources however predict that the indirect cost rate could go down to around 35% and that although this funding does not directly fund research there would be a significant loss to Columbia because of the extra cost of funding research labs such as facility costs. Sen. D'Armiento stated that the third threat is that of an endowment tax and the fourth threat is a delay in visas for international students.

Sen. D'Armiento stated that the University is taking steps to prepare for these threats and to fix the current funding risks. She said that the University had covered funding from March 2025 to May 2025 and that there were individuals laid off in May. Sen. D'Armiento stated that there was a creation of a Research Stabilization Fund which is committing $100 million and funding all T-32 postdocs and graduate students. She stated that unfortunately postdocs and graduate students not on T-32s would not be covered. Sen. D'Armiento said that the Budget Committee would try to meet with EVP Wing to discuss strategies and the forecast of funding cuts for the future.

Update on the Review of the University Senate

Sen. D'Armiento then discussed the ongoing review of the University Senate. She stated that there has been much discussion about the Senate's representative effectiveness, structure, and authority. Sen. D'Armiento agreed that in the moment of turmoil that the University finds itself in that a review of shared governance is necessary but that she thinks that it is important to understand how a review of shared governance at this time can be undertaken in a way that moves the university community forward together. She stated that a proposed review that is meant to produce a stronger, more democratic Columbia should consider the stability and instability of each pillar of shared governance. Sen. D'Armiento stated that the Board of Trustees has involved itself in day-to-day decision making in an unprecedented fashion over the past two years and the Office of the President and many other senior administrators have undergone incredible changes as well, which puts the University at risk of losing institutional memory. She stated that the University has seen four Presidents within a 24-month span and is in the process of identifying a fifth University President. Sen. D'Armiento stated that other important positions at the senior administrative level have seen turnover or the creation of new roles and responsibilities. She stated that

there has been significant change in leadership across these two pillars of governance and that she believes that it is unfortunate and concerning that the current review focuses solely on the Senate with the risk of increasing instability in our community.

Sen. D'Armiento stated that the Senate has important responsibilities that have been discussed in the past: to protect academic freedom, to advance development of curriculum and the campus, to address student quality of life, to advocate for due process and freedom of speech, and many more. She added that, in this moment, she sees the Senate providing another crucial role for the Columbia community: to serve as the only consistent place for open dialogue hearing from all constituencies on how to emerge from the multiple crises the University is facing in a way that leaves the community as a whole better prepared for the future ahead. Sen. D'Armiento added that the Senate is uniquely prepared because of its history and democratic structure to help navigate the university through this moment of national crisis and that the massive destruction of faith in Columbia leadership in 1968 resulted in the creation of the University Senate. She added that the community must not forget that it is precisely moments of social and political turmoil like today that a truly democratic body like the Senate is crucial to the University. Sen. D'Armiento stated that to weaken the Senate at this time could result in a weakened university structure, jeopardizing the intellectual independence at the heart of any thriving university.

Sen. D'Armiento stated that the future of the Senate is likely uncertain within the next few months but that she will continue to encourage that the voice of the Senate be respected and protected as the community navigates another period of uncertainty at Columbia. She stated that the presence of new and returning Senators today reflect the commitment that everyone has to the Senate and the University. Sen. D'Armiento stated that, as the Statutes insist, everyone on the Senate should continue the critical purpose together for as long as the Senate may serve the benefit of the institution that the community calls home.

Update on Priorities Survey 2025-2026

Sen. D'Armiento stated that the Senate staff had sent around a survey in order to understand the challenges that everyone is facing and what could be done to improve the Senate and that she encouraged all members of the Senate to fill out the survey. Sen. D'Armiento stated that the committee that is overseeing the Senate review process is currently meeting and that she hopes to provide the results of the survey to the review committee.

Sen. D'Armiento ended her remarks by congratulating the newly elected Senators and that she looks forward to working with them. She stated that anybody who was not elected will still be able to serve as non-Senators, especially those who have served many years. Sen. D'Armiento then went over the agenda and took questions from Senators.

Sen. Stockwell stated that he wanted the Senate materials need to come before a few hours before the Plenary. Sen. D'Armiento responded that, given the events at the University currently, some of the committees submitted their documents late which needed to be accommodated by the staff.

Sen. Savin responded to Sen. Stockwell's point and said that this is an issue raised many times by the Structure and Operations Committee and that it is clear that the Senate office is understaffed. He stated that, in order to have a Senate that is an equal partner at the University, it needs the resources to function.

Resolution to Approve Proposed Changes to the 2025-2026 Academic Calendar (Education, Faculty Affairs, Academic Freedom and Tenure, and Student Affairs)

Sen. D'Armiento introduced the resolution to modify the academic calendar for the 2025-2026 year and introduced Senator Soulaymane Kachani, Senior Vice Provost and Professor of Industrial Engineering and Operations Research, to lead the presentation.

Sen. Kachani stated that there is a concern about potential major delays to the arrival of international students on campus next year. He stated that the proposal would make minor changes to the academic calendar to help the Schools to create multiple pathways for international students to join the University if their visas are delayed. Sen. Kachani stated that the calendar that is being proposed borrowed from best practices that the University developed during COVID-19. He stated that the major change would be to make the spring semester start one week earlier in order to finish the spring semester to finish earlier and allow the international students who are able to join in the spring semester to be able to complete enough classwork during spring and Summer A session in order for those students to be able to complete a meaningful internship in the summer. Sen. Kachani stated that these changes would be in compliance with NYSED, MSCHE, and SEVP requirements. He added that this calendar change would also create the option for specific programs to have international students come in October to start the Fall B semester. Sen. Kachani stated that for the last two weeks there has been a pause on all visa appointments due to the federal government wanting to develop policies to scrutinize the social media of applicants. He stated that, if visa appointments do not resume in the next few weeks, a large number of international students will not be able to arrive by September. Sen. Kachani said that the proposal before the Senate would be to help those international students and the Schools that would be affected by delayed international student enrollment. He stated that the vote is not to switch the calendar yet but to allow in early July an assessment by the Deans based on the number of incoming international students that are impacted. Sen. Kachani thanked the Senators that met with him to discuss this. Sen. D'Armiento stated that the Student Affairs Committee, Faculty Affairs Committee, and Education Committee had all reviewed the proposal.

Senator Susan Bernofsky (Ten., ARTS) asked to clarify if the thinking was that, if students are delayed, if departments would have to come up with new classes to accommodate. Sen. Kachani stated that the main reason was for specific masters' programs that would need to offer certain classes in Summer A for students arriving in the spring. He stated that these departments would not be teaching a number of classes they would normally be able to teach because there are not students there. Sen. Kachani stated that the other purpose was to allow faculty that would teach in Summer A to be able to have multiple months of

summer after Summer A session would end to be able to focus on their research under the proposed changes. He stated that the proposal balanced a lot of competing interests and that the ability of different schools and departments to offer different classes will differ but that he expects most of the changes to be in the masters and professional programs.

There was a motion which was seconded to propose the resolution. The resolution passed 54-0-1 (in favor-opposed-abstention).

Statement on Protest-Related Disciplinary Proceedings (Student Affairs)
Sen. D'Armiento introduced the Student Affairs Committee Statement on Protest-related Disciplinary Proceedings and welcomed Senator Helen Han Wei Luo (Stu., GSAS/HUM), Vice Chair of the Student Affairs Committee, to lead the discussion. Sen. Luo read the statement to the Senate.

Sen. Slaughter commented that it appears to him that Columbia is pioneering techniques to crush dissent in accordance with the Trump administration with regard to citizen protest. He stated that he wondered if that repression was a stipulation of the so-called good-faith discussions with the federal government. Sen. Slaughter stated that the proposed punishments for students at the Butler protest are alarming as the Student Affairs Committee has noted. He stated that he was not a fan of the protest interrupting a library during finals exams, including similar protests in the past by the Columbia Marching Band but that he felt that the narrative of the protestors in Butler was not accurate. Sen. Slaughter said that there was evidence that the administration had knowledge of the Butler protest in advance and antagonized the student protesters to inflame the situation. He stated that the administration was potentially able to get the media images and response needed to demonstrate its willingness to sacrifice students for the Trump administration but that there is no need to pretend that the protest was violent. He stated that there was too much of an unwillingness to come to reality around these protests and that the proposed punishments from the Rules Administrator are so far out of proportion and out of character in this history of Columbia University that they raise questions about consistency and impartiality that former President Armstrong and the administration made to the Trump administration in the capitulation letter on March 20th, 2025. Sen. Slaughter said that such extreme and unprecedented punishments will open up the University to lawsuits and large potential settlements for violating statutory processes and due process. He asked if this is what it looks like when Trustees claim sole authority in disciplining students and begged the question of who is actually calling the shots here: the Provost, the Acting President, the Trustees, or the White House.

Sen. Slaughter stated that in a letter passed by the Board of Trustees on May 7th, 2025, the Trustees appear to claim sole authority to discipline students according to the 1810 Charter. He stated that the 1810 Charter has been a constant presence in the Stand Columbia Society newsletter, which he believed to be stoking autocratic ideas championed by the Trustees and the White House under the veneer of intellectual legitimacy. Sen. Slaughter stated that, as *The Columbia Spectator* reported, the Trustee resolution has been apparently used to retroactively allow the Trustees to move the University Judicial Board (UJB)

under the Office of the Provost and by-passing Senate approval. Sen. Slaughter stated that, as far as he can tell, the Trustees have grounded their argument to be able to control discipline from the following clause of the Charter of 1810: "The Trustees shall forever here-after have full power and authority to direct and prescribe the course of study, and the discipline to be observed in the said college." Sen. Slaughter questioned whether the University Statutes didn't fundamentally alter the 1810 Charter in important ways. He asked whether it was good practice for the University to be citing a charter from over 200 years ago, with all of the baggage of racism, sexism, ethnic and religious discrimination, ensured then by a group of Protestant Trustees holding total authority.

Sen. Slaughter stated that there was an issue with the phrase "discipline to be observed," which he stated appeared almost exclusively in the Columbia charter and Catholic cannon law and that the phrase comes from documents that govern the Catholic Church in the late 18th century. He stated that this phrase might have been a result of a struggle of power between Catholics and Protestants when writing the charter or that a Catholic Trustee snuck in the phrase as resistance to the Protestant majority at the time. Sen. Slaughter stated that "discipline" in the 1810 Charter does not mean what the current Trustees think it means and is an example of why the administration should consult with the liberal arts scholars. He stated that the Trustees and Stand Columbia Society pretend that "discipline" in the 1810 Charter refers to the capacity to punish but that, in the context of 1810, punishment would have referred to religious sins. Sen. Slaughter questioned if the Trustees now intended to punish those acts deemed immoral by the Church in 1810 as well. He asked if the University is going to be originalist, then they need to be consistent in doing so. Sen. Slaughter stated that "discipline" in the 1810 Charter clearly does not refer to punishment but rather to the ritual or procedures to be observed in the conduct of church business, which may involve a code of conduct, but does not refer to punishment as the current Trustees claim. He stated that the absurdity of citing the 1810 Charter and Catholic Church law to justify autocratic consolidation of Trustee power today in order to appease the federal government would be funny if it wasn't dangerous. Sen. Slaughter claimed that the Trustees might, debatably, be able to change the Statutes unilaterally but that they have not yet done so. He added that the resolutions of the Board of Trustees do not have statutory authority on their own and that no action that backdates such changes in order to impose extreme penalties on students that have become inconvenient to the University can be perceived as legitimate when it clearly contradicts the University Statutes and the social compact that many of the Trustees enjoyed when they were students at Columbia. Sen. Slaughter ended by stating that this was not just bad politics and bad financial practice but also bad governance and bad pedagogy, or, in a word, bad discipline.

