

University Senate Plenary

June 18, 2026



University Senate

Proposed: June 18, 2026

Adopted: June 18, 2026

University Senate

Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 1:15 p.m., via Zoom

[Registration required](#)

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

PROPOSED AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of the minutes of May 29, 2026
3. President's report and questions
4. Chair's report and questions
 - a. Update on Draft Resolution to Amend the University Senate By-Laws regarding Term Limits
(Executive)
 - b. Update regarding Resolution to Establish the Title and Track of Professor of Instruction and its
implementation (Faculty Affairs, Academic Freedom and Tenure)
5. New business:
 - a. Committee reports, statements and updates:
 - i. Statement on Educational Reforms and Proposed Major in Global Affairs and Public Policy
(Student Affairs)
 - ii. Student Affairs Committee Annual Report 2025-26
6. Adjourn

Minutes of the Meeting of May 29, 2026

67 out of 102 Senators were present.

Senator Jeanine D’Armiento (Ten., P&S), Executive Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:15pm. Sen. D’Armiento welcomed Senators and guests to the ninth Plenary of the 2025-2026 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 8, 2026 Plenary.

Updates from President Shipman

President Claire Shipman began her remarks by stating that the University Commencement ceremonies were enjoyable. She congratulated [Michael K. Dakolias Senior Lecturer in Economics Sunil Gulati](#) and [Professor of Pathology and Cell Biology Paulette Bernd](#) on receiving a 2026 Teaching Award at the ceremonies, as well as congratulating the [2026 Honorary Degree Recipients](#). President Shipman stated that the Commencement ceremonies involve a tremendous amount of work. She stated that the administration will be seeking feedback on how the ceremonies went. President Shipman noted that this would potentially be the last Plenary that she can attend and she noted her gratitude toward the University Senate. She stated that she will take away the importance of the Senate for their partnership in governance. President Shipman thanked the members of the Senate for the care they have toward the University and their contributions in thoughtful debates, noting in particular her gratitude toward the student Senators. She stated that the student Senators had recently met with her and contributed many insights that she would pass onto President-Designate Mnookin. President Shipman stated that, from her career as a journalist, she is used to asking questions but that, in her role as University President, she has learned a

lot from receiving questions instead, thanking the Senators for the different lens into the institution they provide through their participation. Sen. D'Armiento thanked President Shipman for engaging in questions with Senators and her steady attendance at Plenaries throughout the year.

Senator Gerard Ateshian (Ten., SEAS) thanked President Shipman for responding promptly in allowing Deans of Schools to address the cost-of-living issues that [he had previously asked about](#). Sen. Ateshian asked about the [secrecy of the members of the Senate Review Committee that was discussed previously at a Plenary](#) and noted that Senator Henning Schulzrinne (Ten., SEAS) [confirmed](#) the secrecy imposed on the members of the committee. Sen. Ateshian asked President Shipman if she had reflected upon the reason for this secrecy since last asked about it. President Shipman asked Sen. Ateshian to remind her of what secrecy he was referring to. Sen. Ateshian responded that members of the Senate Review Committee were told they could not discuss the Review Committee's recommendations with their peers as they normally would. President Shipman responded that she did follow up about that but did not think that she had all the information and asked Sen. Ateshian to clarify if he meant secrecy during the process of the review or afterward. Sen. Ateshian clarified that he meant during the process. President Shipman responded that she believed that the thought process behind the secrecy was to allow the body to work with some independence. She stated that she could follow up with the administration if there are further questions about the process or transparency more broadly. President Shipman stated that there has been much discussion about the need for more transparency and that she had discussed this frequently with Sen. D'Armiento. Sen. Ateshian asked if President Shipman could recommend to the administration that, in the future, review committees be able to engage with the bodies that they are reviewing in the case that they are recommending changes in how the Senate functions. President Shipman asked Sen. Ateshian if he thinks that this would be useful for the Senate or all other reviews throughout the University. Sen. D'Armiento responded to clarify that the [Senate review](#) recommended policies already in place, indicating a lack of Senate knowledge among members of the Senate Review Committee. She stated that the first draft of the report had multiple incorrect statements about how the Senate operated and that, in her belief, when reviewing an entity, there should be constant engagement with the body that is under review. President Shipman responded that she agreed with Sen. D'Armiento and would relay the message to the administration.

Senator Keith Gessen (TTOT, JOURN) thanked President Shipman for staying for the entire length of most Plenaries and encouraged future Presidents to do the same. Sen. Gessen asked President Shipman where the administration was in response to the campus gates. Sen. Gessen stated that the concern around ICE agents on campus as a justification to close campus did not make sense given that [some students that had been taken by federal agents were taken at their Columbia residences](#) outside of the closed gates. Sen. Gessen stated that it had been more than two years since the campus gates were first closed and that the Journalism School Faculty had taken a poll on this issue, with an overwhelming majority in favor of reopening campus gates. President Shipman stated that the administration met with a Morningside community group that shared their concerns with the gate closures. She stated that she did not have an update but that there was a good advisory group that Public Safety was relying upon. President Shipman stated that more work needs to be done in light of the [shooting at Brown University](#) and the threat of ICE. President Shipman stated that it might be useful to arrange a meeting between the Public Safety advisory group and a Senate group and asked Sen. D'Armiento if this had happened recently. Sen. D'Armiento responded that she did not believe this had occurred recently but that it would be helpful.

Sen. Schulzrinne responded to Sen. Ateshian's comments and agreed with his assessment. Sen. Schulzrinne stated that there had been many similar reviews over the past few years where the findings had surprised to the community. He stated that the administration should consult with the members of these committees, given that the members of the Senate Review Committee did not necessarily agree with the secrecy requirement but were told by the administration they must adhere to it. Sen. Schulzrinne stated that there should be a set of best practices to ensure transparency, referencing the federal government's notice and comment period as a good example of this practice. President Shipman responded that this was a good suggestion.

Senator Katherine Brooks (Libraries) stated that the [Campus Planning and Physical Development Committee](#) had received updates from the Executive Vice President for University Facilities and Operations David Greenberg and his team regarding the campus closure and that the committee has been following up with concerns throughout recent years. She stated that the Campus Planning and Physical Development Committee would be happy to be the committee that President Shipman mentioned earlier in the Plenary. President Shipman responded that she thinks a meeting would be helpful as part of the regular consulting process with the Senate on issues regarding the campus gate closures. Sen. Brooks

responded that the committee has tried to consult in the past and she welcomed President Shipman's suggestion for consultation with EVP Greenberg.

