Facilities and Healthcare Committee Meeting 26th March, 2014

Present: Michelle Kriner, Tim Altenhof, Angharad Davis, Kristin Graves, Elizabeth Lang  
  
Apologies: None recorded  
  
Meeting opened 8:38pm

1. **Project Updates**
   1. Health Survey
      1. MK reports that the health survey will be sent out early next week; she thought it best to delay its distribution somewhat as students returning from Spring Break are likely to be primarily playing catch-up this week.
      2. The survey will be distributed to GSAS students, as we don’t have access to the mailing lists associated with the professional schools. MK has contacted the GPSS to enquire if they would be interested in distributing the survey to their constituents as well, and has not yet heard back. However, even if only GSAS students participate in the survey, we should get enough responses to provide useful feedback.
   2. Housing
      1. MK reported, per Wendy Xiao, that the new housing office website should go live in April. This will include a landlord rating system; the housing committee is still finalising the criteria used to allocate some form of ‘preferred landlord’ status (e.g. few or no complaints, a rating of 3.5/5 stars or higher, etc).
      2. MK noted that landlords will have to pay to be considered for this accreditation. EL observed that this will largely rule out smaller landlords, such as those who have broken a house up into apartments. MK will follow up on this with WX, since ideally the students should be able to rate all landlords.
      3. MK reported that WX is collaborating on an open house event with Winchester Lofts, notwithstanding the previous suggestion that these events might be passed on to the housing office. MK suggested that we work to develop a consistent policy that can be applied to future situations like this.
         1. EL asked if Kim Goff-Crews was supporting WX’s involvement with the open house; MK replied that to the best of her knowledge, the graduate housing office has not been involved with this process, and that she isn’t sure about K G-C’s knowledge or participation.
      4. MK brought up the dedicated housing presentation mentioned by Kim Goff-Crews in her presentation to the general assembly; WX reported that this had not previously been discussed among the housing committee, but that it sounds like a good idea and she will look forward to future discussions.
      5. Per WX’s comment in the general assembly, it is hoped that a GSA representative from the publicity committee will join the newly-admitted Yale students’ facebook page in order to answer questions about housing etc. This would both be helpful for the new students and excellent publicity for the GSA.
   3. Mental Health
      1. MK enquired about further developments with the upcoming Yale Mental Health and Wellness Weekend on April 11-13, which is being organised by the Coalition for Mental Health and Wellbeing at Yale. Is this event still in the planning stages? Which events does it seem likely that graduate students would be interested in? ealHeIs thevent still in the planning stages?
         1. AD reported that the event still seems to be being planned, but that the Coalition declined her offer of assistance. (For administrative reasons, we were not in on the ground floor of this event, so there is not a lot of room for events that specifically cater to the needs/interests of graduate students.)
         2. AD thinks that the events most likely to interest the graduate student body are the student panels and the university administration panel, and perhaps the yoga event. Other events, such as a seminar on the mindful leading of extracurricular groups, seem more specifically geared towards the undergraduate experience.
            1. MK asked about the details of the administration panel; AD did not have access to definitive details, but noted that the Coalition reported a very positive response from some members of the administration, and that university president Peter Salovey is scheduled to speak at the close of the event.
            2. AD observed that Kim Goff-Crews’s comment (made during her presentation to the general assembly) about the administration looking into an appropriate avenue of communication regarding mental health is timely, since one of the frequent comments about the campus mental health culture has concerned the apparent vacuum of opinions coming from the university itself. It seems like the administrators’ panel at the Mental Health and Wellness Weekend is also an excellent sign, and hopefully will be an opportunity for cooperative dialogue.
         3. AD enquired if anyone would be interested in potentially joining one of the student panels if spaces are still available.
            1. MK suggested that Paul Baranay might be a logical candidate. Other committee members were also willing to share their accounts/experiences, but specific information about the nature of the panels would be needed in order to decide which of these could be most useful or relevant.
         4. AD has contacted the Coalition to request a schedule of events for the weekend so that the event can be promoted to the graduate student body, and will report back when it is available.
      2. AD brought up the idea of some form of mental health information being distributed at student orientation, which had been raised at a previous HFC meeting. She asked what would need to be done to move forward with this idea, and if it seemed feasible to have something in place for orientation in September 2014.
         1. EL suggested that this idea might be brought to the McDougal Centre Fellows, in particular Holly Lauridsen who coordinates this program. MK also suggested talking to Arianna Chao, one of the current McDougal Fellows for Health and Wellness. It was generally agreed that it is not too late to have something in place for next year
   4. Other projects
      1. MK asked KG if she had been contacted about a potential meeting of the Student Coverage Task Force. KG responded that she had not; MK noted that it is still possible that the task force will meet this semester.
      2. There were no further significant updates to report.
2. **Concerns/Ideas from the Floor**
   1. There being no additional concerns, the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting adjourned 8:48pm