Sen. Bernosky agreed with what Sen. Slaughter said and that she wanted to explain for the new Senators that, until recently, student misconduct during a protest were handed by the UJB, which was overseen by the University Senate as per the University Statutes. She stated that the Board of Trustees let the University Senate and Rules of University Conduct Committee know that they would be moving the UJB from the Senate to the Office of the Provost.

Sen. Ginsberg stated that the University is in a crisis as the government is trying to destroy academia and that, in the background, there is a lot of complexity among different groups. He stated that the Columbia community needs to prioritize what they are going to fight about and be angry about and that there has to be some sort of ability to interact with the Board of Trustees. Sen. D'Armiento responded that the Senate and the Rules Committee need to know what needs to be done in order for the University to survive. She said that the Senate has in the past done what is necessary for the institution and that the Senate just needs information on what needs to be done and why. Sen. D'Armiento said that the problem is when the community reads about decisions through the news or through a document that causes distress among the constituencies. Sen. Ginsberg responded that viewing the Trustees as another evil power does not do any good for the community and that the Trustees are navigating the situation as well. Sen. D'Armiento stated that, in attending the Trustee meetings, she was able to recognize the difficulty of this moment to them and emphasize that we want to work with them. She stated that it is necessary for the Trustees to give information to the community for us to help them navigate these times.

Sen. Freyer stated that when the Executive Committee met with the Trustees, they repeatedly conveyed that they wanted to work with them together. Sen. D'Armiento stated that, if the Executive Committee or the Senate is surprised by something, they have no way to calm the community when asked about it.

Sen. Mamdani stated that he agreed that the Senate needs to work with not only the Trustees but also anyone that wants to work with the Senate. He stated that, to work with the Trustees, the Senate needs to know what the Trustees are doing and whether they are a united force or internally divided. Sen. Mamdani asked whether the Trustees are a group of people that find themselves in an unanticipated situation and attempting to navigate it, as Sen. Ginsberg suggested, or if some of the Trustees delighted by the situation and see the situation as an opportunity to grab power and are colluding with external forces. Sen. Mamdani said that the Senate should ask what information they need and how to get that information in order to decide how to go ahead. Sen. D'Armiento responded that the Senate will continue to reach out and work with the administration and Trustees.

Renewed Call for Transparency and Accountability in the Hadden Case (Commission on the Status of Women)

Sen. D'Armiento introduced the presentation for a renewed called for transparency and accountability in the Hadden case from the Commission on the Status of Women. She invited Professor of Social Work and member of the Commission on the Status of Women, Susan Witte, to lead the discussion.

Professor Witte stated that she wanted to call to the attention of the Senate the resolution passed over two years ago relating to the case of Robert Hadden. She stated that this resolution called for accountability and a report from the President and Trustees. Professor Witte said that, two years later, the Senate learned from the media that Columbia agreed to pay out over $1 billion to the victims. She added that no report or transparency has been shared by the administration and Trustees. Professor Witte said that this is among the most egregious failures in Columbia history and that hundreds of reported victims were impacted but

that there are likely thousands of victims in reality. She stated that this issue cannot be handled as a financial liability but also demands moral and institutional accountability. Professor Witte said that the Senate and Columbia community have still been kept in the dark about who is accountable and what mechanisms of protection failed. She stated that the continuation of withholding the release of the report is a continuation of the harm done to the victims, as well as violating the spirit of shared governance and transparency discussed today. Professor Witte acknowledged the other attacks the University is facing, especially the $400 million that has disrupted research. She stated that, while the research funding is dire, the University opted to spend $1.2 billion to settle past harm, more than twice the amount of research funds cut.

Professor Witte said that, in response to the federal government, rather than defend its values, the Board of Trustees and administration have sought to placate political demands, weakening academic freedom, altering due process protections, summoning police onto campus, and initiating a structurally flawed review of the University Senate. She said that, taken together, these actions reveal a dangerous pattern: evasion of accountability, dismantling of shared governance, abandonment of the research community, and a concentration of power at the top. Professor Witte stated that Columbia's leadership is replacing Columbia's long-standing governance structures with executive control at precisely the moment when democratic leadership is most needed. Professor Witte asked for the following demands: release the Hadden report for transparency and accountability, suspend the Senate review process until a permanent President is in place and genuinely representative review body is created, publicly disclose the status of any consent decree negotiations and engage the Senate in evaluating any proposed governance changes, commit to aggressive legal action to defend Columbia's research enterprise including joining legal challenges to unlawful federal funding cuts, and to ensure full and meaningful faculty representation in the upcoming Presidential search process. Professor Witte stated that this moment requires moral clarity that is owed to the survivors and the community constituents.

Sen. D'Armiento stated that the Executive Committee was supposed to receive a summary of the report to be able to convey to the community but that the Executive Committee had not yet received any information or report.

Senator Michael Thaddeus (Ten., A&S/NS) stated that he lent his full support to the statement from Professor Witte. He stated that there has been concerns that trust has been strained on this campus but that following through on past commitments is one of the best ways to foster trust. Sen. Thaddeus stated that former President Minouche Shafik had addressed the harm publicly to the community and called for an independent, external investigation. He also stated that Katrina Armstrong, then-Executive Vice President for Health and Biomedical Sciences, had informed the CUIMC community that the results of this investigation would be made public. Sen. Thaddeus said that trust could be rebuilt through the release of the Hadden report.

Update from the Rules of University Conduct Committee

Sen. D'Armiento stated that the Senate had already discussed the changes in the UJB and that there was concern over the lack of change in the University Statutes over this issue.

Sen. D'Armiento adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Senate staff

Evolving Governance at Columbia University

Columbia University was founded in 1754 as King's College, an institution of higher education run by the colonial and local governments. Initially, King's College was governed by a 41-person all-male Board of Governors, the majority of whom were Church of England clergymen and dominated by loyalists to the British crown. This Board served as the precursor to the current Columbia Board of Trustees. Anglican minister Samuel Johnson, the first University President and sole lecturer at the founding of King's College, was appointed to lead both the educational mission and the administrative operations of the College. The American Revolutionary War led to the temporary closing of King's College; after its reopening in 1784, the Board of Governors of King's College operated without a president, leading to clashes between faculty members and the Board of Governors who directly managed the College. Although initially run by the colonial government, the Board of Governors transitioned into a private Board of Trustees in 1787. Throughout this early period, student enrollment remained small (less than 20 students graduating in each class), and all students were white males educated in classics and mostly from religious backgrounds. The President was largely a leader in name only. Although the later Presidents in this period did began to take interest in reforming the College, their power was minimal in comparison to the wishes of the Trustees. Toward the end of this period, King's College was renamed Columbia College, graduate education began, and Columbia was declared "a university" by President Charles King as further growth was planned. This period between 1754-1864 can be regarded as a time when governance rested almost entirely in the hand of a Board of Trustees who oversaw a small, homogenous liberal arts college.

From the late 19th century up through the mid-20th century, Columbia grew in size and scope. Gradually, the power of the University President as an autonomous leader separate from the Board of Trustees became more pronounced beginning with President Frederick Augustus Porter Barnard. Graduate education at the university expanded rapidly, and Columbia moved from midtown, eventually settling in Morningside Heights. Many of the university's Presidents guided these changes. After previous Presidents

laid the foundation for the larger university institutional model, Nicholas Murray Butler vastly increased the administration supporting the President, as well as centralizing academic affairs and university business operations. He provided a university model for other institutions to adopt in the 20th Century. During this period, the College remained all-male, but Barnard College was established to educate women using Columbia faculty after failed attempts to make Columbia College coeducational. Slowly, graduate programs began to become coeducational and diversify their population. Similarly, Columbia began hiring women to teach and, later, become professors. Additionally, the Board of Trustees finalized the name and legal status of Columbia University as it is known today. The Board eventually became more secularized in composition, reflecting changes in the curriculum and student body. The period between 1864-1969 saw the emergence of an ever-growing and complex university administration underneath the University President, who often played a prominent role in shaping the priorities of the University. The Board of Trustees, however, still retained authority over most University matters, whether working with or in opposition to the President. The end of this period was marked by intense protests on campus in the wake of local and national social movements, aligning many students against the administration.

In the wake of campus protests and arrests over student rights, Harlem gentrification, Vietnam anti-war protests, and the civil rights movement, the University established the University Seante in 1969 after the Cox Commission found that there was ineffective communication between the administration, faculty, and students. Student involvement in the University Senate was crucial to making the Senate an effective third partner in shared governance at Columbia. Among other duties, the University Senate was charged with making policy recommendations to the administration, developing discipline standards, approving curricular offerings, and creating channels of communication between students, staff, faculty, administrators, alumni, and trustees. Additionally, the University Senate became a primary mechanism for the university to manage the incredibly complex administration and faculty that had developed over the also century. After the establishment of the University Senate, Columbia continued to diversify its student population; above other notable changes, Columbia College became coeducational. The change in student

demographics affected all governing bodies at Columbia – the Board of Trustees, administration under the University President, and the University Senate. From the late 20th Century through the beginning of the 21st Century, Columbia's administration focused on expanding the University in size and scope, including developing substantial global partnerships and consolidating academic departments and entities under a more streamlined administration system overseen by the University President and Provost. The period from 1969 to the present has been marked by the emergence of a three-part shared governance system that included the Board of Trustees, university administration led by the President, and the University Senate. This model has persisted while adapting to changes in Columbia's student and faculty makeup and responding to local and global events, including the intensified student protests that began in fall 2023.

The following document contains a more detailed chronology of the development of the university and its governance structures, ending with the current Columbia University model.

