**GSA General Assembly Meeting Agenda**

**Wednesday September 21, 2016**

**HGS 119, 6:30 PM**

Meeting Started at 6:49PM.

1. Approval of Minutes
   1. Minutes stand as written.
2. Approval of the Agenda
   1. Agenda stands as written.
3. Election for Treasurer

Nick Vincent: Seb, our treasurer had to step down from the treasurer position, so we have a vacancy. Bill Ruff: the main responsibility of a treasurer, in addition to serving on the steering committee and executive board, is to be in charge of food and drinks at assembly meetings. The treasurer will have my contacts at the restaurants and can choose the type of food to be served. A further responsibility of the treasurer is to authorize uses of the GSA pcards and also to oversee GSA department meetings. The possession of a vehicle is useful but not absolutely necessary. The real benefit of being a treasurer is to have automatic positions on steering and executive boards where the member will have a direct voice to the Dean. Nick Vincent: Steering is primarily on Tuesday afternoons, and executive board meetings will likely be on Wednesday during weeks when general assembly does not meet. If we have more than one nominee, we will hold an election. Only representatives physically present can vote.

No nomination is accepted. We will fill this position during our next meeting.

Bill Ruff: most of the work for Ivy Summit and for *Compass* revenue generation is already done, so this is really not a very demanding job right now.

1. Feedback on extended library hour pilot program

Nick Vincent: I have had opportunities to meet with Kim Golf-Crews, the vice president of the university – usually I have a joint meeting with her and the GPSS president, and then a half-hour individual meeting with KGC. She would like to solicit some updates from the assembly

Pratima (Religious Studies): Can we have the Wall Street entrance open past 5PM. Nick Vincent: yes, I can check. Chris Geissler: that might not be possible with guard schedules. Nick Vincent: I could frame this as a feedback from users who have benefited from the pilot program, which might be persuasive. Laura Brown: do we have data on whether people use this? Nick Vincent: they do keep some information; I can check. We do not know how the pilot program will work out for breaks but it has been one/two hour extensions during the summer. Connor (History): I used the library a lot and it was great in the summer! Kate Phillips (Art History): It was good for me too as a research assistant. Alex Georgescu (Physics): this great for the majority of graduate students use the library system.

1. GSA 20th anniversary alumni reunion planning

Nick Vincent: this is the GSA’s 20th anniversary year. Dean Cooley came to the steering committee last year to see if there was an interest in hosting a GSA reunion. A lot of graduate schools have had issues organizing reunions. This is still very much in the works; we do not know the budget yet. But if anyone is interested in volunteering (reception, organization, events, etc.), please email Alex Zhang ([Tongjia.zhang@yale.edu)](mailto:Tongjia.zhang@yale.edu)) or Nick Vincent. Julia Downs in the Alumni Office will help us find out lists of alums. This will be a wonderful opportunity!

1. Elections for external committees

Nick Vincent: external committees are a great way to get involved with the university and the graduate school.

GSAS Executive Committee: this committee is chaired by Dean Cooley and advises the Dean on broad policy matters. Time commitment: a few times a year (9AM in Warner House every first Thursdays of the month). This committee automatically includes the GSA chair and the GSA vice-chair, and we need three more members, one from each division (humanities/social sciences/sciences). We have already had our first meeting. Marius Constantin: does the committee issue reports? Nick Vincent: it can if the committee would like to. But most of the committee’s deliberations are confidential.

Humanities nominee: Alex Zhang (Philosophy)

Social Sciences nominee: Lucy Armentano (Psychology)

Sciences nominee: Marius Constantin (Applied Physics) and Carly Cox (MCDB)

Marius Constantin (speech)

Carly Cox (speech)

Discussion

Alex Zhang (Philosophy), Lucy Armentano (Psychology), and Carly Cox (MCDB) are elected to the committee.

