GSA General Assembly Meeting
12/03/14

Meeting Start – 7:09 PM

I. Approval of Minutes
II. Approval of Agenda
III. Resolution F14-002 – GSA support of Yale Center for Teaching and Learning
   a. Discussion
      i. After discussion two weeks ago, we revamped document.
      ii. Take a minute to read the changes.
      iii. Summary
           1. Support the CTL.
           2. Because of the missions of Yale College and GSAS.
           3. Protect it from budget cuts.
   iv. Questions
       1. Has the budget been set? How do we know if it’s been set?
          a. No, it hasn’t.
          b. It will refer to the budget of the upcoming year.
       2. What power does the GSA have over budget? What is the purpose of the resolutions?
          a. None.
          b. It allows us to say that the entire graduate school supports the CTL.
          c. Way to let them know we find this important.
          d. Should be no more cuts in this area.
       3. Is there a reason for the passive voice in the resolution?
          a. No.
       4. Rachel – does this resolution imply that we see the CTL budget as a priority to other departments?
          a. Yes, can bring in discussion.
       5. So nothing can be done with the current budget cuts?
          a. Yes.
v. Discussion

1. Emilio – what programs are we not supporting?
   a. It’s not that we aren’t supporting them. This is active support of the CTL.

2. Amendment – “Therefore be it resolved that the GSA objects to future cuts to the CTL budget.”

3. Angharad – the wording is bothering me.

4. Amanda Lerner – doesn’t this implies that we must act after the budget is decreased.
   a. No. It just states our opinion on record.

5. Angharad – add “any” to last line.

6. Final version “Therefore be it resolved that the GSA objects to any future cuts to the CTL budget.”

b. Voting by acclamation
   i. Ayes have it.

IV. Elections

a. Mental Health Advisory Committee
   i. Description (Angharad)
      1. Graduate and professional schools represented.
      2. Meets twice a semester.
      3. Mental health and counseling, Yale Health.
      4. Advocate for the students.
   ii. Nominations
      1. Ryan Boyko – declined.
      2. Alicia Steinmetz – accepted.
      3. Amanda Leiss – accepted.
   iii. Election
      1. Alicia – won by hand vote.

b. GSAS Executive Committee
   i. Description
      1. December 17th 3-4PM.
2. Dean Cooley sets the agenda.
   
   ii. Nominations
      
      1. Ryan Hall – accepted
   
   iii. Election
      
      1. Elected by acclamation.

V. Deep Dive and Report – Publicity (Nicholas Vincent)
   
   a. (Shorten time to ten minutes a piece)
   
   b. Main Points to Discuss
      
      i. Website
      
      ii. Newsletter
      
      iii. Posters
      
      iv. Overhauling the compass
   
   c. Website Changes
      
      i. Top bar navigation.
      
      ii. Cleaned up the information.
      
      iii. One page from several.
      
      iv. Grouped events.
      
      v. Homepage cleaned up as well.
      
      vi. Make more Yale centered.
      
      vii. Will take new picture.
      
      viii. Decided to keep on Drupal 6 not Drupal 7.
      
      ix. Won’t add that much.
   
   x. Questions
      
      1. Joori – great if we can send you any event information; so that every platform has similar information.
      
      2. Joey – any upcoming events area?
      
      3. Colton – scroll of upcoming events?
      
      4. Kellie – if you send information to one person who’s supposed to upload content, doesn’t happen as quickly.
      
      5. Bill – all committee chairs have access to edit the page; really easy to add.
6. Daisy – Consuelo is super helpful.

7. Facebook – not very active; will update flyers and that will help.
   
   a. Is it an important platform? More important than a website.

xi. Ankit – who has access to the facebook page? Is it just one person?
   
   1. Give access to several people.
   
   2. Limit on how many admins.

d. Newsletter
   
   i. Changing size of text.
   
   ii. Blocking off the stories.
   
   iii. Advertising the upcoming meetings.
   
   iv. Phone visibility?

v. Emilio – dropbox, why isn’t it posted on the website?
   