Era I: Trustee Hegemony and Foundational Control (1754-1864)

1754 – **King's College founded by royal charter of King George II, governed directly by the colonial government that was heavily dictated by religious factions, loyalists to the British crown, and an official affiliation with the Church of England** (McCaughey 2003, 21-25, Columbia University in the City of New York 2025)
– Samuel Johnson, an Anglican minister, appointed as the first President of King's College (Columbia University Archives 2025)
1763 – Myles Cooper appointed as the second President of King's College (Columbia University Archives 2025)
1767 – King's College establishes a medical faculty (Columbia University Irving Medical Center 2025)
1770 – King's College awards the first MD in the American colonies (Columbia University Irving Medical Center 2025)
1775 – Benjamin Moore appointed Acting President of King's College as the American Revolution begins (Columbia University Archives 2025)
1776 – **King's College closes due to the American Revolution** (Columbia University in the City of New York 2025)
1784 – **King's College reopens under the New York State legislature and is renamed Columbia College** (Columbia University in the City of New York 2025)
– Columbia College is led by the Board of Governors without a University President despite de facto acting President George Clinton being named, leading to discord among the faculty and the adoption of constitution still used today (McCaughey 2003, 51-56)
1787 – **New York Legislature approves a new charter that relieves King's College of serving the state and allows the governance to transition to private Board of Trustees that was self-perpetuating** (McCaughey 2003, 55)
– William Samuel Johnson appointed as the third President of Columbia College (Columbia University Archives 2025)
1801 – Charles Henry Wharton appointed as the fourth President of Columbia College but never shows up to campus and resigns within a year (McCaughey 2003, 65, Columbia University Archives 2025)
– Previous Acting President Benjamin Moore appointed as the fifth President of Columbia College (Columbia University Archives 2025)
1807 – The College of Physicians and Surgeons, an independently chartered medical institution, is established (Columbia University Irving Medical Center 2025)
1810 – Admissions reform to make admissions stricter, reflecting debate among the Trustees regarding academic curriculum (McCaughey 2003, 66-67)
– **Last major revision to the Columbia charter** (Columbia University Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs 2022)
1811 – William Harris appointed as the sixth President of Columbia College (Columbia University Archives 2025)
– John Mason appointed as the first Provost of Columbia College to appease divisions among Episcopalian and non-Episcopalian Trustees over William Harris as President (McCaughey 2003, 67)
– **Degree conferral scandal under President William Harris during the "Riotous Commencement of 1811," showing a prominent early moment of discontent between students and administration** (McCaughey 2003, 67-69, Columbia College Today 2020)
1814 – The Columbia College medical faculty merge with the independent College of Physicians and Surgeons (Columbia University Irving Medical Center 2025)
1829 – William Alexander Duer appointed as the seventh President of Columbia College (Columbia University Archives 2025)
1831 – Columbia Trustees attempt to block the opening of the University of the City of New York (which would become NYU) (McCaughey 2003, 87-89)
1836 – Union Theological Seminary founded by nine Presbyterian ministers (Union Theological Seminary 2025)
1842 – Nathaniel Fish Moore appointed as the eighth President of Columbia College (Columbia University Archives 2025)
1849 – Charles King appointed as the ninth President of Columbia College (Columbia University Archives 2025)
1857 – **Columbia College declared "a university" by President Charles King** (McCaughey 2003, 137)
1858 – Columbia College of Law opens (Columbia Law School 2025)

1860 – The College of Physicians and Surgeons becomes the Medical Department of Columbia College, per agreement of the Trustees of both institutions (Columbia University Irving Medical Center 2025)
1863 – Columbia School of Mines approved to teach mining and mineralogical engineering to students with and without undergraduate training (McCaughey 2003, 52-55)

Era II: Presidential Ascendancy and Administrative Expansion (1864-1969)

1864 – **Frederick Augustus Porter Barnard appointed as the tenth President of Columbia College** (Columbia University Archives 2025)
– Columbia School of Mines opens (Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science of Columbia University, The 2025)
1867 – Henry Drisler appointed as Acting President of Columbia College (Columbia's Deans 1916)
– President Barnard returns as President of Columbia College (Columbia's Deans 1916)
1875 – The School of Mines awards first-ever Columbia PhD to Elwyn Waller for chemistry (Columbia Graduate School of Arts and Sciences 2025, Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science of Columbia University, The 2025)
1877 – The first Black student to attend Columbia, Liberian James R. Priest, graduates from the School of Mines (Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science of Columbia University, The 2025)
1880 – The Faculty of Political Science established (Columbia Graduate School of Arts and Sciences 2025)
– Philanthropist Grace Hoadley Dodge founds a practical arts educational program for poor, immigrant women (Teachers College 2018)
1881 – Education in architecture established as part of the School of Mines (Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation 2025)
1882 – The first African American student from the Law School, George Henry Schanck, graduates (Columbia Law School 2025)
1886 – Columbia awards its first degree to a woman, Winifred Edgerton, for a PhD in astronomy (Columbia 250 2004)
1887 – The School of Library Economy established (Columbia University Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs 2022)
1888 – Henry Drisler returns as Acting President of Columbia College after President Barnard dies in office (Columbia's Deans 1916)
1889 – **Barnard College opens after multiple failed attempts by former President Barnard and others to make Columbia College coeducational** (Columbia 250 2004)
– The School of Library Economy disaffiliated and transferred to State Library in Albany as New York State Library School (Columbia University Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs 2022)
1890 – Seth Low appointed as the eleventh President of Columbia College (Columbia University Archives 2025)
– The Faculty of Philosophy established (Columbia Graduate School of Arts and Sciences 2025)
– **Columbia Trustees allow Barnard College to hire botanist Emily Gregory to instruct Barnard students, becoming the first female teacher at Columbia** (Columbia 250 2004)
1891 – Upon suggestion of President Low, Columbia begins offering classes to non-degree students and the general public, including women (Columbia School of General Studies 2025)
– The College of Physicians and Surgeons becomes fully integrated into Columbia College (Columbia University Irving Medical Center 2025)
– **The Faculty of Philosophy approve women to receive PhDs as a policy moving forward, establishing the first route for women to receive PhDs at Columbia** (Columbia 250 2004)
1892 – The Presbyterian Hospital Training School for Nurses is founded, enrolling a class of all female students (Columbia University School of Nursing 2025)
– The Faculty of Pure Science established (Columbia Graduate School of Arts and Sciences 2025)
– The program founded by Grace Dodge in 1880 is renamed Teachers College (Teachers College 2018) but a merger with Columbia is rejected because it would be coeducational (Columbia 250 2004)
1896 – **Trustees authorize the name Columbia University and move to Morningside Heights** (Columbia University in the City of New York 2025)

– Columbia School of Mines renamed to the School of Mines, Engineering and Chemistry to better reflect the curriculum offered at the time (Columbia University Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs 2022, Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science of Columbia University, The 2025)
– The architecture program within the School of Mines, Engineering and Chemistry is turned into the School of Architecture (Columbia University Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs 2022)

1898 – Teachers College becomes formally affiliated with Columbia University and incorporated into the University (Columbia University Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs 2022)
– The Summer School in Philanthropic Work founded (Columbia University Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs 2022)

1899 – John Howard Van Amringe appointed as Acting President while President Low served as a delegate for the International Peace Conference (EX-COLUMBIA DEAN ,VAN AMRINGE DEAD 1915)
– President Seth Low returns as President of Columbia University (EX-COLUMBIA DEAN ,VAN AMRINGE DEAD 1915)

1900 – **Barnard College included in the educational system of Columbia University in an affiliate institutional relationship, governed by its own trustees, faculty, and dean while sharing instruction, libraries, and the Columbia degree, a unique agreement among women's colleges** (Barnard College 2025)
– **Columbia begins hiring multiple women instructors and agrees to allow Barnard College and Teachers College to hire female instructors** (Columbia 250 2004)

1902 – **Nicholas Murray Butler appointed as the twelfth President of Columbia University** (Columbia University Archives 2025)

1903 – Joseph Pulitzer proposes a school of journalism at Columbia in an essay in *The North American Review* (Columbia Journalism School 2025)

1904 – Building off of President Low's expansion of education to non-degree students in 1891, President Butler establishes the Extension Teaching program to serve working men and women in New York City (Columbia School of General Studies 2025)
– The Summer School in Philanthropic Work renamed the New York School of Philanthropy (Feldman 1998)

1906 – Columbia School of Fine Arts established (Columbia University Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs 2022)

1908 – **Board of Trustees start accepting alumni nominations for its membership** (McCaughey 2003, 222-223)

1912 – **Board of Trustees arrive at final name of "The Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York" after the New York Supreme Court Order** (Columbia University Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs 2022)
– The Columbia School of Journalism is established (Columbia Journalism School 2025, Columbia University Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs 2022)

1914 – School of Fine Arts dissolved (Columbia University Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs 2022)

1916 – Columbia University publishes a proposal a dental school that would have close ties to the medical school (Columbia University College of Dental Medicine 2025)
– The Columbia School of Business established, with an inaugural class of 61 students that included eight women (Columbia Business School 2025)

1917 – **Professor James McKeen Cattell fired by Board of Trustees, igniting a national debate around academic freedom that leads to the establishment of tenure** (McCaughey 2003, 242-245, Gruber 1972)
– **Professor Charles Beard resigns from Columbia, sharply criticizing the Trustees for their mishandling of university affairs, particularly the firing of James McKeen Cattell** (McCaughey 2003, 250-252, Quits Columbia: Assails Trustees 1917)
– The College of Physicians and Surgeons begins admitting women (Columbia University Irving Medical Center 2025)
– The Columbia University Dental School is established (Columbia University College of Dental Medicine 2025)
– **Columbia University awards the first Pulitzer Prizes** (Columbia Journalism School 2025)

1919 – The Columbia University Dental School changes entry requirements to require two years of prerequisite college preparation with the major effect of lowering women enrollment due to few women having a college education (Columbia University College of Dental Medicine 2025)
– The New York School of Philanthropy renamed the New York School of Social Work (Feldman 1998)

1921 – The Extension Teaching program is renamed to University Extension and begins awarding bachelor's degrees (Columbia School of General Studies 2025)

1922 – The DeLamar Institute of Public Health at Columbia University is founded within the College of Physicians and Surgeons (Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health 2025)
1923 – The Columbia University Dental School merges with the College of Dental and Oral Surgery of New York to form the School of Dental and Oral Surgery (Columbia University College of Dental Medicine 2025)
1926 – The Columbia School of Mines, Engineering and Chemistry is renamed to Columbia School of Engineering
– The New York State Library School merges with the Library School of New York Public Library and is reintegrated into Columbia as the School of Library Service (Columbia University Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs 2022)
1927 – **The first women are admitted to the Law School** (Columbia Law School 2025)
1928 – **Columbia opens the Seth Low Junior College, staffed by Columbia University faculty, in Brooklyn to deal with the changing population of undergraduates on the main campus, enrolling a large number of Jewish and Italian students** (McCaughey 2003, 270-271, Columbia University Archives: Seth Low Junior College 2019)
– The Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center is dedicated in Washington Heights, bringing together the College of Physicians and Surgeons, medical care, and research on the same campus (Columbia University Irving Medical Center 2025)
– Union Theological Seminary becomes an affiliate institution of Columbia University (Columbia University Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs 2022)
1935 – The Columbia School of Journalism is renamed the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, the first of its kind in the United States (Columbia Journalism School 2025, Columbia University Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs 2022)
1937 – The School of Nursing of Presbyterian Hospital officially joins Columbia University and is renamed to the Department of Nursing of the Faculty of Medicine (Columbia University Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs 2022)
– **Ruth Benedict, assistant professor in anthropology, becomes the first tenured woman faculty member at Columbia** (Columbia 250 2004)
1938 – **Seth Low Junior College closes** (Columbia University Archives: Seth Low Junior College 2019)
1940 – Affiliation agreement established between Columbia University and the New York School of Social Work (Columbia University Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs 2022)
– Marjorie Hope Nicolson, professor of English, becomes Columbia's first female full professor (Columbia 250 2004)
1942 – **The Columbia School of Engineering opens to women, becoming the last Columbia professional school to do so** (Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science of Columbia University, The 2025, Columbia 250 2004)
– The Columbia School of Journalism admits its first majority-female class (Columbia Journalism School 2025)
1945 – Frank D. Fackenthal appointed as Acting President (Columbia University Archives 2025)
– The DeLamar Institute of Public Health of the College of Physicians and Surgeons becomes the School of Public Health and Administrative Medicine (Columbia University Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs 2022)
1946 – The School of International Affairs established in the aftermath of World War II (Columbia School of International and Public Affairs 2025)
1947 – **The Columbia School of General Studies is launched in light of World War II veterans seeking education through the GI Bill benefits, eventually expanding to serve all non-traditional undergraduate students** (Columbia School of General Studies 2025)
– Drawing from previous arts courses at the school, Columbia establishes two new schools, the School of Painting and Sculpture and the School of Dramatic Arts (Columbia University School of the Arts 2025)
1948 – **Dwight D. Eisenhower appointed as the thirteenth President of Columbia University** (Columbia University Archives 2025)
1949 – The Columbia School of Engineering awards first Bachelor of Science to a woman, Anna Longobardo (Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science of Columbia University, The 2025)
– The Columbia School of Business is renamed the Columbia Graduate School of Business (Columbia University Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs 2022)
1953 – Grayson L. Kirk appointed as the fourteenth President of Columbia University (Columbia University Archives 2025)