Chair's Report and Questions

Sen. D'Armiento stated that her remarks would focus on the implementation of the [main resolution that established the title and track of Professor of Instruction](#), as well as the [supplementary resolution for the Professor of Instruction title and track](#). Sen. D'Armiento stated that she wanted to clarify some confusion about the resolution, noting that the main and supplementary resolutions passed with unanimous support. She stated that one of the provisions within the main resolution stated the following: *"the total number of faculty appointments of Professors of Instruction, Professors of Practice, and Full-Time Special Instructional Faculty shall not exceed 30 percent of the total number of the Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) faculty in the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science and similarly across all academic departments in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, not counting faculty appointments in the School of Professional Studies and the School of the Arts"*. Sen. D'Armiento stated that this clause does not introduce new caps because caps were already been in place for Professors of Professional Practice and Special Instructional faculty, which includes Lecturers in Discipline, for many years. She stated that the [Faculty Affairs, Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee](#) increased this cap to 30 percent after working with constituencies to address their concerns. Sen. D'Armiento stated that this 30 percent/70 percent ratio refers to professorial and other instructional faculty with modified titles to professorial faculty and other instructional faculty with unmodified titles. She stated this 30 percent cap combines preexisting caps for Professors of Professional Practice and Special Instructional Faculty. Sen. D'Armiento stated that this affords schools greater flexibility in hiring across these tracks. She stated that the Senate anticipates that many Lecturers in Discipline and Senior Lecturers in Discipline will transition to the Professors of Instruction track. Sen. D'Armiento stated that the Faculty Affairs, Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee will work with the Deans of the professional schools to make the title and track of Professor of Instruction available to them and develop school-specific language for the [Faculty Handbook](#), including caps for individual faculties. She stated that this work would occur throughout summer 2026 and be concluded by August 2026. Sen. D'Armiento stated that the Senate had been in communication with Provost Angela Olinto and her team around some concerns with the resolution. Sen. D'Armiento stated that Provost Olinto had informed her that the Deans wanted to contact the Board of Trustees regarding their frustration with the resolution. She stated that the Deans had a meeting on May 27, 2026 where they

discussed the resolution without Senate representation, even though in the past the Senate had been invited to the Deans' meeting. Sen. D'Armiento stated that she had learned that, after this meeting, a number of the Deans were frustrated with the Senate over what she believes is a misplaced concern about Senate overreach, noting that there were specific concerns about the Senate implementing a hiring freeze or causing faculty terminations. Sen. D'Armiento clarified that the Senate is not implementing a hiring freeze or any policy that would result in non-renewal of faculty. She stated that it was not constructive for the Senate to have no representatives in a meeting that considers the work of the Senate, particularly where there could be confusion. Sen. D'Armiento stated that she hoped that the administration will reinstitute the Senate's invitation to Dean's meetings to avoid situations like this from occurring again. Sen. D'Armiento stated again that the Senate will work over the summer to collaboratively update the language surrounding caps within the Faculty Handbook.

President Shipman responded to Sen. D'Armiento's comments about the Senate not being included in the Deans' meetings, noting that it was her understanding that the meeting that Sen. D'Armiento referenced was not the typical Deans' Cabinet meeting but rather a smaller meeting to provide updates. President Shipman stated that there was no history of Senate involvement in this type of meeting. Sen. D'Armiento responded that there used to be Deans' Cabinet meetings that occurred once a month, which now occurs once or twice a semester and to which the Senate is still invited. She stated that, when there are meetings about Senate work, the administration should involve the Senate to ensure proper communication, to which President Shipman agreed. Sen. D'Armiento and President Shipman also agreed that it would be useful for the Senate to meet with the Deans to clarify this issue. Sen. D'Armiento also stated that the Deans should have been made aware of the proposal in the seven months that this was being reviewed and drafted by the Provost's Office. Sen. D'Armiento stated that she is eager for the Senate to meet with each Dean to determine how best to implement this title in the Faculty Handbook, noting that each School is different.

Senator Amy Hungerford (Adm., Executive Vice President for Arts and Sciences and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences) asked if the Senate individuals who worked on the resolution had reached out to the seventeen Deans while the resolution was being drafted. Sen. D'Armiento responded that the proposal originated in the Provost's Office. The Provost's Office was working with the Senate and should, as part of this work, have communicated with the Deans. Sen. D'Armiento stated that she is not aware if the

individual Senators tasked with drafting this resolution consulted with their respective Dean officially but that she had talked with her Dean. She stated that there were conversations around these caps for several months and noted that, in most cases, caps were increased because the importance of this issue to Deans was understood. Sen. D'Armiento stated that, overall, the major points to note were that the Senate would work over the summer to develop the School-specific language and that there should be better communication moving into the new year between the Senate and the Deans, noting that the Deans were brought in later than they would have wished. She stated again that the perception that there is a hiring freeze is incorrect. President Shipman responded that there was confusion about language that was added late and Provost Olinto did not see. She stated that she agreed more channels of communication should be added. Sen. D'Armiento responded that the language was not added at the last minute and that there were intensive discussion about the caps because that was an essential component of the proposal. Sen. D'Armiento stated that the final document was shared at the last minute because of exchanges between the Provost's Office and the Faculty Affairs, Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee but that there had been a caucus meeting to discuss the caps specifically. President Shipman responded that some individuals did not see the caps language until right before the Plenary. Sen. D'Armiento stated that she disagreed with this characterization.

Sen. Hungerford asked if any school who wants to hire into the Professor of Instruction track today would need to have a conversation with the Senate in order to do so. Senator Holger Klein (Ten., A&S/HUM) responded that Sen. Hungerford was incorrect in her understanding of the resolution. Sen. Klein stated that the resolutions reflect the current 10 percent caps within the Faculty Handbook that had been in place since 1994 for the community of Lecturers and Senior Lecturers that would transition to the Professor of Instruction track. He stated that there was another 10 percent cap in the Faculty Handbook for Professors of Professional Practice. Sen. Klein stated that, if there is going to be the creation of a new title and track, that the Senate would need to accommodate the current population that has a cap in a new form, noting that there had been much conversation with the Provost's Office and faculties to figure this issue out. Sen. Klein stated that the work the subcommittee carefully did was to take the preexisting caps for these categories – Special Instructional Faculty and Professors of Professional Practice – and combine them into one overall cap of 30 percent rather than restricting each to 10 percent, giving each School flexibility in how to divide their respective hirings. He stated there is no change in the existence of caps but rather the implementation of these caps. Sen. Klein stated that the subcommittee was working on the strict

timeline of the Provost's Office that had requested that work be done by the end of the academic year. He stated that there was no concerns received from the Provost in advance of the resolution's vote at the Plenary.

Sen. Hungerford asked if a School such as the school of Public Health or School of the Arts wanted tomorrow to hire someone new into the Professor of Instruction track – without violating the appropriate cap within their own faculty – if they would be allowed to, given that they are not within the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and the Arts & Sciences. Sen. Klein responded that those schools would not be able to hire immediately because the individual schools would need to work out with the Senate the specific caps for their schools. He stated that, over the past 20 years, the professional schools have had arrangements that differ from the policy stated in the Faculty Handbook and that this issue needs to be addressed by the Senate before hiring can begin. Sen. Klein stated that the Senate action to work with individual schools was to correct the historical inconsistencies of the application of the current caps, noting that this would create a consistent policy moving forward rather than a case-by-case basis for each school. Sen. Hungerford stated that Sen. Klein's comments were the opposite of what he had stated earlier and she sought further clarification on whether schools had to come to the Faculty Affairs, Academic Freedom, and Tenure Committee to hire into the Professor of Instruction track. Sen. Klein stated that the resolutions state that schools are required to resolve policy issues of the implementation of the new title and track before making new hires. He stated that regardless of this provision, there would not be any immediate hiring, because the Statutes still need to be formally changed and the question of benefits for the new track still needs to be resolved. Sen. Klein stated that some of these issues are complex historical issues that need to be carefully worked through. Sen. D'Armiento responded that the Professor of Instruction title will not be approved by the Board of Trustees until their August meeting and that the Senate expects to have their work done resolving these issues by that time. Sen. Hungerford responded that she wanted to know the answer to her question regardless of the specific timeframe this summer. Sen. D'Armiento responded that the Senate will be done with its work by the end of the summer. Sen. Hungerford clarified that Sen. D'Armiento believes the Senate will be done working through the cap issue with all 15 of the professional Schools by then and that she appreciates this effort.

