

## GSA General Assembly Meeting Minutes

4/8/15

Start: 7:01 PM

- I. Approval of Minutes
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Department Meeting Report
  - a. Cellular and Molecular Physiology (Patrick Dunn)
    - i. Pretty happy.
    - ii. Dissertation Progress Reports.
      1. Pointless.
      2. People aren't reading these.
        - a. Uploaded pokemon walkthrough accidentally.
        - b. No one noticed.
      3. Should be something the DGS has to just check off.
    - iii. Permission from PI to teach beyond teaching requirements.
      1. We aren't employees.
      2. Shouldn't be treating us as employees in controlling our professional development.
    - iv. Shuttle stops are snow covered, and it's hard to get to buses.
- IV. Committee Reports
  - a. Transit and Security
    - i. Katie Oltman – Transit.
      1. Working with the Yale Transit.
      2. What are the rules? How can we communicate them?
      3. Met with Ed Bebyn – open to starting a communication tool with students.
      4. Rider's Bill of Rights was initial idea. At last meeting, Emilio came up with new idea.
        - a. Comic series that gets the same information across.
        - b. Does anyone know anyone creative and funny? Email Transit and Security. [kathleen.oltman@yale.edu](mailto:kathleen.oltman@yale.edu) or [ankit.disa@yale.edu](mailto:ankit.disa@yale.edu)
        - c. Visually appealing.
        - d. Facebook group – [Ideas at Yale](#)
          - i. Mostly undergrads.
          - ii. Someone will pick it up the job.
    - ii. Chris Price – Security.
      1. Security Dialogue.
      2. Hard to determine who to contact when you have an issue.

3. See Click Fix – upload a photo of an issue. When a problem begins to affect a lot = lots of pictures, city tackles the issue.
  4. Neighborhood Associations – monthly meetings.
  5. Yale Security focused topics.
    - a. Blue Phone
      - i. Can use as campus phone.
      - ii. Won't put more in.
      - iii. Test phones monthly.
    - b. Door-to-door may suggest you walk to a Blue line stop but you can reject their proposal to take the Blue line.
    - c. After 6 PM, the Blue and Orange lines must drop you at your door above Sachem Street.
    - d. Bulldog Mobile – sends out a distress signal after a certain amount of time.
      - i. They will call to check on you.
    - e. Buildings locked or unlocked at weird hours. Concerns over security and theft.
      - i. Run by building manager.
      - ii. Contact them with concerns.
  6. Call and express concerns if you have them.
- iii. Ben – Lab Safety.
1. Improve lab safety culture at Yale
  2. Most people are dissatisfied with culture in some way – useless, not targeted.
  3. Anna Kim; John Campbell from EHS
    - a. Keep tabs on everyone; can only do so much.
    - b. Catered Lunch for lab safety officers in Chemistry Lab Safety Committee
    - c. Invited Chair of Chemistry from University of Minnesota – Professor William Tolman.
  4. Tips from meeting
    - a. Write out specific lab safety procedures.
    - b. Joint Safety Team at Minnesota.
    - c. Get a budget to promote safety.
    - d. Prevents accidents before they happen.
    - e. Anonymous reporting for accidents.
  5. Other science departments interested in this?
- b. Publicity – Nicholas Vincent
- i. Bulletin Board
    1. Updated the posters.

2. Check them out after the meeting.
  3. Updated Ask-A-Lawyer.
    - a. Laminate it – can write in the date.
  4. Common Grounds
    - a. Hand out small versions to post next time.
  5. Conference Travel Fellowship
    - a. Blank space for date.
    - b. Guidelines for applying.
    - c. Information about the eligibility.
  6. No Tax Facts poster yet.
- ii. Order Swag.
1. Mugs, Pint glasses, t-shirts?
  2. We use it to distribute and advertise GSA.
  3. Tote Bags?
  4. Get a wider variety of things?
    - a. T-shirts and totes.
    - b. Mugs and travel mugs.
  5. Notepads?
  6. Pens?
  7. T-shirts are for reps who volunteer at orientation.
  8. Mugs – depends on the cost.
    - a. May not be worth it.
    - b. Mugs go into someone's home cupboard.
- iii. Newsletter format.
1. Programmed a form that we can just fill out easily.
  2. Easier for future publicity.
- iv. In-a-nutshell poster.
1. Updating information.
  2. Make it easier to understand.
- v. Compass update.
1. Reorganized everything into fewer and more comprehensive sections.
  2. Next Ad Hoc at 7 PM Sunday Evening.
  3. Outline
    - a. Intro
    - b. Life at Yale
      - i. McDougal events.
      - ii. GSA events.
      - iii. Health plan.
      - iv. Dental plan.

