

# Weekly Meeting 02/19

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19 FEBRUARY 2021 / 2:30 PM / ZOOM

## ATTENDEES

Program Council: Alina Abouelenin, Elie Zeinoun, Kaeli Streeter, Tianyu Yang, Derek Brennan, Caitlyn Campbell, Elliott Strutevant, Elaine Hsieh, Eric Iglesias, Farah Alkhoury, Ahmed Al Yaseen, JJoel McCullough, Wenjuan Li, Ahmed Al Yaseen, Rebecca Faris

Administration: Danielle Smoller, Dean Amale Andraos

Guests: Lyla Catelier, Ben Goldie

## AGENDA

### Last Meeting Follow up

- Students' ideas for GSAPP graduation ceremony and events.

**DS: Lyla Catelier invited to 2/19 to address graduation planning and gather input from PC. Lyla can attend at 2:40 PM.**

- DEAN AA: At least host something with faculty to create a sense of community. Doing something that is both online and in-person is more equitable.
- DEAN AA: Hope that tent and ongoing tent project will become the site of small, future in-person gatherings.
- DEAN AA: There will hopefully be program based gatherings for MSRED and MSAAD.
- EI: Is it possible to have a separate graduation for MSRED?
  - DEAN AA: Commencement will only happen once, at the end of April. It is important for GSAPP to graduate as one class. GSAPP used to

graduate in the chapel in three waves, but it's important to graduate together. Promise that the event will be festive.

- LC: There are a lot of ideas circulating, meeting with reps from the President's Office. Everyone is sharing ideas. GSAPP has submitted what it would like to do, which includes potentially gathering on Low Plaza. University is currently gathering plans for every school and COVID Task Force is going to make recommendations, based on state and city guidelines. New York City has not released any new guidelines about commencement-like activities, as of yet. Cautiously optimistic that the Task Force will implement some type of threshold. By mid-March university will make a decision about the possibility of in-person ceremony. But this does not mean that there won't be in-person, perhaps program-based, gatherings. Working to provide opportunities for students to take photos on campus in regalia. Looking at what it would mean for gatherings of 25 or 50. There is currently no catering allowed on campus, but those restrictions may be lifted by the end of April. Looking into immersive virtual environments, e.g. logging into something Minecraft-like.
- DEAN AA: Had looked into the possibility of stations with gift bags, etc.
- LC: University catering office has created a picnic box. GSAPP has asked if it's possible to have a timed pick up of gifts on campus.
- Cait: What should we be telling classmates?
  - DEAN AA: Safe answer right now is that the ceremony will be virtual, but will hopefully be able to have small in-person gatherings on campus.
- DEAN AA: In response to Alina, it's unlikely that the university would be more restrictive than the city.
  - LC: And therefore unlikely that events will be held off-campus.
- Ahmed: What access will our parents have?
  - LC: Will broadcast be broadcast, as if it were on television. Link to last year's ceremony: [www.arch.columbia.edu/commencement/2020](http://www.arch.columbia.edu/commencement/2020). Name will be read and then slide with image and quote will appear.
  - DEAN AA: And then last year there were breakout rooms with the programs for the rest of the afternoon.
- Wenjuan: Is there an application for commencement?
  - LC: There is a form that will need to be completed by April 5, but there is no application per se. April 5 deadline will be extremely

“hard,” and changes will be impossible to implement.

- Eric: How much time will we have to submit something?
  - LC: Form will appear on the website in the next week or so.
  - LC, DEAN AA: There will be freedom within the slide constraints.
- DEAN AA: If students have images of collective moments to share, please do.
  - LC: There will be a call for images to include in the pre-ceremony slideshow.

## New Business

- IT:
  - **File sharing**
    - Connecting and sharing 3D models, maps, topo maps, resources between years as to not waste time redrawing/remodeling these things every year.
    - Very difficult for students to reach out to other years during the pandemic.
  - **Remote desktop**
    - This is kind of old business too, but the remote desktops seem to have collectively become worse
    - **Can students who are not comfortable coming to school loan out a computer?**
      - Ben: This is not possible. Only 6 tickets out of 600 computers, only 1% of issues reported.
      - ben@arch.columbia.edu
    - **Can GSAPP give students funds to purchase a computer or the opportunity to apply for technology related funds?**
    - Recent testimonies:
      - “make2d would seem to take forever but the screen was frozen and I would have to log out and return”
      - “screen freezes”
      - “last week I’d get green squares on the constantly”
      - “mega laggy”
      - “super slow”
      - “no response/ curved response from IT”
      - “intermittently slow depending on time of day”
        - Ben: Submit tickets for any technical issue

including green squares, lag, force quit, etc.  
If reply is slow or takes time, feel free to reach out directly to Ben Goldie @ [bg2126@columbia.edu](mailto:bg2126@columbia.edu).

**DS: Ben Goldie invited to address IT issues at the end of 2/19 meeting.**

- **COVID Emergency Fund**
  - Kevin/Admissions is not responding to students

**DS: Passed on important feedback. The Admissions + Financial Aid Office will work on improving response time and students may also email Steffen Boddheker directly: [sab2293@columbia.edu](mailto:sab2293@columbia.edu).**

- **Tuition / Shortened semester**
  - Asking for GSAPP to put pressure on Columbia to lower the cost of attendance
  - The reasoning for the shortened semester was never effectively communicated to us. This semester feels rushed, with less educational content, yet tuition is still the same. Why?

**DS: Tuition concerns forwarded to central. There is one official Columbia University Academic Calendar approved by NYSED which all schools must follow. The Spring 2021 Calendar was communicated by President Bollinger in 7/7/20 message to students,**

<https://president.columbia.edu/news/plans-coming-academic-year>

**and followed up by Dean Andraos in 7/7/20 GSAPP letter.**

<https://www.arch.columbia.edu/deans-letter/200707>

#### **ATV**

- *I have reached out to Lola and are awaiting a response to have a meeting with Lola and Max (hopefully early next week).*

- Students believe the **workload** is too high for a 3-credit course/ the course is not enough credits
- **ATIV and ATV class structure is disliked** (changing name of crits to ‘mentors’ and changing deliverables to ‘workshops’ was not an effective strategy in changing the course format)
- **Lectures**
  - Would like to take advantage of remote learning and hear from non-American/ Western speakers
  - Feels like the class teaches greenwashing strategies
  - Too broad/ design forward (Gaby’s ATIII Envelopes was a good model on learning & applying specific tech knowledge during lecture/ class time, i.e. drawing wall sections, drawing/ discussing details)
  - Lectures are ‘high-level’ and redundant
  - Request for constructive construction and specialized systems knowledge that students can apply to projects (i.e. how to locate the electrical guard, how to draw an energy diagram, how to draw water systems, how do these strategies work, how do we spec them, how do we find out where to place them)
  - No connection between deliverables and lectures
- **Mentors**
  - Too much focus on the ‘narrative’ of the design proposal and not enough emphasis/ teaching on HOW TO draw and integrate systems
  - Mentors expect a real-estate development plan which is counter to the supposed aim of creating more equitable cities

**DS: To be discussed separately since students are meeting Lola + the tech team ...Follow-up scheduled.**

## ACTION ITEMS

1.

## NEXT WEEK'S AGENDA