Sen. D'Armiento stated that, at the previous Plenary, there had been a [draft resolution presented regarding the recommendation and implementation of term limits for the University Senate](#) as set out by the Senate

Review Committee. She stated that, at the time of the draft's approval by the [Executive Committee](#) on May 1, 2026, the resolution language matched that of the Board of Trustees' By-Laws. Sen. D'Armiento stated that the Board of Trustees' [By-Laws](#) changed on May 6, 2026 and no longer contained that language. She stated that many Senators had expressed their concerns about the application of term limits and that there were already frequent Senator turnover and competitive, democratic elections. Sen. D'Armiento stated that the Executive Committee will continue to discuss term limits and update the draft resolution as necessary.

Sen. D'Armiento stated that the other recommendations of the Senate review are being disused and that herself and Vice Chair of the Executive Committee Sen. Klein were meeting with the Co-Chairs of the Board of Trustees to better understand the expectations of the recommendations, noting that the Trustees were listening to the concerns of the Senate.

Resolution to Recommend the Addition of Language Related to Disciplinary Reporting Transparency to the Rules of University Conduct (Rules of University Conduct)

Sen. D'Armiento introduced the [Resolution to Recommend the Addition of Language Related to Disciplinary Reporting Transparency to the Rules of University Conduct](#) brought forth by the [Rules of University Conduct Committee](#). Sen. D'Armiento turned the meeting over to the Co-Chair of the Rules of University Conduct Committee, Senator Marc Younker (Stu., LAW).

Sen. Younker read the [statement from the Rules of University Conduct Committee](#) attached to the resolution. Sen. Younker stated that, in response to the communication from the Office of Rules Administration, the Rules of University Conduct Committee drafted the resolution to recommend the changes to the language in the University Statutes, noting that the resolution aims to balance institutional accountability and safety with fairness to students and transparency with processes.

There was a motion which was seconded to propose the resolution. The resolution passed 58-0-0 (in favor-opposed-abstention).

Sen. D'Armiento thanked the Rules of University Conduct Committee for all the work they have done throughout the year.

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

Sen. D'Armiento introduced a [statement](#) from the Faculty Affairs, Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee. She turned the floor over to Sen. Klein, Co-Chair of the Faculty Affairs, Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee. Sen. Klein reviewed this [statement](#), noting that the efforts of the Faculty Affairs, Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee has focused on the Statutory changes required for implementation of the resolution. He noted that concerns had been raised that implementation of the Professor of Instruction title and track would not reflect the resolution. Sen. Klein stated that Provost Olinto had addressed the concerns, as outlined in the statement. Sen. Klein advised that questions should be addressed to him and Co-Chair Senator Greg Freyer (TTOT, SPH). He noted that he and Sen. D'Armiento would present to the Trustees during their June 2026 meeting.

Campus Planning and Physical Development Committee Annual Report 2025-26

Sen. D'Armiento introduced the [annual report of the Campus Planning and Physical Development Committee](#) and turned to Co-Chairs of the Campus Planning and Physical Development Committee, Senator Benjamin Orlove (Ten., SIPA) and Sen. Brooks. Sen. Orlove summarized the annual report, as included in the Plenary materials, noting the three major areas of concern that the committee had focused on: classroom supply, common spaces at the Medical Center (CUIMC), and the [FLI Space](#) & [Lerner Hall](#) Resolutions. Sen. Brooks stated that she had been to the new café at CUIMC, a great new addition. She stated that she was concerned about the lack of progress on the FLI Space and Lerner Hall rededication. Sen. Brooks stated that she hoped the administration would work with the Campus Planning and Physical Development Committee to implement these resolutions.

Sen. Nasser Odetallah (Stu., ARTS) stated that he wanted to follow up on what Sen. Brooks had just stated. He stated that he was involved with the FLI Space and Lerner Hall rededication resolutions. He noted that students were upset with the general issue of campus space and these resolutions were hopeful moments that brought together student groups, councils, and undergraduate and graduate students. Sen. Odetallah stated that many students and some faculty had asked about the status of both resolutions, as they have not yet been implemented. Sen. Odetallah stated that the implementation of these resolutions represented an opportunity to rebuild trust between the students and administration. Sen. D'Armiento

responded that she often hears from students who feel upset with the faculty and administration at the University and that she believed the failure to implement the FLI Space and Lerner Hall rededication exemplify why the students do not have trust in the administration. She stated that the administration needs to respond to the Lerner Hall rededication, noting that this had been promised to the students in 2016, 2019, and again in 2025.

Senator John Santelli (Ten., SPH) stated that the issue of communal space was related to the issues of the Senate Review report. He stated that the purpose of a university community is communication between students, faculty, and other affiliates. Sen. Santelli stated that space is expensive in New York City, recalling a communal environment at his alma mater. He stated that the café at CUIMC is a step in the right direction but that the University needed a broad plan for communal space uptown and possibly downtown. Sen. Orlove responded that there were categories of spaces: classrooms, laboratories, administrative offices, et cetera. He stated that the Campus Planning and Physical Development Committee can only look at certain spaces at a time and that there is some broad planning for certain types of spaces ongoing at the University. Sen. Orlove stated that the committee has found it most effective when they can be more specific with their targeted interests in campus space. He stated that even something very specific, such as the FLI Space, which would take up a very small amount of space, moves slowly in development. Sen. Orlove stated that the committee works on concrete issues that they hope to make achievable changes in and pushes for broader planning by the administration regarding campus space issues.

Sen. D'Armiento adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Senate staff

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"Subject to the reserve power of the Trustees ... the University Senate shall be a policy-making body which may consider all matters of University-wide concern, all matters affecting more than one Faculty or school, and all matters pertaining to the implementation and execution of agreements with the other educational institutions that are now or may hereafter become affiliated with the University."

University Statutes §.23

Professor of Instruction Title and Track

Over the 2025-26 Academic Year, the Faculty Affairs, Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee considered the proposal for the creation of the title and track of Professor of Instruction. This work began in Fall 2025. It involved the committee and the Office of the Provost, primarily, with regular updates to the faculty caucuses, the University Senate and the wider community. On April 10, 2026, the University Senate voted unanimously in support of the Resolution and Supplementary Resolution to Establish the Professor of Instruction Title and Track.

In undertaking this work, the committee considered key roles of institutions of higher education:

1. To maintain excellence in research and teaching across a range of fields, and
2. To engage the largest number of faculty and students in teaching and learning at the highest level.

The committee considered also the current structure of the faculty, how it has changed over time and in relation to the faculty structures of Ivy and Ivy Plus peers. Its findings are summarized overleaf.

The University Senate has worked to create the titles necessary to ensure the ability to hire the most qualified faculty to fulfill vital educational roles, while maintaining the essential role of Tenured faculty.

Modified titles focused originally on CUIMC Faculty, and over four decades additional titles were created to address the instructional needs of other schools.

