

## GSA General Assembly Meeting

10/15/14

Meeting Start – 7:03 PM

- I. Approval of Minutes
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Department meeting report (Spanish and Portuguese) – Bryce Maxey
  - a. Structured meeting around qualtrics survey questions
  - b. Main points
    - i. Transit and Security
      1. Door-door service faster when raining
      2. Rattling of the wheelchair accessibility loud, miserable
      3. Red line doesn't always get to Wooster square
      4. Hard to know where the stops are
    - ii. Facilities and Healthcare
      1. Making an apt, get cut off
      2. Some thearpists seem not as well trained
      3. Sent away after 20-30 minutes
      4. Requested a change, please disregard, secretary informed therapist, brought up at meeting
      5. Therapist never remembered anything, never took notes
      6. First Fridays at Five too early
      7. Don't kick out right at seven

8. Ask-an-accountant – one on one session; better speaker; happy that it was made available

iii. Questions

1. Can students go elsewhere for therapy
2. Confusion about medical attention outside of Yale
3. Confusion about Law school shuttle

iv. Addressed in meeting

1. Law school shuttle for everyone
2. Ask-an-accountant – no need for pro bono work with accountants

v. Department Meeting question

1. Email Bill with money request

IV. Deep Dive – Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL)

- a. 1<sup>st</sup> deep dive on OCS; what was working; what wasn't; changes?
- b. 2 weeks from today – Jenny Frederick to talk about CTL at Yale  
[jennifer.frederick@yale.edu](mailto:jennifer.frederick@yale.edu)
- c. Consolidation
  - i. Combining 8 departments under CTL
  - ii. 3 Graduate Student Programs - The Graduate Writing Center, The Yale Teaching Center and the Center for Scientific Teaching.
  - iii. 5 undergraduate - Yale College Writing Center, the Center for Language Study, the center for Science & Quantitative Reasoning, Educational Technologies, and Yale Online
- d. Streamlined leadership

- i. Scott Strobel – Deputy Provost
  - ii. Jenny Frederick – executive director
- e. Combing program space
  - i. Within 12-18 months
  - ii. Perhaps in Sterling Memorial Library
- f. A lot of confusion about what's being kept?
- g. Clarifications
  - i. Teaching Fellow program – where you teach a class or lead a discussion or grade
  - ii. CTL – help you become a better teacher
- h. Discussion
  - i. What programs you feel were useful? Helped you become a better teacher?
    - ii. Teaching Certificate – Is that changing?
      - 1. Favorite of a lot of graduate students
      - 2. Nothing being dropped yet
    - iii. Dissertation Bootcamp
      - 1. Good feedback – has been reduced so far
    - iv. Laura Young – writing group;
      - 1. Student organized
    - v. Aaron – NSF workshops very good
      - 1. Not stopped or decreased yet
      - 2. Will put on list

- vi. Consuelo – Department has teaching workshops for first month and a half
  - 1. Getting some training on teaching a section
- vii. Ankit – Center for Scientific Teaching
  - 1. Teaching in biological sciences and physical sciences
  - 2. Great program
  - 3. Continue it on
- viii. Joori – A way to have a list of things they will keep?
  - 1. Senior fellows don't even know what will be kept
- ix. Brian D – has anyone been to anything they don't like?
  - 1. A list of projects they currently have might make this easier – Chris
  - 2. Colton – kind of our job to come up with said list; by the time they come up with one, it will be set in stone
  - 3. Rachel – aren't the old websites still live? Can't we look at that
- x. Joori – take a step back...what from each workshop was helpful?  
Specifically, aspects of each programs that were useful?
  - 1. Language teaching program (Amanda) – two similar programs
  - 2. Teaching for an academic positions (Colton) – good to get together with students, but lacking in higher level influence
- xi. Can't we just keep all of them? Can't we request that?
  - 1. Will – that would be great but they've already instituted cuts, will have to cut for the next several years

2. Joori – cut is across the entire university, what is the most important to us? What do you want to get out of these programs?