- c. Life in New Haven
        - i. Community outreach.
      - d. Travel and Transit and Security info.
      - e. Updated version of Bulldog challenge.
      - f. Directory
        - i. Staff.
        - ii. Who's who in the academic deans.
    - 4. Want to get out letter out for donations for advertisements
      - a. Want to be Yale College Council to request advertising.
      - b. Revising letter this weekend.
      - c. Checking costs.
  - vi. Website
    - 1. Want to make a portion of the website an interactive version of the compass.
    - 2. Still want to print some copies of the compass.
    - 3. More likely to reach people.
    - 4. Finding someone to do this through Yale Ideas.
  - vii. Committee Minutes
    - 1. If permitted by the bylaws, we may want to just put the Deep Dive up?
    - 2. Who has read the committee minutes before?
      - a. Two people.
- c. Facilities and Healthcare
  - i. Janna – Chaplain's Office
    - 1. Invited to general assembly meeting.
    - 2. Mental health ongoing concern.
    - 3. Looking into alternatives to promote student wellbeing.
    - 4. Talking about making information on the services more clear on the website.
    - 5. Have contacts with outside therapy.
    - 6. Mental could advertise/list the Chaplain's Office as a resource.
  - ii. Alicia – Mental Health
    - 1. Having another mental health town hall meeting.
    - 2. Improving communication between students and counselors.
    - 3. Overhaul of mental health website – [Live Well](#) (modeled on UCLA).
    - 4. Next meeting in 3 weeks – talking about what we'd like to push for.
    - 5. Advocating for town hall in early fall.
    - 6. Be referred out to the community

- a. As our insurance is a part of our compensation, we can't really receive the money to find outside insurance.
    - b. Need to be able to have the option to see outside counselors.
  - 7. Peer advocates – talking to Lisa about creating this kind of position.
    - a. High hopes for this.
    - b. Wellness fellows are in position to be changed into this.
- iii. Brian Yoon – Disability Compliance and Bike Coop
  - 1. Meeting with Director of Office of Disability Resources.
  - 2. Very few rooms were ACA compliant.
  - 3. University is not required to build compliant rooms as we are not required to live on campus.
  - 4. Temporary disability housing.
    - a. Undergrads have one.
    - b. We don't have this, but we could voice a need for this?
  - 5. Bike Coop – worked with Ankit and Kelly.
    - a. Bike shop on campus.
    - b. Senior VP of Administration.
    - c. Rumor that undergrads creating one.
- iv. Tax Facts
  - 1. Not as well attended due to snow.
  - 2. Very general information.
  - 3. Looking to tailor it more next year.
- v. Housing Fair and Office.
  - 1. Planning a new one next year.
  - 2. Planning monthly events.
  - 3. HGS and what's happening to students living in HGS.
    - a. Making it up with new building and swing space.
    - b. Actually only losing 20 beds when considering how many beds would remain if HGS was remodeled to include dorm space.
  - 4. Dorm – moving forward even with road blocks.
  - 5. New case worker provided for grad students.
  - 6. Landlord Rating [website](#).
- vi. Trying to push for a 24-hour gym.
- vii. Childcare
  - 1. Graduate parent coop/association.
  - 2. Attract graduate parents to sign on.
  - 3. Talked to GPSS?

4. Something in the pipeline through GPSS.
- viii. Questions
  1. Rachel – petition to the Board of Alders?
    - a. Meeting with one of the Alders on Friday.
    - b. Emailed relevant alders.
- V. Graduate Student Life Programming and Community
  - a. Want to write a resolution to address the concerns over HGS
  - b. Concrete plan for HGS
  - c. Goals
    - i. Permanent relocation destination of Student Affairs and Programs currently located in HGS or temporary relocation with planned permanent destination by the time of HGS renovations.
    - ii. Create a committee providing a process for faculty and students to do research and make recommendations. We would like equal representation of physical sciences, social sciences, and humanities on the proposed committee to find the optimal location for all graduate students. This destination should be approved as appropriate by committee members.
  - d. What we have in HGS.
    - i. Common room for study space and group activities.
    - ii. Outdoor courtyard for warm-weather activities.
    - iii. Meeting space that can accommodate 100+ people (HGS 119).
    - iv. Other meeting space for smaller groups (HGS 117, 116).
    - v. Storage space for GSA.
    - vi. Dean's Office.
    - vii. Diversity Office.
    - viii. McDougal Center, fellows, events.
    - ix. Coffee shop.
    - x. Graduate student housing and dining (priority given to GSAS students).
    - xi. Dormitories.
  - e. Events that place in HGS.
    - i. Convocation.
    - ii. McDougal Student Life activities.
    - iii. First Friday at Five.
    - iv. Dean's reception.
    - v. In the Company of Scholars.
    - vi. Orientation.
    - vii. Training.
    - viii. Graduation.
    - ix. Writing Center workshops.
    - x. Student group activities.