1958 – Sylvia Whitehead becomes one of the first African American student graduates from the nursing program (Columbia University School of Nursing 2025)
– The School of Painting and Sculpture and the School of Dramatic Arts are merged into the Program in the Arts (Columbia University Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs 2022, Columbia University School of the Arts 2025)
1959 – The New York School of Social Work is incorporated into Columbia University (Columbia University Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs 2022)
1960 – Majorie Hope Nicolson appointed Chair of the English Department, becoming the first woman to chair a Columbia department (Columbia 250 2004)
1963 – The School of Social Work is renamed to the Columbia University School of Social Work (Columbia University Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs 2022)
1964 – **Under the direction of Dean of Admissions Henry Coleman, Columbia College begins to recruit Black students** (McCaughey 2003, 426)
1965 – The Program in the Arts is reworked under the newly established School of the Arts (Columbia University School of the Arts 2025)
1966 – **Columbia students found the Student Homophile League, the oldest student gay rights advocacy group in the nation** (NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project 2018)
1968 – The Columbia Journalism School launches a summer program serving aspiring minority journalists (Columbia Journalism School 2025)
– **Protests break out over national and local events, resulting in the occupation of campus buildings by students** (McCaughey 2003, 423-461)
– **Two important affinity groups, Black Students' Organization and Barnard Organization of Soul & Solidarity, established by students during the protests** (Stahl 2024)
– **Trustees order the arrest of 708 students** (Columbia 250 2004)
– **Joint Committee on Disciplinary Affairs (JDCA) established to deal with student punishment following the protests of 1968** (Joint Committee on Disciplinary Affairs Records, 1967-1973 2021)
– **President Grayson Kirk resigns** (McCaughey 2003, 477)

Era III: Institutionalizing Shared Governance through the University Senate (1969-present)

1969 – **University Senate established after Cox Commission finds that there was ineffective communication between the administration, faculty, and students** (McCaughey 2003, 487-489, Columbia University Senate Records, 1968-2008 2021)
– Andrew W. Cordier appointed as the fifteenth President of Columbia University after briefly serving as Acting President and accepting the permanent position while ongoing searches for the next President were underway (Columbia University Archives 2025)
1970 – **University Senate launches the Commission on the Status of Women to address concerns around discrimination against women and employment data** (Columbia 250 2004)
– **Board of Trustees changes procedures to eliminate life trustees and imposes a six-year term, renewable once, as well as designating six Trustee seats to be filled by the vote of a representative body of faculty, students, and administrators** (McCaughey 2003, 469)
– William J. McGill appointed as sixteenth President of Columbia University (Columbia University Archives 2025)
– The first male students are admitted to the nursing program (Columbia University School of Nursing 2025)
1972 – The School of Public Health and Administrative Medicine is renamed the School of Public Health (Columbia University Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs 2022)
– Ruth Bader Ginsburg becomes the first female tenured faculty member at the Law School (Columbia Law School 2025, Columbia 250 2004)
1973 – **Trustees establish the Rules of University Conduct and disband the JDCA** (1968: Columbia in Crisis 2008)
– The School of Architecture is renamed the Graduate School of Architecture and Planning (Columbia University Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs 2022)

– Columbia and Barnard establish a new agreement that opens most Columbia and Barnard classes to undergraduates of the other institution (Columbia 250 2004)

1974 – The Department of Nursing becomes the Columbia University School of Nursing (Columbia University Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs 2022)

– **The Office of the Vice President for Health Sciences created to oversee all affairs for the School of Physicians and Surgeons, the School of Dental and Oral Surgery, the School of Nursing, and the School of Public Health, with Paul Marks serving in the role** (McCaughey 2003, 509)

1975 – **Trustees cede control of the Pulitzer Prizes, coming after many instances of controversy of the Trustees overriding the jury's decisions for award nominations** (McDowell 1984, Griffith 1978)

1979 – The faculties of Political Science, Philosophy, and Pure Science merged to form the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (Columbia Graduate School of Arts and Sciences 2025)

1980 – Michael I. Sovern appointed as the seventeenth President of Columbia University (Columbia University Archives 2025)

– **Position of Provost split into multiple Provost positions** (Columbia University Office of the Provost 2025)

1981 – School of International Affairs renamed to the School of International and Public Affairs (Columbia School of International and Public Affairs 2025)

1982 – **Office of the Vice President for Arts & Sciences created to oversee Columbia College, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the School of General Studies, the School of the Arts, with Donald C. Hood serving in the position** (Columbia University Arts and Sciences 2025)

1983 – **Columbia College begins admitting women, becoming the last Ivy League liberal arts college to become coeducational** (Columbia College 2025), **while Columbia University retains its affiliate institution relationship with Barnard College** (Barnard College 2025)

– Position of the Provost returned to a singular Provost under Robert F. Goldberger (Columbia University Office of the Provost 2025)

1986 – The Graduate School of Architecture and Planning is renamed as the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (Columbia University Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs 2022)

1991 – **Faculties of Columbia College, the School of General Studies, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and the School of the Arts merge into the Faculty of Arts and Sciences** (Columbia University Arts and Sciences 2025)

1993 – George Erik Rupp appointed as the eighteenth President of Columbia University (Columbia University Archives 2025)

– The School of Library Service closes (Columbia University Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs 2022)

1995 – The Division of Special Programs is established (Columbia University in the City of New York 2025, Columbia University School of Professional Studies 2025)

1997 – The School of Engineering renamed the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science after a $26 million grant from Chinese businessman Z.Y. Fu (Columbia University Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs 2022)

1998 – The School of Public Health renamed the Columbia School of Public Health after a $33 million gift from businessman Joseph L. Mailman (Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health 2025)

2001 – **Resignation of the newly-appointed director of the Office of Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Education, leading to accusations of the Trustees pressuring administration to water down sexual misconduct policy** (Brownstein 2001)

2002 – **Lee Bollinger appointed nineteenth President of Columbia University** (Columbia University Archives 2025)

– The Division of Special Programs is reworked to establish the School of Continuing Education (Columbia University School of Professional Studies 2025)

2006 – **Protest over Minutemen Project speakers and students are charged under the University Rules** (Arenson 2006)

– The School of Dental and Oral Surgery is renamed to the College of Dental Medicine (Columbia University College of Dental Medicine 2025)

2010 – The School of International and Public Affairs faculty become independent from Faculty of Arts and Sciences (Columbia University Arts and Sciences 2025)

2012 – **Trustee Jose Cabranes published dissenting opinion about the Core Curriculum, showing dissent among governance about educational programming at Columbia and leading to discussions about the role of Trustees** (Kiley 2012)

2014 – **Columbia gynecologist Robert Hadden indicted for sexually assaulting patients** (Ransom 2019)
– **Columbia University and Slavery Project founded to examine Columbia's history and legacies of enslavement** (Columbia University & Slavery 2022)
2015 – The School of Continuing Education is renamed the School of Professional Studies (Columbia University School of Professional Studies 2025)
2017 – Following a $250 million gift from P. Roy and Diana Vagelos, Columbia renames the College of Physicians and Surgeons officially to the Columbia University Roy and Diana Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons (Columbia University Irving Medical Center 2025)
2018 – Columbia University Roy and Diana Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons replaces medical school loans with scholarships for students with financial need (Columbia University Irving Medical Center 2025)
2020 – **COVID-19 pandemic leads to accusations of the Trustees and senior administration mishandling finances, budget cuts, retirement funds, and salaries** (Abby Melbourne 2020)
– The Columbia Climate School is established (Columbia University in the City of New York 2025)
2022 – **Professor of Mathematics Michael Thaddeus publishes article criticizing the University for publishing misleading data to the U.S. News & World Report in order to make Columbia appear better to prospective students** (Hartocollis, U.S. News Ranked Columbia No. 2, but a Math Professor Has His Doubts 2022)
2023 – Columbia stops sending data to the U.S. News & World Report for rankings following controversy (Hartocollis, Columbia Won't Participate in the Next U.S. News Rankings 2022)
– **Minouche Shafik appointed twentieth President of Columbia University, becoming the first woman to serve as President of Columbia** (Columbia University Archives 2025)
– **Columbia's Morningside campus erupts in protest over events in Israel** (King 2024)
2024 – **Gaza Solidarity encampments arise leading to the occupation of Hamilton Hall** (King 2024)
– **Katrina Armstrong is appointed Acting President under the title Interim University President, becoming the second woman to serve as President of Columbia** (Columbia University Archives 2025)
2025 – **Claire Shipman, former Co-Chair of the Columbia Board of Trustees, is appointed Acting President, becoming the third woman to serve as President of Columbia** (Columbia University Archives 2025)
– **President Shipman announces review of University Senate due to concerns of shared governance being ineffective at Columbia** (Columbia University Office of the President 2025)

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University Senate

Proposed: July 18, 2025

Adopted:

RESOLUTION TO UPDATE THE ACADEMIC CALENDAR TO ESTABLISH SEPTEMBER 1 AS THE FALL DEGREE CONFERRAL DATE IN LIEU OF OCTOBER[1]
(TEACHERS COLLEGE)

WHEREAS Teachers College adheres to Columbia University's degree conferral dates in February, May, and October for affiliate institutions, however, the October date creates significant challenges for graduates, particularly those in professional certification and licensure programs (PhD, EdD, MPhil, EdM, MA, and MS); and

WHEREAS Many positions sought by Teachers College graduates begin in early September, and the delay in official degree conferral limits their eligibility for employment, career advancement, and licensure requirements; and

WHEREAS This change is necessary to support professional certification graduates (e.g., teacher certification programs), psychology and health graduates, graduates in all disciplines, PhD graduates in School Psychology, and MS graduates in Nutrition; and

WHEREAS Columbia University has precedent for field-specific conferral dates by introducing a June conferral date for medical, nursing and dental students to meet urgent workforce demands; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the University Senate approve the establishment of the September 1 degree conferral date in place of October for all Teachers College graduates.

Proponent: Education Committee

[1] Once confirmed, a conferral date may be used for other schools or students as appropriate by the Office of the University Registrar.

