**GSA General Assembly Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday February 15, 2017**

**HGS 119, 6:30 PM**

Meeting started at 6:35PM.

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes are approved as written (with one correction from Kate Phillips (History of Art))

1. Approval of Agenda

Agenda is approved as written.

1. Departmental meeting reports
   1. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Stephen Gaughran: 28 students 14 showed up; regular graduate student meetings where departmental issues are covered. Mental health issues are still a problem- getting more transparency is what students want; transportation is an issue-shuttle app does not accurately track times; mentoring-individual basis, no one can really decide what should be good or bad): we could work on getting an ombudsperson to help with non-medical school people; department doesn’t know about unionization and wants more info before and/or after election

* 1. Physics

Susan Pratt: 128 students, and 29 in applied physics. 40-50 showed up. A good mentor is someone who listens to the student and cares about the student. There is an access problem with SML. With health care, some medications are not covered (one student’s type I diabetes medication is not covered by the plan). Construction of the new colleges is affecting facilities and experimental measurements with vibrations. Students still highly regard graduate dorms (because of the sense of community). People also want more incident reporting especially in graduate student heavy areas (there might be a false sense of security) – maybe there could be safety notices for particular areas? Students liked the podcast about Local 33 and would like more information. Some would also like to apply to CTF before they are accepted to a conference (because they might be more likely to apply to the conference if they know they have funding).

* 1. African Studies

Ally Tapley: there are 6 in the program (masters’ program). Students did not care as much about unionization, because Ph.D. students tend to teach a lot more. Experiences are pretty good, though one person was concerned about the role of Yale in the broader community. Chris Geissler: you can sign up for New Haven Involved. Fabian Schrey: there is a community organizations page on the Yale website as well.

1. Bystander Intervention Workshop

Ksenia Sidorenko and Jenny Peek held a Bystander Intervention Workshop. Stephanie Spangler opened with a short introduction.

1. Concerns from the Floor

Toomas Laarits: as discussed during FHC deep dive, one piece of data we need is graduate student stipend by department. The best way to do this, we have decided, is for GSA reps to email their departmental registrars to verify stipend levels (back to 2010, since that is when we have historical housing data for). This stipend is the baseline (i.e., excluding extra money from additional teaching, etc.).

Nick Vincent: our tax facts event is back on! Our usual accountant could not do this but we have a new person. The time will be Monday February 27, from 5 to 7PM. We will also hold the unionization panel (set up as a way for students to get information). We are holding one big event instead of several small ones. The location will be either Sudler Hall in WLH, or Law School or WHC. The time would be next Tuesday or Wednesday night, and we are reaching out to Local 33 people for them to see how they would like to be involved.

1. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.