Dean’s Advisory Committee on Regulations and Discipline: this committee is convened in the case of a breach of academic policy by a graduate student. Time commitment: a few times a year, as the need arises. Katie Oltman: we met a handful of times; you cannot talk to anyone about this because it concerns the futures of graduate students. The experience is similar to jury duty but on a smaller scale. Consuelo Amat Matus (Political Science): the work is super interesting and gives insights into how the university works.

Humanities nominee: Connor Williams (History)

SS nominee: Katie Oltman (Psychology)

Sciences nominee: Adam Matula (Chemistry)

Connor Williams (History), Katie Oltman (Psychology), and Adam Matula (Chemistry) are elected to the committee.

Alternate nominations: Rachel Love (Classics); Michael Cohen (Public Health)

Rachel Love (Classics) and Michael Cohen (Public Health) are elected as alternates.

Dean’s Advisory Committee on Student Grievances: Time commitment: a few times a year. This is distinct from the Dean’s Advisory Committee on Regulations and Discipline, which is concerned with academic issues, whereas this committee is concerned with discrimination.

Humanities nominee: Ben Scruton (NELC)

SS nominee: Chris Geissler (Linguistics)

Science nominee: Yana Bebieva (Geophysics)

Ben Scruton (NELC), Chris Geissler (Linguistics), and Yana Bebieva (Geophysics) are elected to the committee.

Committee of Review (Office of the President) is concerned with requests for reconsiderations of disciplinary actions made by the Dean. This committee meets infrequently, and the time commitment is quite low.

Nominee: Nathan Nguyen (Cell Biology)

Nathan Nguyen (Cell Biology) is elected to the committee.

Nick Vincent: we have the opportunity to elect one rep to the minority advisory council, but we will not do so today because plans for this committee have not been finalized.

Advisory Committee on Resources for Students and Employees with Disabilities: The Committee provides the University with invaluable advice and assistance in fulfilling its commitment to maintain an environment that is accessible and supportive of the work and scholarship of all students, faculty and staff.

Nominee: Anwar Mohiuddin (Geophysics)

Anwar Mohiuddin (Geophysics) is elected to the committee.

University-Wide Committee on Sexual Misconduct: the University-Wide Committee on Sexual Misconduct (UWC) is designed to address allegations of sexual misconduct of every kind and is available to students, faculty and staff across the University according to the guidelines described in the Committee’s procedures.

Nominee: Stephen Albright (Physics)

Stephen Albright (Physics) is elected to the committee.

Elections Committee: the Elections Committee administers the GSAS-wide elections as specified in the Charter and the Bylaws. The Elections Committee must be appointed by the end of September. Before the end of March, the Elections Committee should present its election plan to the Assembly. The Assembly Vice-Chair serves as Chair of the Elections Committee. The Elections Committee will be composed of no less than one representative from each division, but no more than six representatives in total. Time commitment is minimal, and the fall elections are already done.

Katie Oltman: can we get rid of this antiquated committee?

Rachel Love moves to table the elections for the elections committee.

Elections for the elections committee are tabled.

Mental Health and Counseling Advisory Council: The Mental Health and Counseling Advisory Council advises Yale Health administrators on issues relating to the mental health of students here at Yale. Last year, the Council aided in the updating of the Mental Health and Counseling website as well as discussed the formation of the new wellness website. They also were a part of the Mental Health G&P Town Hall and discussed the concerns brought up by students.

Nick Vincent: Alicia Steinmetz was involved on this committee and did a lot of work. Through Dean Cooley, I have learned that Paul Genecin, director of Yale Health, would like to meet with GSA members to see our concerns with Yale health and mental health.

Nominee: Kate Phillips (Art History)

Kate Phillips (Art History) is elected to the committee.

Nick Vincent: Susan Pratt, our FHC chair, has done a lot of work with Kate and Wesley on getting a mental health focus group running, which will give us a data-centric view to the problem.

Wellness Project committee: Elizabeth Salm (Neuroscience) was invited by KGC to serve on this committee as the past chair of the GSA. We would also like to have more representation on this committee in the future.

Elizabeth Salm (Neuroscience) is approved as the GSA rep to Wellness Project committee.