Teachers College
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
A Graduate School of Education, Health & Psychology

February 27, 2025

Office of the University Registrar
Columbia University
615 West 131st Street, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10027

Re: Request to Establish September 1 as the Degree Conferral Date for All Teachers College Graduates

Dear Registrar Kane,

We are writing to formally request a permanent change in the degree conferral date for *all* Teachers College (TC) graduate degrees (PhD, EdD, MPhil, EdM, MA, and MS), replacing the current October conferral date with September 1. At the February 13, 2025 TC Faculty Meeting, 96% of eligible faculty at Teachers College voted in support of this change. This adjustment will better serve our just under 5,000 students across Education, Psychology, and Health disciplines by aligning degree completion with critical employment and licensure timelines.

Columbia University currently offers degree conferral dates in February, May, and October for affiliate institutions. While TC adheres to this schedule, the October date creates significant challenges for our graduates, particularly those in professional certification and licensure programs. Many positions sought by TC graduates begin in early September, and the delay in official degree conferral limits their eligibility for employment, career advancement, and licensure requirements.

Specifically, this change is necessary to support:

- **Professional certification graduates** (e.g., teacher certification programs) who face employment delays of weeks to an entire academic year, affecting salary adjustments, promotion eligibility, and career trajectory.
- **Psychology and health graduates** who require post-degree fellowships, licensure, or clinical internships, many of which begin September 1. The October conferral prevents these students from securing positions on schedule, delaying licensure and professional practice.
- **Graduates in all disciplines** who seek immediate employment, whose ability to apply for jobs and compete in the workforce is hindered by the delayed degree conferral.

For example:

- **PhD graduates in School Psychology** require degree conferral before starting postdoctoral fellowships, which begin on September 1. The October conferral forces them into alternative, often less desirable options, delaying their licensure and career progression.
- **MS graduates in Nutrition** complete their program in mid-August but must wait until October to take the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) exam, missing job opportunities at the peak hiring period.

Columbia University has precedent for field-specific conferral dates. During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the University introduced an April conferral date for medical and nursing students to meet urgent workforce demands. The ongoing national teacher shortage, combined with increasing needs in psychology and health professions, presents a similarly pressing situation.

We are committed to ensuring that this adjustment does not create additional strain on the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) regarding the conferral of MPhil and PhD degrees. Across our 27 PhD programs at TC, over the last five years we averaged about 30 MPhil and 30 PhD graduates in October. We will work closely with GSAS and the Registrar's Office to align administrative processes and ensure a smooth transition.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and welcome the opportunity to discuss any questions or concerns. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

Sincerely,



KerryAnn O'Meara, Ph.D.
Provost, Dean, and Vice President of Academic Affairs
Teachers College, Columbia University



Tania (Tani) Castañeda, Ed.D.
Vice President, Division of Enrollment & Student Success
Teachers College, Columbia University

CC:
Tom Bailey, President, Teachers College, Columbia University
Patrick Schmidt, Chair, Faculty Executive Committee
Megan Massaro, Executive Director of Enrollment Management, Offices of the Registrar & Financial Aid

Documents on the Appeal of Dr. David Kessler of the Decision of the Elections Commission on the Election of a TTOT Senator from the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

Timeline:(all dates in 2025):

1. April 11: District elections commission (Office of Academic Affairs at VPS) issues call for election and provides schedule of nomination period, campaign period, and voting period. Also the start of the nomination period.
2. April 25: End of the nomination period.
3. April 28: Campaign period begins.
4. April 29: District elections commission announces names of seven candidates, and distributes information from the Elections Code
5. May 5: Campaign period ends.
6. May 6: District elections commission sends email saying that campaign period has concluded and voting period has begun. Provides details on voting.
7. May 12: District elections commission sends "gentle reminder" that voting period ends on May 13.
8. May 12: Two candidates send general emails that will become the subject of a complaint
9. May 13: Voting period ends
10. May 14: District elections commission announces result; Dr Kessler wins.
11. May 26: Dr Rao files complaint with the Senate Elections Commission alleging that the two candidates who sent emails during voting period violated the rules. Pertinent emails are included.
12. June 6: Elections Commission holds hearing on the complaint
13. June 9: Elections Commission releases its decision, upholding the complaint and ordering the District Elections Commission to re-run the campaign and voting periods. District elections commission begins to rerun those stages of the election.
14. June 11: Dr Kessler asks the Elections Commission to reconsider its decision.
15. June18: Elections Commission responds in detail to Dr Kessler's June 11 email and re-affirms its decision of June 9.
16. June 20: Dr Kessler files appeal to the Senate. District elections commission postpones the rerun of the campaign and voting periods pending Senate plenary action.
17. July 18: Senate is scheduled to hear appeal. The appeal should be decided by a majority vote. If the Elections Commissions decision is affirmed, the district elections commission will rerun the campaign and voting periods. If the Elections Commissions decision is overturned, Dr Kessler will be seated as a Senator.

Written Complaint regarding College of Physicians and Surgeons TTOT Faculty election

Rao, Ashwini K. <akr7@cumc.columbia.edu> Mon, May 26, 2025 at 8:50 AM
Reply-To: akr7@cumc.columbia.edu
To: "electionscommission@columbia.edu" <electionscommission@columbia.edu>

To the Election Commission:

I am a candidate for the VP&S TTOT faculty election to the University Senate.

I am writing to lodge a formal written complaint about the fact that two candidates for the TTOT position violated rules for campaigning. As you can see from the emails below, Drs. and Kessler sent emails to on May 12 even though the campaign period ended on May 5 and voting began on May 6, 2025.

Since one of the candidates who violated the rules was declared the winner of the election, this does not seem fair. My candidacy should not have to suffer because I followed the rules. I received the highest votes on the first two rounds of counting, received the second highest votes in the third and fourth rounds and was eliminated in the final round of counting.

I would like the election commission to review the results of the election given the evidence that two candidates did not follow the rules.

Thank you for your attention.

--

Ashwini K. Rao Ed.D, OTR, FAOTA

Professor of Rehabilitation & Regenerative Medicine

Director, Doctor of Education in Movement Sciences (Physical Therapy)

Rao Lab

Programs in Physical Therapy and GH Sergievsky Center

Huntington's Disease Center of Excellence

Center of Excellence in Alzheimer's Disease

Initiative for Columbia Ataxia and Tremor

Columbia University Irving Medical Center

617 West 168th Street, New York, NY 10032

Tel: 212-305-1647

Fax: 212-305-4569

To: **Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons District Elections Commission**
Ms. Jamilette Gaton
Dr. Anne Taylor
Dr. Daichi Shimbo
Assistant Vice President Clara Lapiner

From: University Senate Elections Commission

RE: Tenure-Track and Off-Track Faculty Election to the University Senate: Complaint Received

June 9, 2025

Dear Ms. Gaton, Drs. Taylor and Shimbo, and Assistant Vice President Lapiner:

Thank you for joining us for the hearing on the complaint of Dr. Ashwini Rao about the TTOT University Senate election.

On the basis of that hearing, we are ordering that the campaign and voting segments of that election be rerun. Please take care in enunciating what activities are prohibited and allowed in each of those two segments. We also recommend that you use the "vote for as many or as few candidates as you wish" setting in Election Buddy, and that you tell voters that you are using that setting. We hope you also continue your practice of directing questions of voters and candidates to the District Commission. Please inform the candidates of our decision.

We very much appreciate all the work you do to keep the University Senate functioning and make sure that the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons is properly represented. Please be assured that we remain open to any questions or requests for assistance you may have.

Sincerely,

University Senate Elections Commission
Batya Tropper, Student (Chair)
Sen. Melinda Aquino, Administrative Staff
Sen. Sarah Hansen, Tenure-Track and Off-Track Faculty
Dan O'Flaherty, Tenured Faculty
Sen. Ann Thornton, Administration

LIONMAIL @COLUMBIA

Formal request for appeal

5 messages

Kessler, David O. <dk2592@cumc.columbia.edu> Fri, Jun 20, 2025 at 3:18 PM
To: "Shimbo, Daichi" <ds2231@cumc.columbia.edu>, "senate@columbia.edu" <senate@columbia.edu>
Cc: "Mc Allister, Geraldine" <g.mcallister@columbia.edu>

Dear Members of the Senate,

I am writing to formally appeal the Elections Commission's recent decision to discard the results and re-run the TTOT election at VP&S. The complaint prompting this decision was submitted after the vote had concluded and I had already been certified as the winner on May 14th, 2025 for the 2025-2027 term.

The re-run was publicly announced on June 11th by the District Elections Commission, just minutes after informing the candidates, and without direct formal notice to me of the Elections Commission decision, as required by Section 2(h) of the Election Code, or time to exercise my right to appeal. In this case, both my right to due process and the Senate's role in reviewing and approving the Commission's recommendation were bypassed.

The complaint against me concerns a brief email I sent to my department on the sixth day of a seven-day voting period, reminding colleagues to vote for myself and another departmental candidate. The Commission acknowledged that I acted in good faith- and also confirmed that the rule cited as the basis for disqualification is not explicitly stated in the Election Code. I was not the only candidate who acted based on a reasonable interpretation of Election Code; several others communicated this to the Elections Commission.

Given that my email was highly unlikely to have influenced the outcome, the decision to re-run the entire election appears disproportionate and undemocratic. It does not meet the threshold of a "substantial error in procedure" as described in Section 2(j). A more reasonable and constructive response would have been to clarify expectations going forward (as the District Elections Commission found necessary to do in their announcement) rather than retroactively invalidate the results. Moreover, re-running the election after I was publicly declared the winner creates an implicit stigma that undermines my reputation and puts me at a unique disadvantage in any future vote.

I chose to run for the Senate because I care deeply about our institution. I was honored and humbled by the support I received across departments, and I take this responsibility seriously. I hope to serve with a spirit of collaboration, transparency, and integrity. I understand and respect the importance of upholding the integrity of the Senate election process, and I trust that the Senate shares a commitment to fairness and due process and will give this matter the thoughtful consideration it deserves.
Please let me know the appropriate process, forum, and timeline for submitting a more detailed letter outlining all of my reasons for appeal so that the Senate may fully consider the matter.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
David Kessler, MD, MSc

LIONMAIL @COLUMBIA

Your email of June 11

15 messages

Dan O'Flaherty <bo2@columbia.edu> Wed, Jun 18, 2025 at 10:31 AM
To: David Oren Kessler <dk2592@cumc.columbia.edu>
Cc: Elections Commission <electionscommission@columbia.edu>, Geraldine Mc Allister <g.mcallister@columbia.edu>, "Gaton, Jamilette M." <jg2001@cumc.columbia.edu>, "Lapiner, Clara L." <cl2779@cumc.columbia.edu>, "Shimbo, Daichi" <ds2231@cumc.columbia.edu>, "Taylor, Anne L." <alt2127@cumc.columbia.edu>, President's Office <president@ssrc.org>

Dear Dr Kessler:

Thank you for your email of June 11. We communicated our decision following the hearing of June 6 through the district elections commission in order to recognize the central role of that body. At any rate, you may also consider this email as your notice that the Elections Commission ordered that the campaign and voting portions of the TTOT election at VP&S be rerun.

We are also happy to answer your questions, which appear below in bold-face.

1a. **Did the Commission determine that I violated the Elections Code?**

Yes. Two candidates, including you, violated the Elections Code. You also both violated the May 6 directive of the district elections commission.

