GSA Facilities and Healthcare Committee Meeting 18th December, 2013

Present: Brittany Angarola, Paul Baranay, Angharad Davis, Brian Dunican, Elizabeth Lang, Chad Marion, Lesley Park, Wendy Xiao.

Apologies: Michael Parker.

Meeting opened 8:23

**Project Updates**

1. Tax Advice (Chad Marion)

* CM has been in contact with the core people involved with the forthcoming Tax Advising session.
  + Probable dates for the event are the last Tuesday or the last Thursday of January (Jan. 28th or 30th)
  + Deborah Jagielow was concerned that 3rd and 4th year medical students will be starting new clerkships that week; might this affect MD/PhD students’ ability to come to the event?
    - WX noted that this would only affect a minority of MD/PhD students in their upper years of study
    - LP suggested that the event might be recorded and made accessible to students unable to attend via the GSA website. EL suggested that this might be accomplished using the audio equipment available to borrow from Bass Library.
    - LP pointed out that it would be necessary to make sure that the speakers were miked, and that media services would be able to assist with this. CM will contact them to see if this is a possibility, whether there would be a fee involved, etc.
  + Deborah Jagielow had a further concern that holding two 1-hour sessions back-to-back would allow insufficient time for questions and discussion. CM and the other event organizers were of the opinion that one hour per session would be sufficient.
    - There was some further concern that students would be uncertain if they had to remain for both hours, or when to arrive for the second hour. AD suggested that the event be advertised as two separate sessions, with a 15 minute window between them to allow for question overflow and session transition.

1. Mental Health (Paul Baranay)

* PB has been in contact with Bill Rando, the director of the Yale Teaching Center, and raised the idea of incorporating mental health training into their program, either as part of the Yale Day of Teaching or as an advanced teaching seminar.
  + They will be meeting on January 8th to discuss this further; if someone else would like to attend they should contact PB.
* PB also met with representatives from Yale Health to discuss the idea of a potential messaging campaign, along with Reuben Hendler and Mira Vale (co-authors of the YCC Mental Health Report).
  + The meeting was very positive, but it seems that official publications from Yale Health have an exceptionally thorough (and hence slow) screening process; a GSA/GPSS/YCC messaging campaign may be more flexible.
  + In addition, they discussed the potential for another Yale Health video to be made, this time with a possible mental health theme. (A topic for further discussion.)
  + Further topics of discussion included website issues; e.g. how and when the Yale Health website is updated. (Member services discuss potential changes with department heads twice a year, but additional alterations can be made as needed.)
    - Suggestions for improvements included the possibility of having a clinician’s photo, degree etc. when you hover over their name.
    - PB brought up the idea of a survey-type webpage by which students seeking help with particular problems could input basic details about their situation and be guided to potential resources (e.g. I am an undergraduate/graduate student/post-doc seeking help for anxiety/depression/eating disorder etc). Yale Health representatives were receptive to this notion, but were of the opinion that it lies beyond the current scope of the website project. PB has a contact with whom he will follow up on this topic.
* A propos of ‘Stall Notes’ (the previously proposed bathroom advertising campaign, as described by Michael Parker at tonight’s General Assembly), PB reiterated that in order to most effectively and efficiently convey a message to the students about mental health, it would be best to do it on our own (or in collaboration with other student groups), although we could perhaps send materials over to Yale Health for their opinion before publicising them.
  + BA enquired about Yale’s policy on postering, since the goal is to put posters in toilet stalls. PB agreed that we should check this.
  + CM suggested that we talk to campus facilities about the possibility of installing clear plastic frames/windows in stalls, which would make putting up and changing posters easier and less messy/damaging to campus property.
  + PB observed that it is likely that the YCC will have had more experience in postering campus buildings; we might ask if they are aware of any poster guidelines.
  + BA noted that each graduate department is entitled to a ‘Wellness Ambassador,’ who is entitled to resources that could make flyering easier. PB commented on the new Student Wellness informational stickers, which include the relevant contact details for a variety of situations; he noted that our program would be based more on ‘messaging’ than on plain advertising (incorporating mythbusting, ‘Did-You-Know’s etc.)
  + AD noted that PB and MP seemed to be the primary force behind this plan, and suggested that they coordinate message/planning with their YCC and GPSS counterparts.
    - PB suggested that the planned meeting in January with his GPSS counterpart would be a suitable time to hash out details.

1. Housing (Wendy Xiao)

* WX gave an overview of the most recent activities of the university housing committee to the General Assembly immediately prior to this committee meeting.
  + A brief overview: the committee recently met with the owner and director of Pike International, who own several apartment buildings downtown, in East Rock, and near the medical campus as well as in greater New Haven; they discussed issues like unsatisfactory maintenance practices and Pike’s current plans for rectifying these, and made plans to follow up on these at a future meeting. A similar meeting is scheduled in mid January with the owner of New Haven Towers; WX solicited input from assembly members regarding their experiences with this building and its management.
  + WX will send out a memo regarding the Pike International meeting to the general assembly. BA suggested that information like this could be incorporated into the monthly GSA publicity email discussed at the general assembly prior to this meeting.
  + LP gave favourable feedback about the property management of the Chelsea Company, and will forward their contact details to WX for inclusion in the housing fair.
* AD enquired about progress in planning the Spring housing fair.
  + WX stated that planning is progressing well; the biggest issue at this point is finding a large enough space in which to hold the event. She is in contact with one of the deans of the medical school in order to find a suitable date for the event.
  + WX is also investigating possible funding options to provide food at the housing fair. Perhaps landlords who wish to be included could be charged a nominal fee (perhaps $20-30) for a table? As well as covering the cost of food, charging per table might give the event additional legitimacy.
    - PB suggested that the dean for student affairs would know how this might be set up and managed.

**Spring Semester Planning**

* AD gave a brief overview of the projects in hand for next semester:
  + Tax advice event (advertising to commence shortly after the break in order to ensure good turnout)
  + Housing fair
  + Distribution of additional housing information for incoming students
    - WX stated that the planning for the Spring Housing Fair will include creating a housing information sheet, which can then also be distributed to incoming students or incorporated into other publications
  + BA suggested that we contact the Publicity committee now to coordinate advertising for the tax advice event and housing fair. AD will send preliminary emails and copy in relevant parties.
    - WX suggested that these events should also be promoted in the GPSS and McDougal Centre emails.

Meeting adjourned 8:46pm