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The Structure of the Faculty By Tenure Status

Background | In the course of the 1990s and 2000s, the University Senate and Office of the Provost worked together to chart a path that would allow schools to address critical instructional needs, while ensuring that such appointments were "granted only to exceptional individuals whose experience and expertise make them particularly well-suited."

- Resolution to Establish University Policies and Procedures for Appointments to Special Nontenured Instructional Ranks (adopted January 28, 1994).

This included establishment of the titles of Lecturer in Discipline and Senior Lecturer in Discipline and the expansion of possible use of the Professor of Professional Practice track to all schools, contingent on approval from the Faculty Affairs, Academic Freedom, and Tenure Committee. It instituted a 10 percent ceiling on the percentage of such special appointments.

- Resolution to Redefine Lecturships in the Arts and Sciences (April 30, 2004)

After a decade of practice, FAAFT delegated its authority over the creation of lines of Lecturers in Discipline and Senior Lecturers in Discipline, provided that these hires constituted no more than 6 percent of full time equivalent faculty.

Tenured

- Associate Professor*
- Professor*
- University Professor*

Without stated term /
unmodified

Tenure-Track

- Assistant Professor ^
(instructor)
- Associate Professor^
- Professor^
- Lecturer
(not in current use)
- Senior Lecturer
(not in current use)

With stated term /
unmodified

CUMC

- Assistant in Clinical
- Associate in Clinical
(not in current use)
- Assistant Professor at CUMC^
- Associate Professor at CUMC^
- Professor at CUMC^
- Instructor at CUMC
- Lecturer at CUMC
- Senior Lecturer at CUMC

Without stated term /
modified (renewable)

Off-Track

Morningside

- Assistant Clinical Professor of Law^
- Associate Clinical Professor of Law^
- Clinical Professor of Law^
- Assistant Professor of Professional Practice*
- Associate Professor of Professional Practice*
- Professor of Professional Practice*
- Professor in Residence
- Associate in Discipline
- Lecturer in Discipline*
- Senior Lecturer in Discipline*
- Teaching Professor

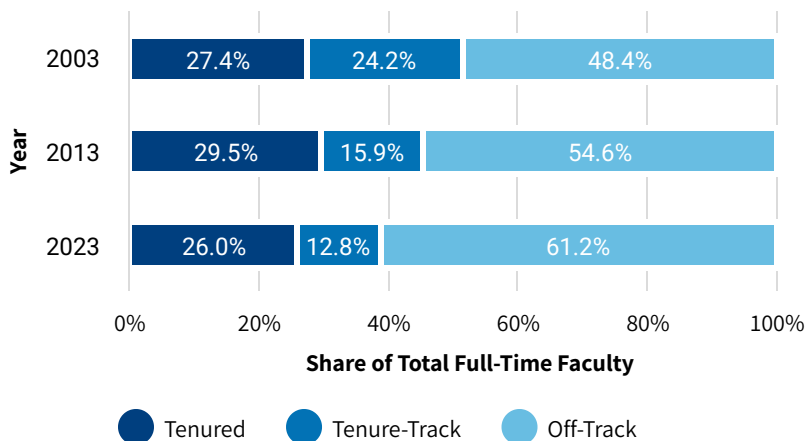
Without stated term /
modified (renewable)

*Titles include named variants

^ Titles include named & visiting variants

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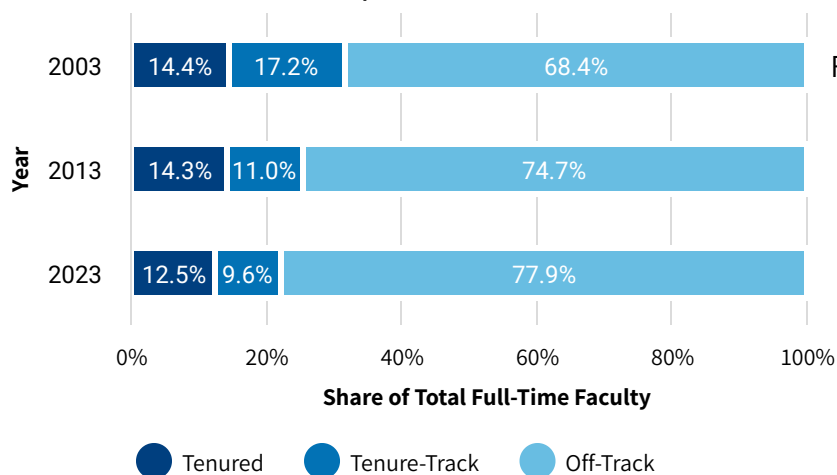
Columbia University | Full-Time Faculty Structure by Tenure Status 2003, 2013, 2023



From 2003 to 2023, the share of -

- Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty fell from 52 percent to 39 percent
- Off-Track Faculty increased to 62 percent

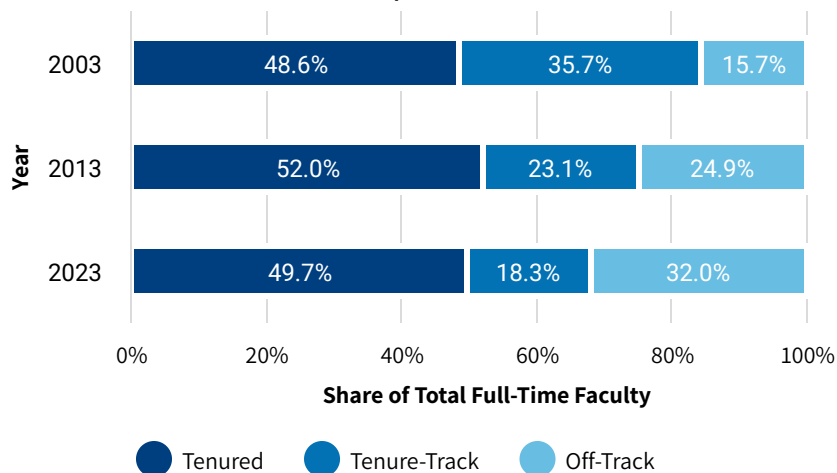
CUIMC | Full-Time Faculty Structure by Tenure Status 2003, 2013, 2023



From 2003 to 2023, the share of -

- Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty fell from 32 percent to 22 percent
- Off-Track Faculty increased to 78 percent