- xi. Ask-a-Lawyer.
  - xii. Ask-an-Accountant.
  - xiii. GSA general assembly meetings, steering meetings, exec board meetings, committee meetings for 4 committees.
  - f. For graduate student life to flourish, we need
    - i. Adequate designated space for graduate.
    - ii. Supporting staff.
    - iii. Centrally located for student organizations.
    - iv. Critical mass of students gathered today.
    - v. All the above need to be located in one area.
  - g. We still lack
    - i. Enough housing to fill demand.
    - ii. Dining choices.
    - iii. Apartment-style living.
    - iv. 24-hr study space.
    - v. Gym opened according to grad student schedule (academic and otherwise).
    - vi. Recreational space.
  - h. This is how important HGS is, we still need these other things.
  - i. Questions/Comments/Suggestions
    - i. Holly – a place for graduate student events – need to highlight that these events are also open to postdocs.
    - ii. Brian – tutoring undergrad languages.
    - iii. Amanda Leiss – Café needs to be next to McDougal Center as it is managed by the staff of the McDougal Center.
      - 1. Need to emphasize the importance of keeping everything together.
      - 2. Need enough space.
    - iv. Bill – might be better as a report?
      - 1. Already report by Lisa Brandeis.
      - 2. We could state that we support that report.
        - a. This is different as this is about our opinions.
      - 3. Doesn't have to be a resolution.
      - 4. Emphasizing our thoughts on this issue.
    - v. Rachel – one building as opposed to one area
- VI. Charter Review
- a. Sentence including solely was not popular as it was not the purview of the committee.
  - b. Suggested that “appoint” be changed to “nominate” – we don't like this; it weaken our power.
  - c. Everything was really minor changes.

VII. OCS report – Rachel Love

- a. Push for what would be best for graduate students.
- b. Recommendations
  - i. Database resources – have access to all in OCS.
  - ii. Adequate Staffing
    - 1. One per division.
  - iii. Faculty support and departmental programming.
    - 1. Strength and support the relationship.
  - iv. Events and programming.
  - v. Alumni Connections and Networking.
    - 1. Working closely with them.
    - 2. Strengthen that relationship.
  - vi. Graduate student and employer communication.
  - vii. Internship facilitation
    - 1. Can't take months off for internships.
- c. Questions/Comments
  - i. Everything in the central database is still geared to undergrads.
    - 1. Work in progress.
    - 2. All the professional schools have a similar database.
  - ii. Brian
    - 1. If you are looking for an academic job, they are advised not to help you as you should go to your DGS.
    - 2. Professional Coaching as part of that support through departments.
      - a. Have it as part of OCS.
    - 3. It is for non-academic jobs.
      - a. This is what the point 4 is about.
      - b. Better communication between the departments.

VIII. Work-life taskforce

- a. Look at all the issues that graduate students face.
- b. Issues aren't documented.
- c. Figure out exactly what the issues are.
- d. Questions
  - i. What does the committee offer that GSA doesn't?
    - 1. A lot of the issues that we advocating for run by students.
    - 2. This committee will contain both administrative and faculty.
    - 3. Provides more accountability.
    - 4. Lots of committees exist independently.
  - ii. Upshot of this is that it is holistic. Looking at what it's like to be a graduate student. Think about a number of the changes that have occurred over the years.



1. A lot of these issues we have nowhere to go to address them.
  2. No centralized data collection.
  - iii. Like a committee of committee members? Brian
    1. No going to form a new SM committee for example.
    2. Get the information from the SM committee.
    3. Synthesize the data.
  - iv. Feels like a very powerful committee. Have to get a lot of information. Some are not willing to share.
    1. Have support from the Provost.
    2. Administrative.
  - v. GSA and GPSS put a lot of effort into reports. They sometimes fall on deaf ears. Can't focus your efforts. Administrative support? Administrative staff?
    1. They will provide continuity.
    2. Details not worked out.
  - vi. Bill – how often they would meet?
    1. Have a very broad timeline.
    2. No real set amount of dates.
  - vii. Rachel – more long term official connections of GPSS and GSA.
  - viii. Chris – having it on a yearly basis going to cause issues?
- IX. Concerns from the Floor
- a. Sexual Misconduct Survey – Please fill out.
    - i. No option for TF getting harassed by students.
  - b. CTF meeting – Tuesday 7 PM.
  - c. Compass Ad Hoc committee – Sunday 7 PM.
  - d. Nominations for officer positions by email.
- X. Announcements
- a. Elections next meeting – April 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - b. Welcome BBQ – GPSCY April 29<sup>th</sup>

Meeting end – 8:27 PM