   1. We should have a newsletter section on the website.

vi. Ankit
   
   1. Each story should be short; 2-3 sentences.
   
   2. Now they are paragraphs long.
   

VI. Deep Dive and Report – Facilities and Healthcare (Wendy Xiao)

a. Tax advice – Joey
   
   i. Tax FAQs.
   
   ii. 1st Tuesday in February?
   
   iii. Only US citizens.
   
   iv. Citizens or Residents?
      
      1. Lived here less than or more than 3 years
      
      2. Brian will make handout to address that.

b. Housing – Wendy/Peter
   
   i. Only one meeting this semester.
   
   ii. Completely revamped the landlord rating websites.
1. [http://offcampushousing.yale.edu/SearchByReview.aspx](http://offcampushousing.yale.edu/SearchByReview.aspx)

2. Much more usable.

3. If you type in the address, it will give you aggregated listings.

4. Need students to rate landlords.

   iii. Based on the number of complaints, GSAS has hired case worker to deal with off-campus housing concerns.

      1. First talk to landlord about issues before involving the caseworker.

      2. Form on the Website

         ([http://offcampusliving.yale.edu/resources/issues-your-landlord/assistance-request-form](http://offcampusliving.yale.edu/resources/issues-your-landlord/assistance-request-form))

   iv. Promote good landlords.

   v. Going to be subcommittee within housing created to deal with building a gym.

  c. Pastoral Care – Wendy (stand in for Janna)

     i. Pastoral care by appt or walkins.

     ii. If you just want someone to talk to.

     iii. Currently not used often.

     iv. No information about how to get it online.

     v. Arranged for updates to website to make it more clear how to access it.

  d. Mental health – Angharad

     i. Dr. Genecin (Yale Health Director) and Dr. Siggens (Mental Health Director)

     ii. Greater accuracy and data acquisition.

     iii. Better planning.

     iv. Better communication.

     v. Input into the wellness ambassadors.

     vi. GPSS mental health awareness poster campaign.

     vii. Dispelling myths, resources.
viii. Questions

1. Awareness that there is a problem with insufficient counselors?
   a. Budget concerns.
   b. Already have enough clinicians.
   c. More than other universities of some class.

e. Yale Health - Alex DiBranco
   i. GPSS representatives
   ii. Survey of health needs.
   iii. Only basic questions asked now.
   iv. Not super sympathetic to students.
   v. Yale health insurance not the best fit for everyone, but you can get your own.
   vi. Getting peoples data on what their concerns are.
   vii. Student networks and coverage.
   viii. Travel.

f. Childcare – Alicia
   i. Doing a lot a research on the childcare program in New Haven.
   ii. $1400 a month per child.
   iii. Yale offers nothing.
   iv. Collecting information about problems in graduate student parents.
   v. Advocacy network among parents.
   vi. Brunch in the spring to improve grad student parents’ community.
      1. McDougal Family fellows are organizing with Lisa Brandeis.
      2. Saturday 10AM.
      3. Inform parents in the department.

g. Gym – Wendy

h. Bike culture – Brian
   i. Bike lanes.
   ii. Bike safety.
iii. No places to go to learn how to fix bikes.
iv. Proposing the idea of a bike coop where a mechanic can teach people how to fix bikes.
v. Will talk about it with the bike people in Transit and Security.

i. Comments
   i. Consuelo – great thing to have the case worker.
   ii. Ryan – will the coop drive local businesses out of businesses?
   iii. Could we have a joint effort?
       1. Joey – have a bike coop.
       2. All the tools.
       3. Not a competing enterprise.
       4. Help you learn how to fix this.
       5. Teaching people how to maintain their bike.
       6. Increase business opportunities.
   iv. Ankit – we also have people on our committee that are working on this issue.
   v. Joori – work with publicity to advertise

VII. Concerns from the Floor and Announcements
a. No general assembly meeting December 17th
b. Publicity Committee – still looking for people to join, lots to do; Rachel will be the person to contact for newsletter in the New Year.
c. GSA picture after meeting.
d. Department meetings – to everyone that’s had a meeting, we will be scheduling the reports in the New Year; Hard deadline – February 13th; department meetings.

Meeting Adjourned 8:12PM