Morningside | Full-Time Faculty Structure by Tenure Status 2003, 2013, 2023

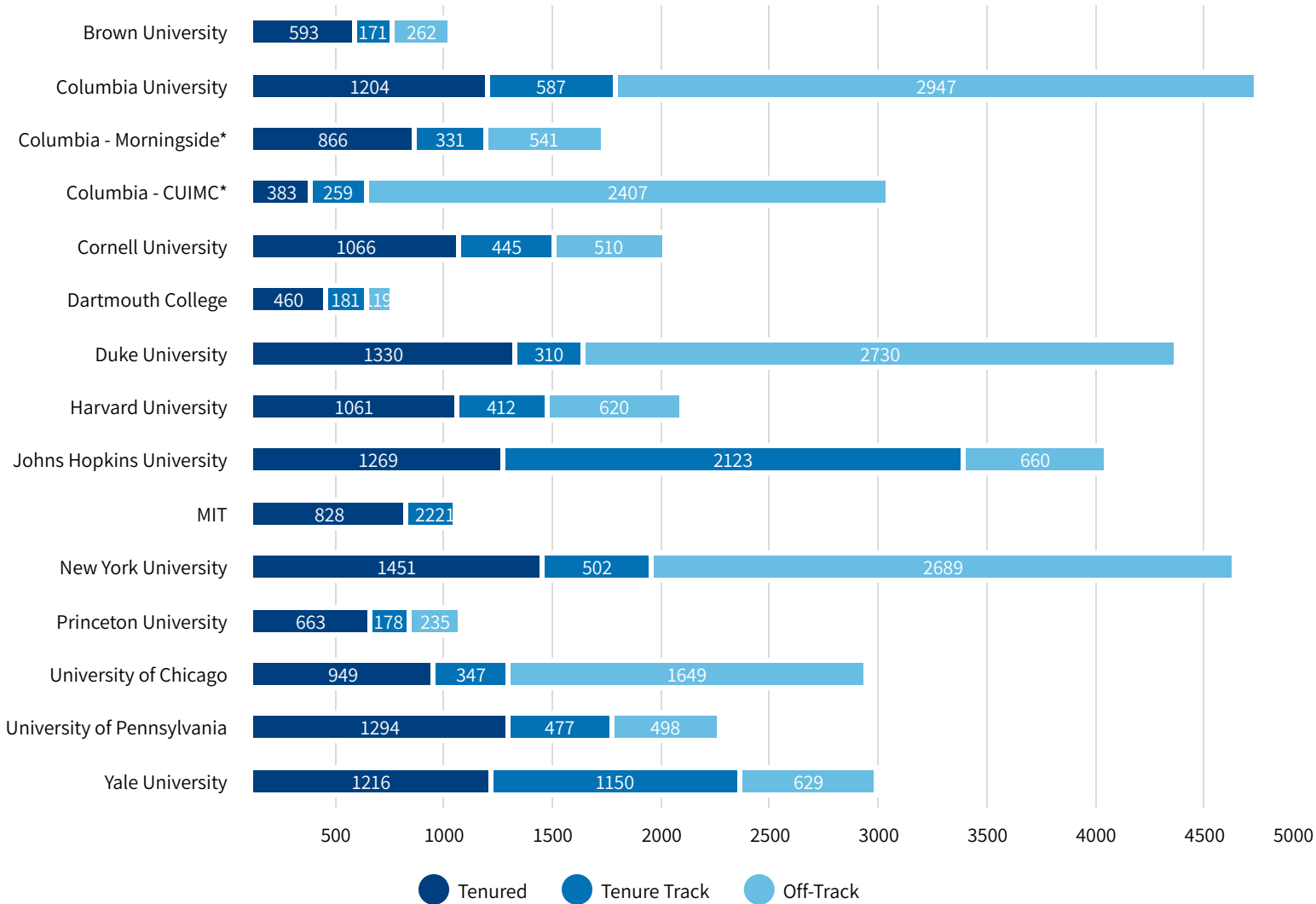


From 2003 to 2023, the share of -

- Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty fell by a fifth, from 84 percent to 68 percent
- Off-Track Faculty share doubled, from 16 to 32 percent

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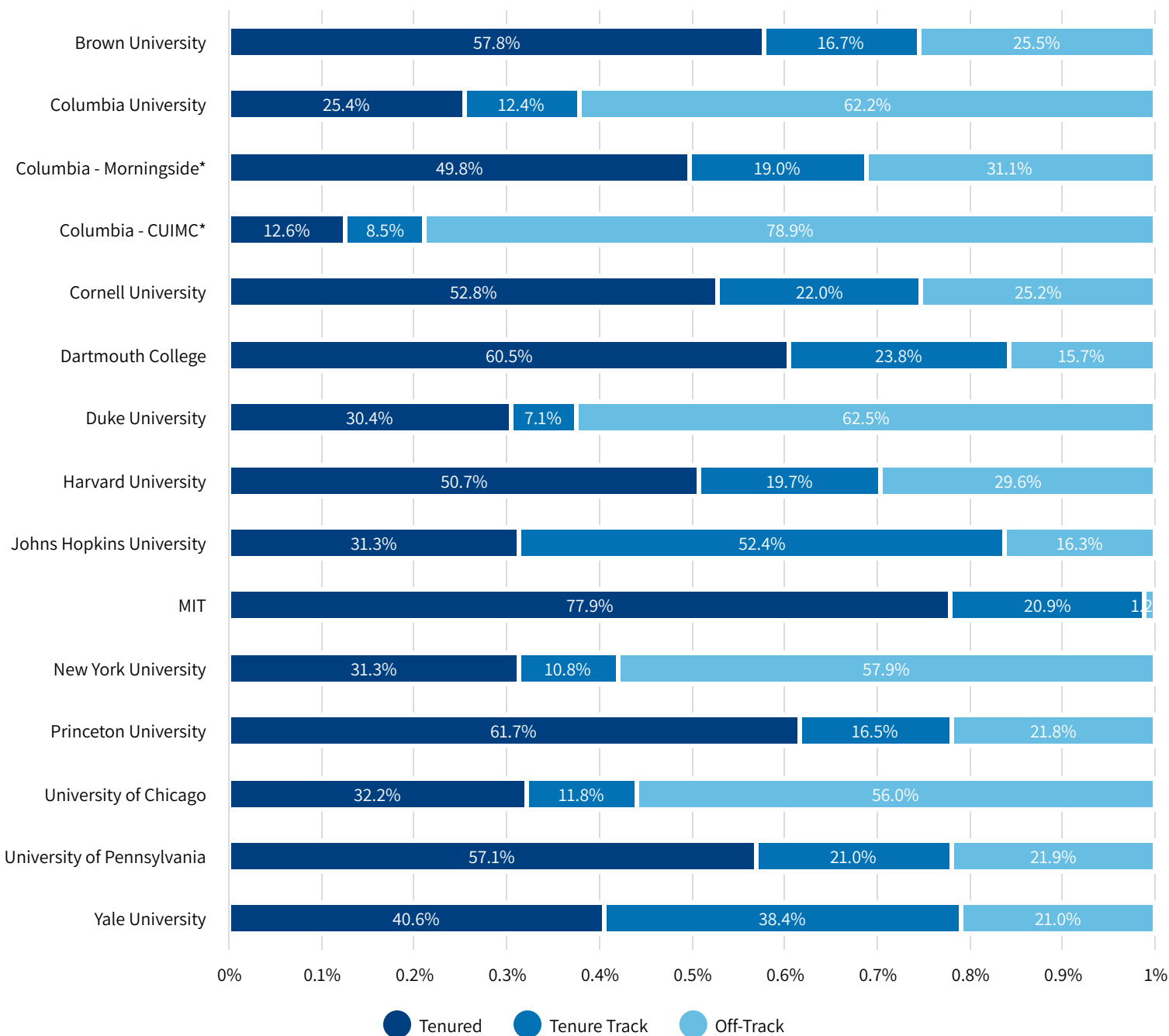
Ivy Plus | Full-Time Faculty Structure by School & Tenure Status (2024)



Source: Peer comparison data from National Center for Education Statistics' Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), to which all higher-education institutions self-report annually.