1b. **If so, what provision did I allegedly violate?**

You and the other candidate both campaigned at a time when campaigning was not permitted. Both of you sent mass emails on May 12, which was during the voting period. Your email stated: "Although there is only one position - the rank voting system allows you to enter more than one candidate, so *[redacted name of a third candidate]* & I appreciate your support and vote for the position in whatever order you prefer."

An email that asks recipients to vote in a certain way is a campaign email. Your email was not simply "reminding … colleagues to vote" before the deadline, as you characterize it.

The Elections Code explicitly provides for a nomination period, a campaign period, and a voting period. Someone cannot make a nomination after the nominating period, although nothing in the Elections Code explicitly forbids that. Someone cannot vote after the voting period (your May 12 email recognizes this proposition), although once again nothing in the Elections Code explicitly forbids that. When an instructor says that an exam will be given in a particular time period, students are not allowed to turn in their work after that period, even if the instructor never explicitly said so. By establishing a campaign period, the Elections Code delineates the times when campaigning is not permitted.

Moreover, the district elections commission on May 6 also told you: "The campaign period for the upcoming Senate election has officially concluded. Voting opened today…." If campaigning were allowed during the voting period, the District Elections Commission would have had no reason to remind anyone.

2a. **Did the Commission determine that my May 12 email constituted a "substantial error in procedure"?**

The combination of your email and and the other candidate's email constituted a major disruption of the election process and a major violation of the Election Code. Knowledgeable people could not rule out the possibility that it affected the outcome. The essence of campaigning is that candidates do things that will increase the probability that they will be elected.

The substantial error in procedure was the campaigning during the voting period. This made it impossible for us to say with confidence that the results presented were those that would have been presented if no violations had occurred.

2b. **Did the Commission report its recommendations to the full University Senate?**

We decided to postpone reporting our recommendations until after we reviewed your letter of June 11 in case that letter caused us to revise our recommendations. We will notify the Senate on completion of this letter. . You are of course free to file an appeal to the Senate.

3. **Why does the Commission believe that invalidating the election was the appropriate remedy?**

Doing nothing was not an option because no one has a way of estimating whether the election results would have been different if the emails had not been sent. If we cannot be reasonably certain that election results are the result of a process that conforms to the election code, we must reject those results. When results are rejected, the best way to make sure that the TTOT constituents have the required representation in the University Senate is to hold another election.

One remedy suggested when we asked for written comments before the hearing was that the two candidates who campaigned during the voting period be disqualified and the results be recalculated without them. This is technically feasible but we did not believe such a harsh remedy was appropriate because the two candidates appeared to have been acting in good faith. We were also concerned about taking public actions that explicitly named the two candidates because of the implications that that might have on their professional reputations—implications we thought would be undeserved because we construed their behavior as misguided but not unethical.

Hence, we thought that re-running the campaign and voting periods was the most direct and best remedy.

Sincerely

The University Senate Elections Commission

LIONMAIL @COLUMBIA

Important Update: TTOT University Senate Election Rerun - VP&S Tenure Track and "at CUMC" off Track

Kessler, David O. <dk2592@cumc.columbia.edu> Wed, Jun 11, 2025 at 11:11 PM
To: Office_of_Academic_Affairs <Office_Acad_Affairs@cumc.columbia.edu>, "Rosan, Felice B." <fbr@gc.columbia.edu>, "officeofthepresident@columbia.edu" <officeofthepresident@columbia.edu>
Cc: "Mc Allister, Geraldine" <g.mcallister@columbia.edu>, "Taylor, Anne L." <alt2127@cumc.columbia.edu>, "Shimbo, Daichi" <ds2231@cumc.columbia.edu>, "Lapiner, Clara L." <cl2779@cumc.columbia.edu>, "Gaton, Jamilette M." <jg2001@cumc.columbia.edu>

Dear Dr. McAllister, the Elections Commission, and the Office of Academic Affairs,

I understand and respect the importance of upholding the integrity of the Senate election process, and I trust that the Commission shares a commitment to transparency, fairness, and due process. However, the lack of formal communication about the decision to invalidate the results has left me—and potentially others—without crucial context or explanation.

On May 14th, 2025, I was humbled to be announced as the **certified winner** of the election to the University Senate, representing the VP&S TTOT Faculty for the 2025-2027 term. So now I am quite disheartened and confused by the Elections Commission's decision to discard the results of the election and rerun the process.

To my knowledge, the election was conducted in accordance with the published guidelines, and I did my utmost to comply with all relevant rules and expectations. If there were concerns or procedural irregularities that prompted this reversal, I respectfully request a clear explanation so that I—and the broader faculty community—can better understand the basis for this action.

My understanding is that this decision was made in response to a complaint by one of the other candidates, Dr. Rao, regarding a short email that I sent on May 12 reminding my colleagues in my department to vote before the deadline. As I mentioned in my formal written response to the Commission and during the hearing, I am unaware of rules that prohibit the sending of my email. As you are already aware, several other candidates had the same understanding of the rules, as they expressed to you at the hearing. Email reminders were particularly germane in this election, given that many constituents had difficulty locating the ballot email, which often ended up in spam folders.

To date, I have not received any written decision or communication from the Elections Commission in response to the complaint, as r*equired by Section 2(h) of the Election Code*. In light of that, I respectfully request clarification on several key questions about the basis for the Commission's decision and its interpretation of the Code.

1. Did the Commission determine that I violated the Election Code? If so, what provision was allegedly violated?

Having carefully reviewed the Code, I am unaware of any provision my May 12 email violated. The Code establishes a minimum campaign period to ensure all candidates have a fair opportunity to present their platforms before voting begins, but it does not prohibit continued campaigning after voting starts.

In fact, Sections 2(e) and 2(f) explicitly permit candidates to publicize their candidacies and seek support via email. If the Commission has interpreted the Code to mean that no communication is permitted during the voting period, I respectfully request where such a restriction is codified or communicated.

Dr. Rao's interpretation appears to impose a restriction that is neither stated in the Code nor was ever communicated to candidates. I understand the importance of ensuring that all candidates have an opportunity to campaign before voting begins, but what possible purpose would it serve to prohibit candidates from continuing to campaign after voting begins?

2. Did the Commission determine that my May 12 email constituted a "substantial error in procedure"? Did the Commision report its recommendations to the full University Senate?

Because Dr. Rao's complaint was filed *after* ballots were counted and I had been declared the winner, it appears that Section 2(j) of the Code applies. If that's correct, the applicable standard is whether there was a **"substantial error in procedure."**

I respectfully request clarification if the Elections Commission determined that my May 12 email constituted a "substantial error in procedure" and if so, on what basis?

Section 2(j) also requires that the Elections Commission report its recommendations to the full University Senate, which then has the opportunity to overturn the Elections Commission. Has the Elections Commission reported its recommendations to the full Senate yet? If so, has the Senate had an opportunity to consider or vote on the matter?

3. Why does the Commission believe that invalidating the election is the appropriate remedy?
Even if the May 12 message were viewed as a technical violation (which I dispute), there is no evidence that I acted in bad faith or sought to circumvent the rules. I acted based on a good faith reading of the Code, and there is no suggestion that the brief reminder email—sent late in the voting period on day 6/7—had a material impact on the outcome. Was any such assessment conducted?

More broadly, I respectfully ask the Commission to reflect on whether nullifying a concluded election—absent clear, intentional misconduct or demonstrable impact—serves the interests of fairness and democratic integrity. Does the proposed remedy not risk undermining the voters' will more than protecting it?

I chose to run for the Senate because I care deeply about our institution. I was honored to be elected and humbled by the broad support I received from colleagues across departments and specialties. It is a responsibility I take seriously, and I hope to begin my term in a spirit of collaboration, service, and integrity. I remain genuinely perplexed that Dr. Rao's complaint has led to a reversal of certified results. I believe these questions deserve thoughtful and transparent responses, and I sincerely hope the Commission will reconsider its recommendations in light of the concerns raised above.

I appreciate your time and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
David Kessler, MD, MSc

cc: office of president Shipman and general counsel

Supporting Documents: Part 1

From: "Kessler, David O." <dk2592@cumc.columbia.edu>
Date: May 12, 2025 at 8:43:40 AM EDT
To: " GEM FACULTY LIST <emd-gem@lists.cumc.columbia.edu>, emd-pemfac@lists.cumc.columbia.edu
Subject: Re: University Senate

Just a friendly reminder that tomorrow (may 13 by 1145pm) is the final day to cast your vote for the open senate position.

Although there is only one position - the rank voting system allows you to enter more than one candidate, so

& I appreciate your support and vote for the position in whatever order you prefer.

The ballot should already be in your inbox from electionbuddy.

Feel free to reach out if you have any technical issues or other questions.
sincerely,
David

Document 8:

Dr Rao attached a second email in his complaint as well, but the author of this letter has not filed an appeal and we do not believe their identity is relevant to the appeal. Therefore we are not including the email in this packet. The letter would also have to be greatly redacted not to reveal their identity.

The email from the second candidate is time-stamped May 12, 2025 at 5:09:29 pm EDT. It is eight paragraphs long, and recounts many of the candidate's accomplishments. The last paragraph states, “I hope I can count on your vote."

Supporting Documents: Part 2

From: Office_of_Academic_Affairs <Office_Acad_Affairs@cumc.columbia.edu>
Date: Friday, April 11, 2025 at 10:14 AM
To: Office_of_Academic_Affairs <Office_Acad_Affairs@cumc.columbia.edu>
Subject: Spring 2025-2027 University Senate Elections - Call for Nominations - VP&S Tenure Track and "at CUMC" Track

Dear Colleagues,

It's time for the annual Columbia University Senate Elections for the Spring 2025-2027 cycle!

We seek members of our faculty to consider representing the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons. **As of today, Friday, April 11th there is currently one (1) VP&S non-tenured faculty seat (either on the "at CUMC" track or on tenure track).** The University Senate represents all members of the Columbia academic community. It considers diverse issues such as the University budget, fringe benefits, academic freedom and tenure, housing policies, campus expansion, academic programming, and libraries. The Senate makes policy on issues beyond individual schools, often affecting the entire University.

NOMINATIONS: Candidates must include a brief statement (no more than 100 words) about themselves and their interest in the position and a headshot for inclusion in the ballot. **The deadline for nominations is Friday, April 25, 2025, at 11:45 pm.**

Send your nomination to the Office of Academic Affairs at Office_Acad_Affairs@cumc.columbia.edu and Jamilette Gaton at jg2001@cumc.columbia.edu.

VOTE: On **Tuesday, May 6, 2025,** VP&S TOTT faculty members will receive an email with a link to their ballot. **The deadline for voting is Tuesday, May 13, 2025.** Results will be announced soon afterward.

Requirements to Serve as a University Senator:
A University Senator elected this spring will serve a (2) two-year term, beginning immediately and running through May 2027 (committee work begins in September 2025). Faculty senators are expected to attend monthly plenary meetings and to serve on one committee, which is also likely to meet monthly.

For your reference, please see the Election Schedule below:

Vagelos College of Physicians & Surgeons: Election to 1 tenure track or "at CUMC" track Faculty Seat on the University Senate			
Step	**Opening date**	**Closing Date**	**Closing Time**
1. Announcement	Friday, April 11, 2025		
2. Nomination period	Friday, April 11, 2025	Friday, April 25, 2025	11:45 pm
3. Campaign period	Monday, April 28, 2025	Monday, May 5, 2025	11: 45pm
4. Voting period	Tuesday, May 6, 2025	Tuesday, May 13, 2025	11: 45 pm
5. Results to be announced	Wednesday, May 14, 2025		

For more information, please review the University Senate Elections Code. The Statutes, By-Laws, and Rules of the University Senate are available here.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jamilette Gaton at jg2001@cumc.columbia.edu

Thank you for considering this important service to the University.

