

GSA General Assembly Meeting

Wednesday, January 15, 2013

1. Meeting convenes at 7:08
2. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. Minutes from the last two meetings are approved.
3. Approval of the Agenda
 - a. Approved
4. Election: Chair of Academics and Professional Development
 - a. Caitlin (outgoing chair): Starting in middle of the year is not a big deal because we've set the agenda, responsibility is to keep things running, run meetings every other week, currently on opposite Wednesdays but could be changed.
 - i. Our big project is the teaching review, plus online education.
 - b. Nominations
 - i. William Gray
 - ii. Approved by acclamation.
 - c. William: Would be really helpful to see what other schools are working on and dealing with, since we already know a lot about what's going on in our own school.
5. Election: Steering Committee
 - a. Brian Dunican:
 - i. Elizabeth Lang had to step down because of a teaching obligation.
 - ii. Steering meetings every other Thursday (opposite weeks from the GSA)
 - iii. Anyone from any division can run for this position, since we've met our divisional requirements.
 - iv. GSA's role is to listen to the concerns of graduate students and present them to the administration, and Steering is one of the major ways we do that.
 - v. Faustin adds that this is a great way of transitioning into an executive position for the future.
 - b. Wendy asks for an example of what Steering does.
 - i. Brian: Department-level surveys from the dean – telling him about issues we've had
 - ii. Faustin: When the committees come up with initiatives, we like to run them by the Deans.
 - c. Nominations
 - i. Wendy Xiao is nominated, but isn't sure whether to accept.
 - ii. Paul nominates William Gray. Will declines due to lab meeting.
 - iii. Sara Sanchez-Alonso nominates herself, then backs out when Wendy accepts.
 - iv. Wendy is approved by acclamation.
6. Semi-annual budget update (Joori Park)
 - a. The figures so far only include part of December because the expense report comes out a month after the actual expenditures; so there are some charges

that have been made which aren't reflected, as well as some charges for upcoming events that haven't been made yet.

- b. In addition to our \$15k operating budget, we have the \$60k CTF budget which is not shown here.
 - i. Brian V reports it is on track: we've disbursed just shy of \$30,000 over the first two cycles.
- c. For this budget, we were planning on having 15 meetings plus our final barbeque at GPSCY. However, we decided to have an additional meeting, which will come out of other funds, so that should be fine.
- d. Joori wants to emphasize that one of our biggest line items is departmental meetings, which we've allocated \$7,250 for but have only spent \$600 so far. Please make sure to hold your meetings before spring break. Your department gets \$100 per rep. Great opportunity to tell everyone what's happening, get feedback, etc.
- e. Wendy: Why is the 2012 BBQ listed? And other 2012 issues?
 - i. Joori: because the fiscal year ends June 30; we had the BBQ at the end of May, and it took GPSCY a while to give us our invoice, so it had to come after this year. The swag lines are typos, we didn't spend any money this year; we used last year's funds, and have brought ~3 years of swag currently.
 - ii. Justine: Can we give out swag to the current representatives?
 - 1. Brian: We could give out T-shirts; these are the things we give away to new students during Orientation.
- f. Wendy: What's the other event sponsorship line item?
 - i. Brian: We sometimes get requests to sponsor events, so we set aside money for that.
 - ii. Joori: Right now, \$500 for Common Grounds comes out of this line item.

7. Reports

- a. Steering Committee (Brian Dunican)
 - i. Haven't had one yet this year. Last time, we spent some time talking to the Dean about what we've been doing at our recent meetings, like our strategic plan. About a third of DGS's have written to Dean Pollard to tell him about their meetings, so he is curious to learn from us if they are being held and if they are beneficial. Also, the data is to be shared with fellow students, within your departments.
 - ii. Advocacy for space – asking for 24 hour space from the HGS Common Room, this is being brought to a meeting of all the deans sometime before our next Steering meeting, so we will have an update for you on that soon.
- b. Transit and Security (Sachi Inukai)
 - i. T&S hasn't met yet this year
 - ii. Discussing a new meeting time, not yet decided.
 - iii. Thanks to everyone who sent specific feedback about T&S concerns, e.g. shuttles. If you hear anything, please feel free to send them to Sachi.

- iv. Still trying to schedule the downtown street conversion town hall meeting.
 - v. Also working on improving biking safety and bike paths around campus.
 - c. Academics and Professional Development (Caitlin Verboon)
 - i. No meeting this semester yet. Will (our new chair!) will decide when the next meeting is.
 - d. Facilities and Healthcare (Angharad Davis)
 - i. No meeting this year, but we have an exciting plan for this semester.
 - ii. Several avenues to pursue
 - 1. Mental health training with Yale Teaching Center
 - 2. Mental health awareness campaign
 - iii. Housing fair later this semester
 - iv. Tax event, Ask-an-Accountant, happening at the end of January
 - 1. Thursday, Jan 30 in HGS 119, 7pm for US residents, 8pm for non-US residents
 - 2. Panel of outside experts
 - 3. Refreshments!
 - 4. Please take posters and recommend this to your constituents.
 - v. Wendy: Pike is revamping their maintenance request system. Meeting with New Haven Towers upcoming. PMC after that, most likely.
 - vi. Parker: Will this be sent out to everyone?
 - 1. Wendy: Office of the Secretary is working on a memo.
 - 2. Angharad: we want to send out an email about the tax advice, working with Publicity.
 - 3. Can we send out PDFs of flyers?
 - a. Yes.
 - vii. Someone asks: Update on pilot of the extended gym hours?
 - 1. Brian: Not yet. Last we heard is that it is being priced out. I've been putting in a monthly request of information from Kim Geoff-Crews' office. Are looking for long-term solutions. This month's request is scheduled for Thursday.
 - viii. Heidi: I've heard that they've cut pool hours. Morning hours used to be 10-2pm, now it's noon to 2pm.
 - e. Publicity (Justine Walden)
 - i. Monthly email that we discussed at the last meeting continues to be worked on.
 - ii. We did the tax advice flyer and an Ask-a-Lawyer flyer.
 - iii. Quarterly graduate student newsletter is in the works
 - iv. Facebook file will be going out to you all, asking you to submit five items
 - v. Working on a way of making it easier to request flyers for events
 - vi. Group picture today! For real!
 - f. Advisory Committee on Investor Responsibility (Brian Dunican)
 - i. Open meeting Thursday, Jan 30, 3:45-4:45 in OML 202 (Sage/Prospect)

- ii. A current hot-button issue, especially among undergrads, is oil company divestment. 83% of undergrads agreed to a referendum that Yale should divest from oil companies, with 50% participation. The referendum was not binding on Yale.
 - iii. The investment committee put out a response letter that was not widely circulated, which said that they would agree to engage with those companies and then could possibly lead towards divestment. The committee is talking with experts within and without the University on how to structure metrics regarding carbon emissions.
- 8. Concerns from floor and announcements
 - a. Joori: first strategic plan meeting after the group photo; if you can't make it today, email me or Brittany.
 - b. Paul asks if anyone attended Teaching at Yale, and whether how to handle undergrads that come to TFs with concerns was addressed.
 - i. Lauren clarifies that TFs are told about *any* concern should go to the college deans.
 - c. Flyer for Ask-a-Lawyer (featuring an adorable Corgi) is distributed.
 - d. Next session, current president of GESO and New Haven alderman Aaron Greenberg will be our invited speaker (30 minutes).