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Ivy Plus | Full-Time Faculty Structure by School & Tenure Status (2024)



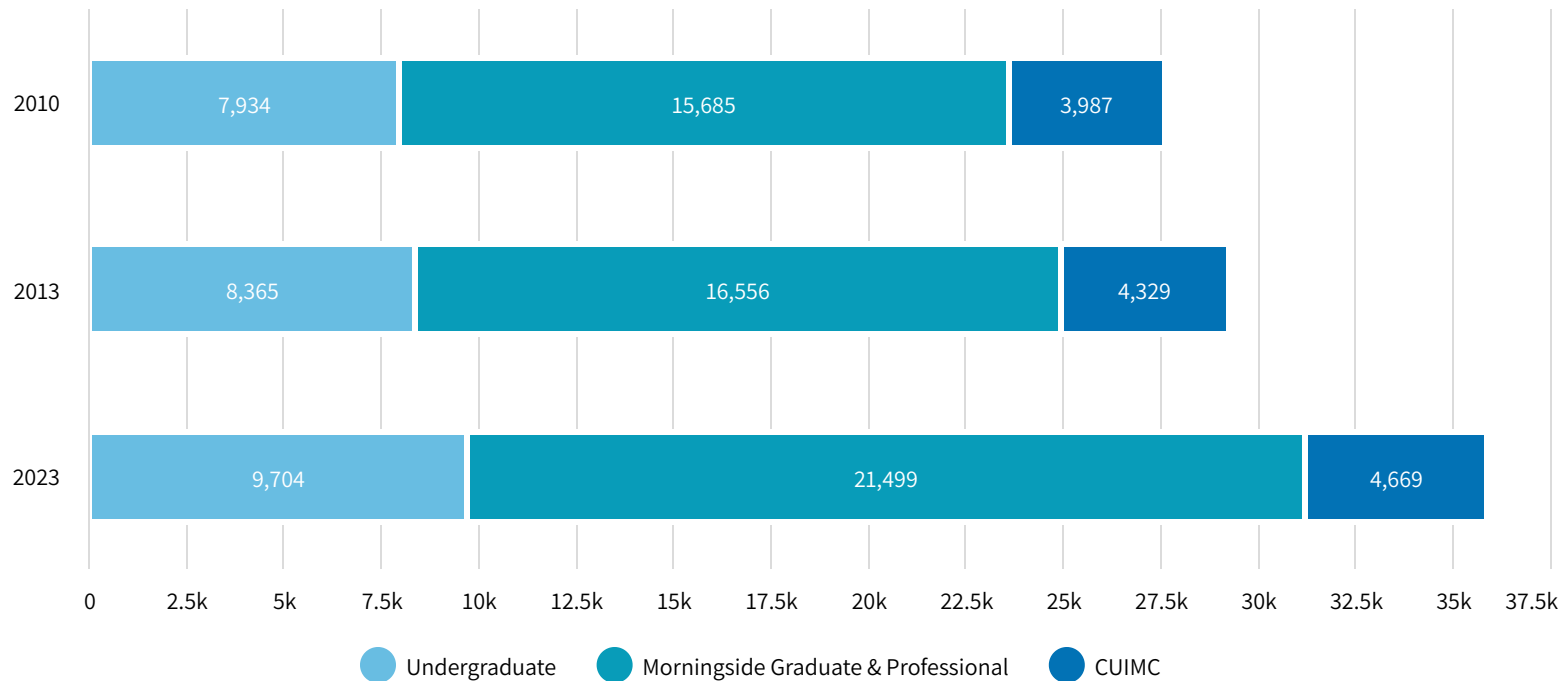
In terms of the share of full-time faculty with tenure and on tenure-track, relative to its Ivy & Ivy Plus peers -

- Columbia is in the bottom quartile
- Columbia Morningside is in the bottom third
- Harvard is the only Ivy League institution with a similarly low share

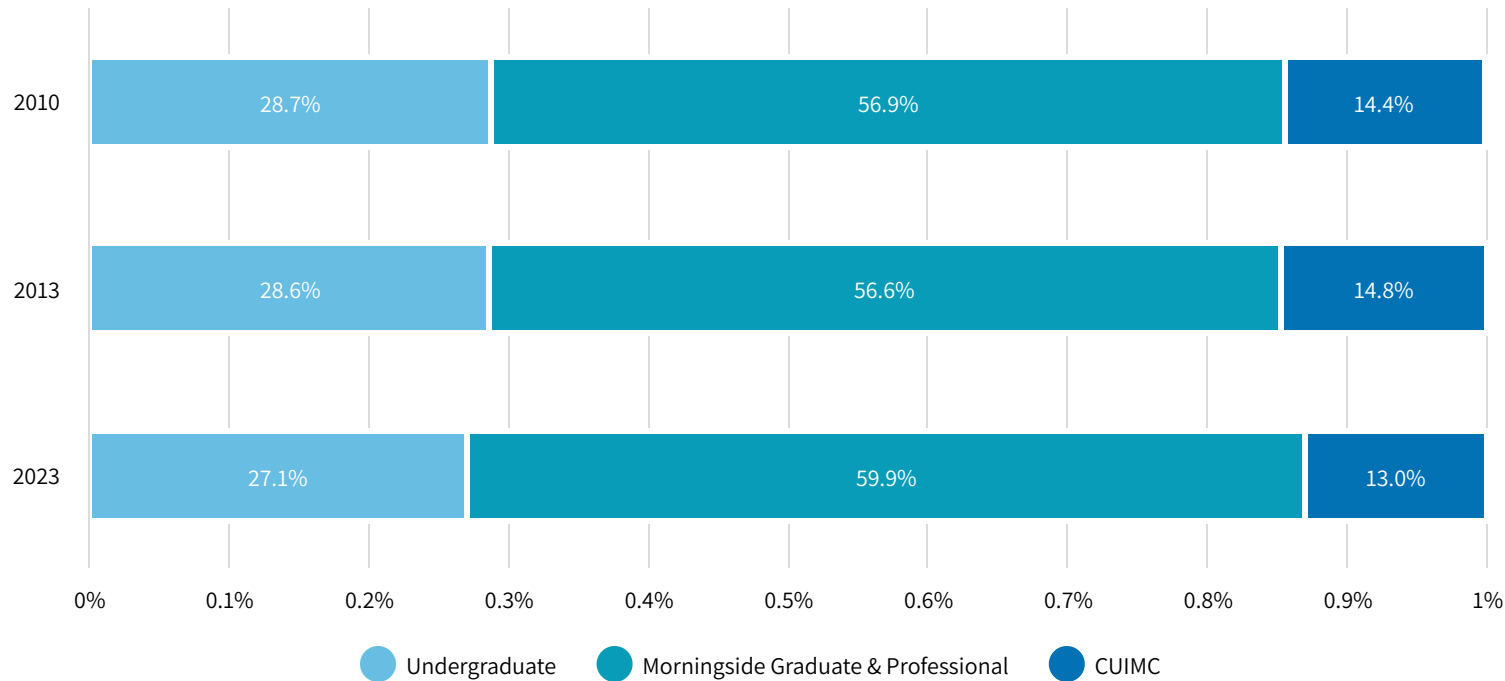
Source: Peer comparison data from National Center for Education Statistics' Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), to which all higher-education institutions self-report annually.