The Office of Academic Affairs
Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons
Columbia University Irving Medical Center
Office_Acad_Affairs@cumc.columbia.edu

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Elections Commissioner
Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

Subject: Meet the Candidates - Spring 2025-2027 University Senate Elections - VP&S Tenure Track and "at CUMC" Track
Date: Tuesday, April 29, 2025 at 11:48:10 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Office_of_Academic_Affairs
To: Office_of_Academic_Affairs
CC: Gaton, Jamilette M.
Attachments: Meet the Candidates for University Senate Elections - Tenure Track and at CUMC.pdf

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to announce the seven candidates running in the upcoming University Senate elections - VP&S Tenure Track and "at CUMC" Track. Each candidate has submitted a statement outlining their background, goals, and vision for the Senate. You can find these statements in the attached document.

Your participation is vital in shaping the future of our university governance.

Voting period starts on Tuesday, May 6th, and runs until Tuesday, May 13th at 11:45 pm.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Jamilette Gaton at jg2001@cumc.columbia.edu

Thank you,

The Office of Academic Affairs
Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons
Columbia University Irving Medical Center
Office_Acad_Affairs@cumc.columbia.edu
_____
Elections Commissioner
Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

Subject: Reminder: Campaign Guidelines for University Senate Elections - Spring 2025-2027 University Senate Elections - VP&S Tenure Track and "at CUMC" Track
Date: Tuesday, April 29, 2025 at 11:15:41 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Office_of_Academic_Affairs
To: Office_of_Academic_Affairs
CC: Gaton, Jamilette M.
Priority: High

Dear Candidate,

Thank you again for your participation in the upcoming University Senate elections. As the campaign period gets underway, this is a friendly reminder to review and adhere to the election code outlined for all candidates.

Please find the campaign guidelines included below for your reference. These rules are in place to ensure a fair, respectful, and transparent election process for all involved.

If you have any questions about your candidacy, please feel free to reach out to **Jamilette Gaton at jg2001@cumc.columbia.edu.**

For clarification on any part of the code, please contact **Geraldine McAllister, Director of the University Senate at g.mcallister@columbia.edu.**

Best of luck with your campaign!

The Office of Academic Affairs
Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons
Columbia University Irving Medical Center
Office_Acad_Affairs@cumc.columbia.edu
_____
Elections Commissioner
Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

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e. Election Practices. Each Divisional Elections Commission shall observe the following practices in dealing with nominations:

i. All candidates shall be permitted to publicize their own candidacies and all persons may seek support for themselves or for others. Each Divisional Elections Commission shall, however, issue stringent limits on campaign expenditures so that no prospective candidate shall suffer a financial handicap. Each Divisional Elections Commission shall make available, to the extent possible, a common form of publicity (e.g., bulletinboard) enabling all candidates to announce their candidacies free ofcharge.
ii. Every candidate is accountable not only for violations of campaign rules and regulations that they might commit, but also for any such violations committed by people that the candidate has allowed to work on their campaign.

f. Electronic Communications.

i. All candidates shall be permitted to publicize their own candidacies and all persons may seek support for themselves or for others through means of electronic communications, on University systems, or on third party systems over the internet, except as restricted or prohibited under this Elections Code.
ii. The following are prohibited with regard to electronic communications conveying electioneering statements: vulgar, obscene, or abusive language or images; unsupported accusations, defamation, or threats of any kind; offensive terms targeted at persons or groups of persons in a way intended to be disparaging; advertisements or language focused primarily on promoting commercial interests or services; spam, or communications containing subject matter wholly unrelated to elections.
iii. In governing the use of electronic communications for campaigning, the Elections Commission or the Divisional Elections Commissions may restrict or prohibit the use of electronic communications on third party systems for campaigning and publicity statements, as reasonably appropriate.

For more information, please review the University Senate Elections Code. The Statutes, By-Laws, and Rules of the University Senate are available here.

Subject: Voting Now Open- Spring 2025-2027 University Senate Elections - VP&S Tenure Track and "at CUMC" Track
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 9:00:10 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Office_of_Academic_Affairs
To: Office_of_Academic_Affairs
CC: Gaton, Jamilette M.

Dear all,

The campaign period for the upcoming University Senate election has officially concluded. Voting opened today, **Tuesday, May 6, at 9:00 AM** and will remain open until **Tuesday, May 13, at 11:45 PM.**

Please watch for an email from invitations@mail.electionbuddy.com containing your personalized ballot. If you don't see it in your inbox, be sure to check your spam or junk folder.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Jamilette Gaton at jg2001@cumc.columbia.edu.

Thank you for your participation in this important democratic process. Your engagement matters.

Sincerely,

The Office of Academic Affairs
Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons
Columbia University Irving Medical Center
Office_Acad_Affairs@cumc.columbia.edu

_____
Elections Commissioner
Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

Subject: Voting Ends Tomorrow - Spring 2025-2027 University Senate Elections - VP&S Tenured Faculty
Date: Monday, May 12, 2025 at 10:48:27 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Gaton, Jamilette M.
To: Office_of_Academic_Affairs
CC: Gaton, Jamilette M.

Dear all,

A gentle reminder that voting for the VP&S Senate Election will close tomorrow, **Tuesday, May 13, at 11:45 PM.**

The election results will be shared by the end of the day on May 14, following certification.

If you haven't already done so, please be sure to cast your vote before the deadline. A reminder was sent through the voting system. Please check your inbox, spam/junk folders, and **quarantine mail *(quarantine@messaging.microsoft.com)***, as we've received reports of notices being filtered there.

If you have any questions or run into issues while voting, feel free to reach out.

Thank you,
Jamilette

Subject: Election Results: 2025-2027 University Senate Elections for VP&S Tenure Track and "at CUMC" Off Track
Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 4:30:14 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Office_of_Academic_Affairs
CC: Office_of_Academic_Affairs

Dear VP&S Tenured Track and “at CUMC” Off-Track Faculty,

Thank you for submitting your nominations for the 2025-2027 University Senate Elections for VP&S TTOT faculty. We received seven (7) nominations for the one (1) open TTOT faculty chair, and the election is now closed.

Voter turnout was 26%, with 601 ballots submitted out of 2310 eligible voters.

Representation by the VP&S TTOT faculty on the 2025-2027 University Senate will be held by the following faculty:

- **David Kessler, MD, MSc**
  - Professor of Pediatrics (in Emergency Medicine) at CUMC

Please join us in congratulating the 2025-2027 VP&S TTOT faculty University Senator!

Thank you,
The Office of Academic Affairs
Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons
Columbia University Irving Medical Center
Office_Acad_Affairs@cumc.columbia.edu

_____
Elections Commissioner
Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

Statement from the Rules Committee
on Misconceptions about Its Role in Student Discipline

July 17, 2025

Incorrect information has circulated about the powers of the Rules Committee and the University Senate, and about the roles they play in the disciplining of students for protest activities. The Rules Committee wants to provide clarity on some of those powers and roles (and their limitations) because, much to our dismay, members of the Federal Government, Board of Trustees, Senior Administration, and even the University Senate have leveraged these falsehoods to push for reforms to the University Senate and the Rules Committee, as well as revisions to the University Statutes. Any reforms that might need to be undertaken should occur only after careful consideration and in the full light of facts:

1. As the Guidelines to the Rules of University Conduct explain, the Rules Committee is the "statutory custodian of the Rules, undertaking regular reviews of the Rules, and preparing proposals for changes for consideration by the University Senate." Additionally, "the Committee acts as an interpretive body in case of disputes about the meaning and application of the Rules, and may prepare guidelines, sample documents, and training materials to facilitate implementation of the Rules."

2. The Rules Committee of the University Senate is not a disciplinary body. Like the University Senate as a whole, it plays no active role in disciplining students or administering the Rules of University Conduct.

3. The Rules Committee plays no role in either selecting or appointing the Rules Administrator, whose office investigates allegations and brings charges to the University Judicial Board (UJB). The Rules Administrator is "appointed by the President after consultation with the Executive Committee of the University Senate, and shall serve at the pleasure of the President" (§445(a)). The Rules Committee may, at times, communicate with the Rules Administrator when questions of statutory interpretation arise, but all such communication is routed through the Rules Clerk.

4. The Rules Committee plays no role in either selecting or appointing members of the UJB. According to the Statutes (§445(c)), the Executive Committee of the University Senate annually appoints members of the UJB, based on nominations received from the respective caucuses; the Rules Committee is not notified of the membership at the time of appointment. Those members of the Rules Committee who participate in the training of the UJB become aware of the membership, but this information is not communicated to the rest of the Committee.

5. At no time does the Rules Committee, the Executive Committee, or any University Senate body have access to cases brought before the UJB. Aggregate data collected by the Rules Administrator about cases and outcomes is supposed to be shared quarterly with the Rules Committee, but over the past two years that sharing has not happened.

6. The Rules Committee has consistently urged that disciplinary cases pursued under the Rules of University Conduct be conducted in a timely manner, following the time frames outlined in §446. Having no direct role in Rules administration or in the UJB hearings, the Rules Committee cannot slow down or speed up the process overseen by the Rules Administrator.

The timelines attached below show that disciplinary processes for students alleged to have been involved in the first encampment and the occupation of Hamilton Hall in 2024 (Event 1 and Event 2) were exceedingly slow. The Rules Committee was as frustrated by these delays as the rest of the community, not least because students were often given extended interim sanctions without a hearing. The delayed disciplinary action was due to decisions made by the University Administration and had nothing to do with the Rules Committee.

The first and most costly delay resulted from the Administration's decision in January and February of 2024 to pursue cases related to student protests through the Center for Student Success and Intervention (CSSI). This was more than two months before Event 1 (the first encampment), but that decision delayed the subsequent cases for at least three months when the Administration ran into legal trouble.

After the University Senate adopted the Resolution to Address Concerns Related to Student Disciplinary Processes on May 8, 2024, the University Administration decided to move cases back to the UJB process as prescribed and detailed in the University Statutes, where they belonged from the beginning. However, the Administration hired an outside consultant to serve as an Assistant Rules Administrator, and that person created another couple of months delay because of lack of familiarity with the Rules of University Conduct. Only in August 2024 were the cases formally returned to the proper UJB process, at the same time as a new Rules Administrator, Professor Gregory Wawro, was appointed by Interim President Armstrong.

These delays in disciplinary cases were a consequence of the University Administration's actions, caused first by President Shafik's decision to pursue protest cases through the CSSI, and then by the further decision to hire outside personnel to serve in roles defined by the University Statutes.