Wendy Xiao (MD/PhD) was invited to serve on the Committee to Establish Principles of Renaming to represent both graduate and professional students. Nick will inquire into whether it is possible to add a second position. Consuelo Amat Matus (Political Science): Are we comfortable with the administration’s choosing a student to serve on this? Nick Vincent: I did have a voice in this choice, but it was a phone call and we had about five minutes to decide. Laura Brown (Music): this does not seem very democratic? Sarah Zager (Religious Studies): there are divisional differences, so can we get divisional representatives? Nick Vincent: right, and the undergraduate representative is not from the college primarily in question. I am happy to bring this to the attention of GPSS president and YCC president to see if we could get more spots for students on the committee.

Nick Vincent: the composition of the committee on principles of renaming is: faculty: John Witt (chair), David Blight (advisor), Beverly Gage, Jonathan Holloway, Sharon Oster, and Stephen Pitti; alumni: G. Leonard Baker, Jr. ’64, and Tom A. Bernstein ’74, ’77 J.D., and Wilhelmina M. Wright ’86; staff: Lalani Perry; students: Dasia Moore and Wendy Xiao.

Approval vote for Wendy Xiao is tabled.

1. Resolution on questions related to student unionization and GESO/ Local 33

Nick Vincent: the executive board is in the process of drafting a resolution not ready to be presented. Another resolution was also being drafted. We will have a discussion on this before voting. Toomas Laarits (Management): a sneak peek? Nick Vincent: questions and concerns we have been hearing from the constituents. Chris Geissler: Katie and I have a neutrality resolution in the works, essentially stating that the GSA will maintain a stance of neutrality on the topic of unionization. Joseph Lewnard: there is clearly a pro-unionization camp, but is there an anti-unionization camp?

Nick Vincent: I have become aware that there is an opposition effort trying to form.

Alex Zhang (Philosophy): The question on neutrality is extremely complex and I would encourage everyone to think about this as a threefold question. First, there is the question of whether we should be pro-unionization or anti-unionization, which mostly comes down as an ideological question and one’s perception of the employee status of graduate students. Then there is the second issue concerning the particular tactics/approaches of Local 33, which is independent from the first question. The third question concerns the use of micro-units and the selection of ten voting departments. You and your constituents may have different feelings on these three different issues: they might be pro-unionization *but* want to maintain neutrality on the department selection, for example. So please think very hard about these issues before coming to our next meeting, when we might have one or more resolutions on this topic. Katie Oltman: there has been a data collection effort in psychology.

Nick Vincent: yes – there are a lot of nuanced views. Keep an eye out for emails on draft resolutions. A lot of the feedback you give before the meetings can have a very positive impact

Resources Nick Vincent: GPSS is working on a website, administration has a long FAQ, and GSA is planning a panel.

Consuelo Amat Matus: why not wait until we have more information? Nick Vincent: the timeline is very short, the recent NLRB decision. Alex Zhang: to respond to some of Consuelo’s concerns: the resolution in the process of being crafted by the executive board is worded precisely *not* to indicate any established positions that GSA will take, but merely to say that the GSA has the following questions and concerns about the selective approach of Local 33, and that we would like to seek some answers about these questions and to voice our concerns at some of the uncertainties. So the point of the eboard resolution is not to say that we have determined stances (e.g., neutrality), on xyz. Consuelo Amat Matus: exactly, this is a much better way of thinking about this resolution than making a decided stance on, for example, neutrality, when we do not have enough information.

Unidentified GSA rep: Legal strategy for Yale’s lawyers at NLRB hearings is to challenge the department-by-department approach.

Sarah Zager: why do we use the date of the NLRB hearing? It does not seem like we can accomplish anything.

Nick Vincent: one of our questions is about how administration can treat unionized vs. non-unionized departments. Also, our resolution, which is publicly released, can have an impact on the Hartford hearing. Chris Geissler: We should take action because it could be meaningful.

1. Concerns from the floor

Rachel Love: sign-up for APD. Nick Vincent: same goes for other committees.

1. Adjournment

Meeting ended at 8:14PM