Learn how to become a great teacher (online or live)?

a. Angharad – what are they aimed at helping us to improve? Better teaching fellows? Or better actual professors? Differences in planning lecture courses vs seminars?

i. Amanda – would be extremely important to learn those things

ii. Ariana – video programs are perhaps cheaper and easier to use. Only need to run program live once.

iii. Robin – evaluations; student recommendation letters of your teaching; faculty watching you teaching; proof of ability to teach

1. Part of the certificate programs

b. Amanda/Kendall (What programs do we currently have for it?)

i. Teaching at Yale

ii. Fundamentals of teaching

iii. Small seminars

iv. Writing Seminar – your writing rather than you grading writing

- c. Rachel – communication/collaboration between the two (OCS & CTL)
  - d. Consuelo – interactions with undergrads? What works in past sections that they had? Tips from two leaders of workshops? Sharing their experience; sharing their ideas; had section what happened in section? Can't replace those interactions with video tapes
  - e. Katie – Many programs focus on the good aspects of teaching ignoring the bad. We need to learn to deal with the negatives of teaching. Plagiarism? Dealing with trouble students? Demystify the bad parts of teaching?
  - f. Joori – How many have gotten training? ½
    - i. From your professor? - no
    - ii. Teaching at Yale day? – yes
    - iii. Helpful? (not for dealing with these kind of problems)
    - iv. Language center does a good job; dealing with problem students; good student policies example for the CTL (Consuelo)
      - 1. When does it occur?
        - a. Week before classes start
3. Colton – What are the undergrad programs getting lumped into it?

- a. Yale College Writing Center
  - b. Science and Quantitative Reasoning
  - c. Educational Technologies
  - d. Center for Language Study
  - e. Pushing for online teaching at Yale
4. How important is learning how to teach online to you? (very few find it important)
5. Brian – Help for those incorporating technology
6. Fabian – Teaching online live or posted? The latter
7. Rachel – do we know what is happening to the fellows associated with this?
- a. Writing fellows – lost a few
  - b. Teaching fellows – not any this year
  - c. Not as drastic changes as the career fellows
8. Joori – Do you feel that you are getting the proper training to teach at Yale? Yes most everyone who has taught
- a. Structural evaluation of teaching would be good
  - b. Can do that with the certificate program
- xii. How will graduate student needs be addressed? Worried about a more centralized system not meeting grad students need? Can we prevent that?
1. Look at it from an all-inclusive and university wide
  2. Not going to include professional students (Not true - Colton)

3. Theo – would be best to know what they would entail?
4. Consuelo – what is the undergrad side of the teaching center?
  - a. They are more the learning part of the center
5. Bryan – how many spots do we lose to the professional students?

Get first dibs on the classes to teach?

- a. That somewhat falls under the purview of the teaching fellow reform...

xiii. Colton – do any of you know of programs at your undergraduate institution or at friends' universities that are better? Big ideas!?

1. Wendy – aren't the professors supposed to watch the TAs teach for one session?
  - a. Yes, they are Brian D.
  - b. Especially if they are supposed to have some sort of standardization
  - c. Teaching evaluations
2. Aaron – request from teaching center to be reviewed; record you, grade you, talk about improvements and good things
  - a. Online form on website
  - b. Email teaching center to find someone to review you
3. Their website needs improvement; many things unclear
4. Katie – not a way to teach your entire own course? Lots of other institutions have this

- a. You sort of can, but it's really complicated. You must find a teacher willing to work with you.
  - b. Colton – have the teaching center pressure Yale to allow more chances to build a course.
5. Will have a chance to talk to Jenny in two weeks
  6. Any way to pass a motion to applaud the CTL from the GSA?
    - a. Show how we find it useful
    - b. Do something to support the teaching center
    - c. Draft one for the next meeting
  7. Joori – Jenny will be the person to ask about anything you are confused on; come up with questions

V. Conference Travel Fellowship – Brittany

- a. Deadline – November 1st
- b. Volunteers – two readers from each department; not a big time commitment
  - i. Humanities
    1. Jakub – Renaissance Studies
    2. Sebastian – Medieval Studies
  - ii. Social Scientists
    1. Alicia – Political Science
    2. Christopher – Political Science
  - iii. Science
    1. Nicolas – Microbiology
    2. Deb – Experimental Pathology

3. (Wendy for next time)

c. Question

i. Which division reads Forestry?

1. No division between applications

VI. Announcements

a. New Rep party

i. Will not charge cover if you mention the GSA

ii. Drink tickets

1. Call or Well

2. Give one of each to everyone

3. Please return any unused tickets to Bill or Colton

b. Carbon Charge Taskforce met and wants to have more involved and townhallish meeting with Grad Students

VII. Adjournment

Meeting ends – 7:57 PM