**GSA General Assembly Minutes**

**Wednesday, August 30, 2017**

**6:30PM, Watson Center A74**

Meeting started at 6:48PM

1. Approval of Agenda

Agenda is approved.

1. New Rep Introduction

Wendy Xiao introduced herself as chair of the GSA: this is my fifth year on the GSA. Laura Brown: this is my third year on the GSA and I am the vice chair. I run the ask a lawyer program for the GSA and am from the Music department. Jenn Sun: I am the Treasurer of the GSA. Paniagua: I am a rising third year from Genetics and am the CTF (Conference Travel Fund) chair. Alex Zhang: I am the secretary of the GSA. I am a sixth-year graduate student in the departments of Classics and Philosophy. I previously served as secretary last year.

The four committee chairs introduced themselves (Susan Pratt, Fabian Schrey, Bara Badwan, and Stephen Gaughran).

The representatives introduced themselves.

1. New Rep Primer and Ongoing Projects

Wendy Xiao introduced and went through a review of the New Rep Packet, including survey of recent GSA accomplishments, current GSA projects, GSA attendance policy,

1. Jury Duty for CTF and Call for Volunteers

Steven Paniagua gave an overview of CTF: we have relied on volunteers to review CTF applications in the past. This year, we will try something different: while we will still ask for volunteers, we will have a jury duty system partly in order to have more time for people to review applications. The idea is that people will only have to review CTF applications once as a GSA rep.

Steven Paniagua gave a survey of a sample CTF application, including biographical details, short answers questions, advisor recommendations, budget proposals, and scoring.

Steven Paniagua passed out a volunteer sign up sheet for CTF application reviewers.

Rodion Kosovsky: do students or advisors write the budgets? Also, do we require receipts at the end? Steven Paniagua: students write the budgets and reviewers will evaluate the reasonableness of the budget. Receipt requirement is up to the CTF director. Wendy Xiao: it is actually quite easy to review applications – it does not take that much time! Grant Mandigora: what if a conference is really important but the student is not actually presenting research? Steven Paniagua: we have faced this problem in the past, but I would not be able to know whether this is the case. This is why we need people like you to give us information on these matters. Rodion Kosovsky: since there are four different cycles, is the money divided evenly for these cycles? Steven Paniagua: yes.

Wendy Xiao: Watson A74 is our new space. We have to put the furniture back into place after the meeting. We will randomly select five reps for this responsibility for each meeting. Alex will email out the list of reps.

1. Departmental Meetings

Jenn Sun gave an overview of hosting departmental meetings: reps should identify areas of concern and inform their constituents of university decision making. More importantly, reps should bring brainstormed ideas and solutions back to the GSA so that the assembly can discuss these ideas and possibly present them to the graduate school administration. Department meetings can be held between 9/11 and 3/31 in the upcoming academic year. Each currently serving rep has a budget of 100 dollars to spend. Reps should pick up a credit card from Warner House to make their purchases, but cannot purchase hard liquor with the card (beer and wine are okay). Smaller departments are welcome to team up with another department to host their meetings together with a larger budget for food and drinks.

Jenn Sun: for accounting purposes, please keep and hand in the receipts. Wendy Xiao: I had Caseus Cheese truck cater my department meeting!

1. Committee Introduction and Sign-up

Wendy Xiao: every rep should sign up for a standing committee.

Susan Pratt: some of the current issues we are working on in Facilities and Healthcare include dental insurance, since some students are not happy with the current Delta Dental plan. We are also working on mental health focus groups for which we received a grant a couple of years back. We will look at the transcript from the focus sessions this year, followed by data analyses and reports. We are also looking into improving wellness climate in general (as well as wellness on West Campus in particular) and student work spaces.

Fabian Schrey: we have been working on a few issues (including the Orange Line expansion announced recently). Current projects include biking related issues and blue phone issues (we are considering working with Yale security on this). Bara Badwan: in terms of outreach, we want to work on better communication among the graduate school, GSA, the administration in general, and the student body. In terms of design, we are responsible for posters, among other materials. PR is also responsible for the Podcast: it is an exciting project because we can contact any university administrator for interviews. Current materials include reviewing restaurants and social scenes (and we may be able to pay for you to have dinner!). Nick Curry is responsible for much of the Podcast production.

Stephen Paniagua: APD is a diverse committee covering many things including graduate student life and life after Yale. One project is the Title IX bystander intervention training which we hope to expand more of the graduate programs. We are also working on faculty standards which we and the faculty will ratify so that we have a written standard of faculty conduct. We also want to make sure new expanded library hours are working for graduate needs. For humanities students, we want to work on “stopping the clock” for external awards so that people can extend their funding into the sixth year and beyond. APD also works with the Office and Career Strategy and the GSAA (Graduate School Alumni Association) for career exploration. We have an upcoming APD meeting: sign up if you are interested!

1. Election: OCS Student Advisory Committee

Wendy Xiao gave an overview of the OCS Student Advisory Committee (statement from Brian Frenette). Nathan Nguyen: this year, we have Yale organizations (LGBTQ and four cultural centers, plus OISS and other cultural groups) participating. Please come talk to me if you want to improve access to non-academic career paths, and we hope to have one rep from the APD committee and an alternate.

Nomination: Catherine Matulis

Catherine Matulis is elected to the OCS Student Advisory Committee.

1. Miscellaneous: GSA Picture and Swag

Wendy Xiao: we will pass out swag during the next meeting and take a picture to put on our Facebook page.

Meeting is adjourned at 7:56PM.