GSA Facilities & Healthcare committee meeting

1/30/13 7pm McDougal Center common room

**University wide committee on housing (Eugene/Michelle)**: A draft of the report is currently being completed, and then the plan is to show it to George Longyear for his feedback/approval before submitting it to the deans/administration. One issue to emphasize in the report is high apartment occupancy rates; renters can’t get all the key players at the same table to solve this problem themselves. Development of new housing has not kept up with demand as New Haven is becoming a more desirable place to live for both Yale affiliates and employees of nearby companies. Luke and Sabina have info on occupancy.

**Gym (Eugene/Mark):** Mark met with Kelly from GPSS regarding the proposal to extend access/hours. They need to gather more usage statistics and outline specific uses for possible funding. GSA could potentially sponsor another series of Grad Night at the Gym events, but the McDougal Center would probably not help cover the cost this time.

**Healthcare (Jake/Luke/Caitlyn)**: The Student Coverage Taskforce had a meeting; the main issue was compliance with the Affordable Care Act. As it stands, in January 2014 the university would have to pay the employer mandate and grad students would have to pay individual mandate. Coverage is being reorganized to come into compliance, as a result Prescription Plus will be included in Hospitalization/Specialty Care and thus paid for by the grad school. Copays will go up; $50/emergency room, $100/surgery, $200/hospital admission, cap of $1000/yr. There is a petition in to the Dept of Health and Human Services, but this could take a while. Yale is looking into alternate healthcare coverage in the meantime, and Harvard, Stanford, MIT, Princeton, UC system are all affected as well.

Out of area (within USA) coverage is being worked on. The university is getting quotes from multiple companies. The grad school covers the cost for studying out of the country.

**Dental (Jake)**: We are collaborating with GPSS on this. Our current plan from Delta Dental covers 2 cleanings and 1 set of x-rays per year. Since usership is down, we may be able to improve coverage significantly for slightly higher cost with Delta; this is something we’d need to get feedback from grad students about. The grad student body is too small for many companies to be interested in giving us a group plan. A DMO is an option, in which dentists get paid a fixed amount rather than per visit. These tend to have fewer, less-experienced dentists. Another possibility is to extend the contracts to dilute risk; ask students to sign up for more than one year at a time

**Legal aid** **(Tiffany)**: A death at the NH Bar Assoc has caused a setback. Tiffany hasn’t heard back yet on dates for spring legal aid sessions, so February may not happen. Tiffany has started getting personal emails from students with legal problems, and is forwarding them to Dean Harper-Mangels for the list of lawyers. The goal is to use these sessions to gather evidence of need to get Yale to hire/retain a lawyer for graduate students, although our problems require specialized legal knowledge that one lawyer may not be able to cover.

Anyone interested in getting involved with any of these projects should contact the respective point-people.