

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.
 - 3. Keep it short.
- 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>
 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>
- 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. Siggins (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