Appendix: **Rules of University Conduct Committee | Disciplinary Cases | Timeline 2024-25**

1. February 1, 2024: The Rules Committee of the University Senate received a draft of the Administration's "Interim University Policy for Safe Demonstrations." Although it was not being formally consulted, the Rules Committee immediately expressed and elevated concerns about a number of matters contemplated in the draft, including using the Center for Student Success and Intervention (CSSI) to pursue disciplinary actions against students for protest-related activities that clearly fall within the statutory purview of the Rules of University Conduct (Sections 440-452).
2. On or about April 12, 2024: The Rules Committee learns that CSSI is, in fact, pursuing disciplinary actions against students for protest-related activities.
3. April 15, 2024: The Rules Committee writes to Felice Rosan in the Office of the General Counsel (OGC) to inquire about the CSSI process, its staffing, scope, and statutory authority, and its relation to the Rules of University Conduct and Dean's Discipline. The Committee receives no response.
4. May 8, 2024: The University Senate adopted the Resolution to Address Concerns Related to Student Disciplinary Processes calling for a halt to ongoing disciplinary cases under CSSI, citing concerns over proper adjudication and noting that these cases should be transferred to the framework of the Rules of University Conduct, with charges brought before the University Judicial Board (UJB), as set out in Chapter 44 of the University Statutes.
5. July 5, 2024: Email to Rules Administrator Dennis Mitchell seeking information on Assistant Rules Administrators. A response on July 5, 2024 informed us that Dr. Omar Torres, who held a part-time affiliation with Columbia, was the new Rules Administrator.
6. July 9, 2024: Email to EVP Mitchell seeking information on charges brought under the Interim Safe Demonstration Policy and handled through CSSI for the period from the introduction of this policy to present:
    a. The number of charges brought
    b. The number of cases brought
    c. The outcome of these charges and cases.
7. July 11, 2024: Email to EVP Mitchell seeking information on disciplinary processes year-to-date:
    a. The total number of complaints filed under CSSI relating to non-academic matters

b. The total number of complaints filed that resulted in charges being brought under CSSI relating to non-academic matters

c. The total number of charges brought under CSSI relating to non-academic matters

d. The total number of cases brought under CSSI relating to non-academic matters

e. The outcome of these charges and cases in terms of (i) cases dismissed, (ii) informal resolutions, (iii) finding of not responsible, and (iv) finding of responsible

f. The total number of complaints filed under the Rules of University Conduct

g. The total number of complaints filed that resulted in charges being brought under the Rules of University Conduct

h. The total number of charges brought under the Rules of University Conduct

i. The total number of cases brought under the Rules of University Conduct

j. The share of complaints filed by (i) delegates, (ii) individuals, and (iii) others.

8. July 21, 2024: Email to EVP Mitchell to learn if there are rules administrators other than Dr. Torres. EVP Mitchell confirmed that he remained Rules Administrator and Dr. Torres is Assistant Rules Administrator.

9. July 19, 2024: University Senate Executive Committee was informed that most disciplinary hearings related to student protests would be transferred to the University Judicial Board (UJB) (no date specified).

10. August 6, 2024: EVP Mitchell seeks to schedule an introductory meeting with Dr. Torres. Dr. Torres available to meet from August 13, 2024.

11. August 12, 2024: In the absence of data requested on July 11 being shared, follow-up email to EVP Mitchell.

12. August 13, 2024: Introductory meeting (Zoom) with EVP Mitchell, SVP Greenwell, Dr. Torres, Dr. D'Armiento and G McAllister.

13. August 14, 2024: In response to letters received from advisors, the Rules Committee writes to Dr. Torres. Dr. Torres responds on August 15, 2024.

Event 1: Encampment 1, April 17-20, 2024 (22 respondents charged)

14. August 15, 2024: Assistant Rules Administrator Torres provides first information on status of Event 1, Event 2, Event 3 to Rules Committee in response to earlier requests. He notes that Event 1 was transferred to him on July 1 and was the last of the three spring protests to be referred to him from CSSI. He now has additional administrative resources and hopes to share information with the UJB directly.

15. August 16, 2024: Assistant Rules Administrators share case materials with Rules Clerk.

16. August 28, 2024: Temporary staff join and case materials reviewed.

17. September 10, 2024, Rules Clerk notifies respondents of charges, responses due September 18, 2024.

18. September 12-13, 2024: University Judicial Board (UJB) panel confirmed.

19. September 19, 2024: Rules Clerk introductory meeting with Rules Administrator Gregory Wawro.

20. September 23, 2024: UJB review meeting, and questions submitted to Rules Administrator Wawro.

21. September 30, Rules Administrator requests additional time. Rules Clerk requests response by October 4, 2024.

22. October 4, 2024: Rules Administrator cites emergency and unable to respond, will seek to respond by October 11, 2024.

23. October 11, 2024: Rules Administrator seeks additional extension to end of day October 14, 2024, and provides responses October 14, 2024.

24. October 15, 2024: Rules Administrator responses shared with UJB.

25. October 24, 2024: UJB completes review of Rules Administrator's responses and seeks guidance from Rules Committee regarding:

    a. Use of records related to dismissed and sealed arrests

    b. Any requirement for individualized identifying documents.

26. October 25, 2024: Rules Committee responds to UJB, recommending that question of admissibility be brought to outside counsel. Executive Committee requests that independent counsel be provided to consider the admissibility of records concerning arrests that have been dismissed and sealed.

27. November 8, 2024: Administration confirms that outside counsel can be sought and suggestions provided to OGC.

28. November 20, 2024: UJB review to consider current information.

29. November 26-7, 2024: Memo received from outside counsel and shared with UJB Chair, confirming admissibility of materials concerning arrests that have been dismissed and sealed.

30. December 2, 2024: UJB reviews outside counsel memo. Confirms that cases will move to hearings and scheduling of hearings begins. Scheduling finalized on December 20, 2024 and hearings scheduled for January 8 to January 13, 2025 (22 in total).

31. January 13, 2025: E1 hearings conclude and deliberations begin.

32. January 30, 2025: Informed of case brought before NYS Supreme Court seeking to enjoin the University from relying on information about dismissed and sealed arrests in disciplinary proceedings.

33. January 30, 2025: Meeting with UJB, Provost Olinto, General Counsel regarding the case brought in NYS Supreme Court. UJB pauses pending NYS Supreme Court determination.

34. March 8, 2025: UJB is advised that NYS Supreme Court case decision is expected on March 10, 2025, allowing release of findings, and completes work.

35. March 13, 2025: UJB review meeting with outside counsel.

36. March 13, 2025: Findings and sanctions sent to respondents.

37. March 31 to April 2, 2025: appeals received (19).

38. April 10, 2025: Appeals Board decisions rendered (19).

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Event 2: Hamilton Hall Occupation: April 30, 2024 (25 respondents charged, 22 cases pursued)

39. August 15, 2024: Assistant Rules Administrator Torres provides first information on status of Event 1, Event 2, Event 3 to Rules Committee in response to earlier requests. He notes that Event 1 was transferred to him on July 1 and was the last of the three spring protests to be referred to him from CSSI. He now has additional administrative resources and hopes to share information with the UJB directly.

40. August 24, 2024: Assistant Rules Administrator Torres shares case materials with Rules Clerk.

41. August 28, 2024: Temporary staff join and case materials reviewed.

42. August 29, 2024: Rules Clerk shares series of questions regarding inconsistencies in materials with Assistant Rules Administrator Torres.

43. August 30, 2024, Rules Clerk notifies respondents of charges, responses due September 6, 2024.

44. September 6, 2024: Rules Clerk meets with Assistant Rules Administrator Torres to review inconsistencies in case materials.

45. September 9, 2024: Assistant Rules Administrator Torres provides updated case materials.

46. September 9, 2024: Rules Clerk shares additional request for corrected materials to Assistant Rules Administrator Torres.

47. September 11, 2024: Corrected (signed) documents received from Assistant Rules Administrator Torres.

48. September 11, 2024: Rules Clerk submits additional request for corrected information to Assistant Rules Administrator Torres.

49. September 12, 2024: Assistant Rules Administrator Torres adds one respondent to case.

50. September 12, 2024: Respondents submit motions to dismiss cases.

51. September 13, 2024: Assistant Rules Administrator shares updated documents.

52. September 16, 2024: Rules Clerk submits request for corrections to materials to Assistant Rules Administrator.

53. September 16, 2024: Rules Clerk receives corrected materials.

54. September 18, 2024: Combined motions to dismiss submitted to UJB Chairs.

55. September 19, 2024: Rules Clerk introductory meeting with Rules Administrator Wawro.

56. September 20, 2024: UJB seeks additional information for those cases involving motions to dismiss.

57. September 26, 2024: Response to questions received provided to UJB.

58. September 27, 2024: UJB considers additional information received.

59. October 1, 2024: After review by Rules Committee Chairs and UJB, steps for consideration of motions established.

60. October 8, 2025: After consideration of motions, UJB requests response from Rules Administrator by October 18, 2024.

61. October 16, 2024: Rules Administrator requests additional time to respond to motions.

62. October 21, 2024: Rules Administrator requests additional time to respond to motions.

63. October 24, 2024: UJB seeks guidance from the Rules Committee regarding:

    a. Use of records concerning dismissed and sealed arrests

    b. Any requirement for individualized identifying documents.

64. October 25, 2024: Rules Administrator submits response to motions to dismiss.

65. October 25, 2024: Rules Committee responds to UJB, recommending that question of admissibility be brought to outside counsel. Executive Committee requests that independent counsel be provided to consider the admissibility of records concerning dismissed and sealed arrests.

66. November 8, 2024: Rules Clerk requests corrections to Rules Administrator's response to motions and receives corrections on November 8, 2024.

67. November 8, 2024: Administration confirms that outside counsel can be sought and suggestions provided to OGC.

68. November 20, 2024: UJB review to consider current information.

69. November 22, 2024: Rules Administrator dismisses the complaints against three respondents, bringing total number of cases to 22.

70. November 26-7, 2024: Memo received from outside counsel and shared with UJB Chair, confirming admissibility of materials concerning dismissed and sealed arrests.

71. December 2, 2024: UJB confirms that cases will move to hearings and scheduling work begins. Advised by administration to proceed with E1 and E2 hearings in parallel and a second UJB panel required (date to be confirmed).

72. December 18, 2024: UJB requests information on any respondents who remain under interim sanctions. Information received on January 9, 2025.

73. December 23-26, 2025: Hearing schedule prepared for January 6 to 9, 2025.

74. December 27, 2024: Hearing schedule provided to respondents.

75. January 5, 2025: Rules Clerk informed that hearings had to be rescheduled as the Rules Administrator Office cannot accommodate parallel hearings.

76. January 5 to 6, 2025: Respondents are informed that hearings to be rescheduled.

77. January 15, 2025: Hearings rescheduled for January 27 to February 14, 2025.

78. January 27 – February 14, 2025: 22 hearings conducted.

79. January 30, 2025: Learn of case brought before NYS Supreme Court seeking to enjoin the University from relying on sealed arrest records in disciplinary proceedings.

80. January 30, 2025: Meeting with UJB, Provost Olinto, General Counsel regarding the case brought in NYS Supreme Court. UJB to proceed with hearings, but not issue findings pending further information from OGC.

81. March 8, 2025: Rules Clerk is informed that OGC expects to receive clarification regarding NYS Supreme Court case on March 10, 2025, allowing release of findings, and UJB updated.

82. March 13, 2025: Findings and sanctions sent to respondents.

83. March 31 to April 2, 2025: appeals received (19).

84. April 10, 2025: Appeals Board decisions rendered (19).

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