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Columbia University | Structure of Student Body, 2010, 2013, 2023



Columbia University | Structure of Student Body, 2010, 2013, 2023 (share)



Student Affairs Committee
Statement on Proposed Global Affairs and Public Policy Major
June 15, 2026

On July 23, 2025, Columbia University, at the behest of the Board of Trustees and without Senate consultation, signed an agreement with the federal government in order to restore federal funding for research and to resolve other pending federal investigations. As part of that agreement, the University agreed to review educational offerings surrounding the Middle East and other regional studies programs (Section 12). This is in spite of Acting President Shipman's statement the same day announcing that "The federal government will not dictate what we teach, who teaches, or which students we admit."

Over the past few months, the Student Affairs Committee (SAC) has become aware of a proposed new undergraduate major for Columbia College and General Studies students administered and taught primarily through the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA). The new major, Global Affairs and Public Policy, aims to begin admitting declared students this upcoming semester, Fall 2026, with core classes for the major already enrolling students.

After inquiring about the major in committees and through meetings with administrators, several serious issues were raised by the student body. These concerns were primarily located in three areas:

1. The role of the Global Affairs and Public Policy major in regard to the [federal resolution agreement](#)'s commitment to offer politically prescribed curricula on the Middle East.
2. The relationship of the major, as located within SIPA, to other undergraduate CC/GS majors located within the Arts & Sciences, particularly regarding concerns over intentionally overlapping curricula with Arts & Sciences departments.
3. Concerns about the logistics and financing of the major affecting both SIPA and undergraduate liberal arts students, as well as damaging the student experience and creating a precedent for further changes to the undergraduate experience.

The Student Affairs Committee requests were twofold: to have clear, direct answers to the concerns regarding the major and to have the full Global Affairs and Public Policy major presented to the full Senate at a Plenary, as is standard for any program that represents a new, fundamental model of education at

Columbia. The Student Affairs Committee believes this major is highly unusual in structure, operations, and timing and would therefore reasonably be requested to be presented in full to all Senators.

Nevertheless, SAC members were met with fierce opposition from the President's Office, Provost's Office, and involved Deans to be given any information about the major. We have been repeatedly told that the major is not our right to question, that the major has been fully approved via normal procedures for undergraduate programs of study, and that our assertion that the major has any relationship to the federal government agreement is "reckless" and "dangerous." We contest these characterizations of our legitimate and rightful investigation into a program that represents a profound change in the model of undergraduate liberal arts education at Columbia at a time of intense political scrutiny of our educational offerings. We continue to demand clear, documented evidence surrounding this program, which increasingly has been withheld from us.

The Student Affairs Committee notes that the proposed Global Affairs and Public Policy major has been referenced in the following published sources:

1. [Provost's Office Announcement, "Strengthening Regional Studies at Columbia" \(February 3rd, 2026\)](#): Announcement by Provost Olinto that stated how the Regional Review Committee, comprised of Dean Emerita of SIPA Lisa Anderson and led by Senior Vice Provost Miguel Urquiola, reviewed curricular offerings regarding the Middle East and had recommended creating new Middle Eastern curriculum between Columbia College, General Studies, and the School of International and Public Affairs.
2. [Supplemental Information Regarding Provost's Announcement \(February 3rd, 2026\)](#): Explicit recommendation from the Provost's Office to create parallel curricula on the Middle East providing a different political viewpoint than the classes taught in the Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies (MESAAS) Department, specifically through a new major in SIPA "which has received conditional approval from the Committee on Instruction" and faculty hirings in SIPA.
3. [Semi-Annual Report on the Resolution Agreement, Paragraph 12 \(April 1, 2026\)](#): Explicit reference to "new undergraduate academic pathways" to teach ideologically oriented classes on the Middle East as agreed upon in the federal resolution agreement. This page links directly to the February 2026 Provost's Office's announcements that cite the new SIPA major.

4. [Semi-Annual Report on the Resolution Agreement, Paragraph 13 \(April 1, 2026\)](#): Direct reference to new faculty hirings in SIPA to teach about Israel in accordance with what is outlined in the federal agreement.
5. [The Columbia Spectator \(February 18th, 2026\)](#): Article that mentions criticism from the Arts & Science faculty and Committee on Instruction (COI) members regarding the unusually rushed and secret process by which the Global Affairs and Public Policy major was pushed through the COI, as well as statements from the Co-Chairs of the COI - the Deans of Columbia College and General Studies - stating that the new major was pushed via pressure from the central administration and to court outside donors.
6. [U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Public Comment Session \(February 20th, 2026\)](#): Testimony from a current undergraduate student (time stamp beginning at 1:39:57) criticizing Columbia for offering the new undergraduate SIPA major as a viable pro-Israel alternative to the educational offerings in MESAAS, stating that the new major was not enough to fulfill the requirements of the government agreement.
7. [The Columbia Spectator \(February 26th, 2026\)](#): Reporting on U.S. Commission on Civil Rights listening session where a Columbia undergraduate student claimed the new Global Affairs and Public Policy major was Columbia's response to combatting antisemitism in the MESAAS Department.
8. [The New York Times \(March 21st, 2026\)](#): Article that mentions the proposed major as well as accompanying faculty hires as a solution to provide more Pro-Israel educational offerings as agreed upon within the government agreement.
9. [MESAAS Faculty Op-Ed \(March 28th, 2026\)](#): Criticism from a MESAAS faculty member mentioning the new Global Affairs and Public Policy major as being pushed heavily by President Shipman's administration and shifting undergraduate education into the professional schools.

Furthermore, the legitimacy of the major as a typical undergraduate program that does not necessitate full Senate review has largely rested on two main arguments: that many of Columbia's peer institutions offer a major similarly situated within their respective university systems and that there are currently other undergraduate majors that are administered by professional schools without any need for Senate approval or review.

Based on the Student Affairs Committee thorough research into both of these claims, we strongly disagree with these assertions. Upon closer inspection of almost every peer institution's analogous major, SAC discovered quite the opposite. Institutions that were cited as references had no such analogous program in any significant way, or these programs were administered and taught majority or in full by Arts & Science Departments at our peer institutions. Regarding current existing undergraduate majors at Columbia, SAC also disagrees with the administration's claims based on research into all 79 current majors offered to CC/GS students. Majors that were cited as preexisting professional school majors that were sufficiently similar for the COI to offer approval without Senate review included:

- Computer Science - Offered by the School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS), which has conferred undergraduate degrees for over a century.
- Sustainable Development - This major has the majority of required classes fully within the Arts & Sciences, despite allowing certain classes to be taken in professional schools like the Climate School - which is a normal facet of many majors. This major is interdisciplinary almost entirely within the Arts & Sciences Departments, and this major predated the existence of the Climate School.

Further comparison to Minors (Climate and Society) and Special Programs (Business; Public Health) are cited as preexisting programs run by professional schools, but these programs are largely still requiring courses within the Arts & Sciences and can only be done in addition to, not in replacement of, a major within the Arts & Sciences.

The Student Affairs Committee asks that the Senate discuss the following: the involvement of the federal government in our educational offerings following the resolution agreement, the timing of new academic programs tied to undergraduate expansion, and the role of professional schools in undergraduate curriculum. These issues directly affect students, and we are disappointed that the administration and Deans have rejected engaging with student leaders regarding our concerns in a transparent and constructive manner.

In summary, the University must clarify how the agreement with the government influences academic programs and faculty hiring. Secondly, any new major involving professional schools should be discussed publicly as this changes the structure of instruction in the institution as a whole.

UNIVERSITY SENATE STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Annual Report 2025-2026

The Student Affairs Committee worked throughout the 2025-2026 academic year to address **the following five priorities** in response to ongoing concerns and issues raised by our constituents, and by the University community at large:

1. *Accessibility and affordability*
2. *Physical and mental wellbeing*
3. *Student quality of life and campus overcrowding*
4. *Stronger common ground amongst students and with student leaders across Columbia*
5. *Transparency and fairness for all members involved in Columbia's shared governance*

We summarize our major projects in line with these priorities, **noting objectively both important successes and failures** in the interest of transparency, and for future student leaders.

ACCESSIBILITY AND AFFORDABILITY

As cost of living and tuition at Columbia continue to increase, SAC prioritized improving affordability and meeting basic needs on campus through two major initiatives:

- (i) Lower costs of campus dining - *Campus Climate Poll & subsidized meals*
- (ii) Subsidized transportation - *Partnership with MTA through Fair Fares Program*

Our Campus Climate Poll, conducted in November 2025, found significant student populations impacted by housing and food insecurity, with 23% of students reporting some degree of food insecurity throughout their time at Columbia (compare this to 36% reported by the Columbia LENS survey, and the nation-wide average at 45%). During the 2025-2026 year, Columbia Dining regularly operated at 150% capacity, with a 9-1 student to seat ratio, and prohibited graduate student access to Morningside dining halls. After SAC's analysis and peer-benchmarking on dining and food access issues was presented in the February 2026 Plenary, Columbia Administration expanded campus dining hours and access through Faculty House, but did not include plans for new dining spaces in their March expansion announcement. As a short-term solution SAC presented plans for subsidized food trucks offering limited to-go meals in the \$5-8 price range in March, along with temporary outdoor seating as weather permitted, but failed to obtain necessary funding and administrative approval before the end of the academic year.

To ease transportation costs for our commuter students, SAC partnered with the New York City Department of Social Services (DSS) in an awareness campaign for Fair Fares, the city-sponsored subsidized transit program for low-income commuters. A tabling and enrollment event was held on March 23rd 2026 with high turnout, and many participants indicated interest for a long-term partnership. We hope the sustained student interest in affordable transportation initiatives, as well as the demand for subsidized Metrocard pilot programs run by student councils, will lead to a Columbia-based subsidy. One possible subsidy model SAC has advocated for would have Columbia match the discounted rate of the Fair Fares

program for students falling outside the income threshold, capped according to demonstrated need and funding availability.

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELLBEING

Student physical health and mental wellbeing have direct effects on their academic success. In response to longstanding student concerns regarding maintenance, capacity and equipment upkeep issues at Dodge Fitness Center, SAC launched a partnership with Wellhub, a fitness and wellness services provider offering affordable off-campus gym access across the city and nationwide. As of January 2026, Columbia students gained access to a subscription-based network which offers access to multiple fitness providers and premium apps at discounted rates, including local providers like NYSC and PureGym locations near Morningside campus. Within two months of program launch, Wellhub utilization reached a 5.6% total subscription rate (1876 students), with most students subscribed to the digital access tier (0\$/month) and the Starter+ tier (\$16.70/month). Student interest remains high, with frequent inquiries into (i) expanding access to partners/spouses (ii) increasing accessible locations and (iii) extending access to affiliates at Barnard and Teachers College. Though this initiative was a highlight of our leadership, we emphasize that partnering with external providers remains a short term solution to overcrowding and maintenance issues on campus facilities.

STUDENT QUALITY OF LIFE AND CAMPUS OVERCROWDING

In response to widespread campus criticism of the expansion plans announced in March, SAC co-authored and co-sponsored the April Senate Plenary Statement *On Expansion of the Undergraduate Population*. SAC Chairs also presented several student concerns on campus overcrowding to the Trustees Committee on Student Life in September and February. Notwithstanding, SAC has not had substantive influence over or input into expansion plans.

COMMON GROUND WITH STUDENTS AND STUDENT LEADERS

In an effort to build consensus amongst elected student leadership, and to strengthen their collective voice, SAC established the standing committee *Council on Councils* composed of leadership from SAC and Student Councils, where student leaders collaborated on issues including ongoing campus closures and cost of student events. This year, student leaders worked together and responded quickly following the announcement of the relocation of Commencement to Bakers' Field, and succeeded in returning Commencement to Morningside campus. SAC hopes to continue fostering traditions of collaboration between the Senate and Student Councils, protecting forums of free engagement amongst elected leadership without Administrative presence. Continuing the practices of the 2024-2025 year, SAC hosted town halls to engage student input, with two sessions held in September 2025 and in May 2026.

TRANSPARENCY AND FAIRNESS

Following the ongoing tensions from the recent political crises at Columbia, SAC has dedicated significant time and attention to two following projects:

- (i) Transparency on the Hadden case - *Advocating for the release and distribution of the Hadden Report*
- (ii) Fairness in Rules and Standards of Conduct - *Notifying student body on Code of Conduct Changes*

Following extended delays to the release of the Hadden Report, student Senators read impact statements from victims of Robert Hadden at the February 2026 University Senate Plenary.¹ Once released, the Hadden Report drew extensive criticism from survivors describing the document as part of an institutional cover-up. SAC communicated regularly with student constituencies on the Hadden case through campus-wide emails, including a critical summary of the Hadden report in March 2026.

Over summer 2025 the Board of Trustees unilaterally changed the University Statutes, including the Code of University Conduct, to add new restrictions on protests and demonstrations and altered procedures for disciplinary proceedings and sanctions. Notable changes include removing a respondent's right to request a public hearing, giving the Rules Administrator full discretion over requests to access relevant information, and removing protections against permanent records being kept on students found not responsible for Rules violations. Following independent monitoring, SAC was the first to notify the general student body of these rules changes in a campus-wide email in October 2025. Subsequently, repeated requests from SAC to the Administration asking for clarification and public communication on the scope and intent of these changes have generally gone ignored. We remain uncertain of the reasoning behind and enforcement of these changes.

The 2025-2026 Student Affairs Committee was led by Matthew Beck (*Graduate Co-Chair, SEAS '28*), Huda Paracha (*Undergraduate Co-Chair, Barnard '26*), and Helen Han Wei Luo (*Vice-Chair, GSAS '27*), with the support of Keana Simon (*Chief of Staff, CC '27*). We are grateful to SAC members for their service to the University, and thank our constituents for their trust and support of our student leadership.

¹ Starting in the early 1990s, Columbia began to receive complaints that Hadden, then a Columbia OB-GYN physician, had sexually abused patients during gynecological exams. He was eventually apprehended in 2012, and briefly allowed to return to practice after leaders at the medical school signed a letter supporting his reinstatement. To date, settlements to Hadden victims run more than \$1.2 billion. In October 2023, the University Senate unanimously adopted a resolution calling for an external investigation led by an independent law firm, the public release of the resulting report, and accountability for the failures that enabled Hadden's crimes.

Student Affairs Committee 2025-26 | Membership¹

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¹ Including members who served part of the 2025-26 Academic Year. Find more about the Student Affairs Committee [here](#)