

GSA General Assembly Meeting

2/11/15

Meeting Start – 7:06 PM

- I. Approval of Minutes
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Elections
 - a. Graduate Mentor Award Committee
 - i. Need one representative.
 - ii. Go through Nominees, read letters, select winner.
 - iii. Committee composed of graduate students and faculty.
 - iv. April 4th at 3:00 PM
 - v. Questions
 - 1. Is the nominee precluded from nominating?
 - a. We believe so.
 - vi. Nominations
 - 1. Chris Price – Political Science
 - vii. Voting
 - 1. Approved by acclamation.
- IV. Resolutions
 - a. **S15-002: Support for the Council on Latin American & Iberian Studies**
 - i. Part of McMillan Center.
 - ii. Does many of the travel grants for student research travel to Latin America, the Caribbean and Iberia.
 - iii. Cut funding for program – fired some staff.
 - iv. Want to replace the program manager with just a part time clerical worker.
 - v. Resolution is in support of the program manager position and the council as a whole.
 - vi. Worried that this will hurt the university as a whole, McMillan center, people who study related topics.
 - vii. Anyone can use it.
 - viii. Questions
 - 1. What was Title 6 funding? Why was it cut?
 - a. Government grant.
 - b. Wasn't renewed at a lot of universities.
 - 2. Is the place only 4 years old
 - a. No, the grant was a 4-year grant.
 - 3. Basically 1 person who is doing all the work? What are the other people doing?
 - a. Basically a program manager and a receptionist currently.
 - b. Leaving just a receptionist after cutting the program manager.
 - ix. Comments
 - 1. Affiliated with the MacMillan Center/ and these programs need all the support they can get.
 - 2. Latin American studies major – done just through CLAIS.
 - x. Vote (by clicker)

1. Passed with 88% of vote.

b. S15-003: Equitability in the 6th-Year Funding Policy

i. Six year of Yale support.

ii. Questions

1. Emilio – Is it possible that the money isn't there? There is no extra money for this.

a. Yes, it seems as though that may be the case.

2. Amanda – Is it appropriate to group the Mellon Fellowship with External Fellowship?

a. Mellon fellowship replaces one of the years in our program.

b. Promised things like extra teaching opportunities, seems like a complicated situation.

c. Dealing with this on multiple fronts.

d. Logic is to show the breadth of students affected.

3. Emilio – When you take these external fellowships is this time taken away from your dissertation?

a. Depends on the circumstances of your project and the fellowship you receive.

b. Would the archival work be a part of the research for your dissertation?

i. Yes, it can be, but not always.

4. It's more than the Mellon Concentration, it's that you are forced to choose between the external fellowship and the teaching year.

5. Christopher – under the old 5-year plan, would you add on an extra year?

a. Yes, they would postpone funding for a year, and get extra years after the 5th year.

6. Consuelo – why not take fellowship in the 7th year?

a. Cannot, most fellowships do not allow this.

b. 6th year funding does not allow this.

7. Ryan – Are you allowed to take a leave of absence?

a. No, not if you are working to your dissertation.

iii. Discussion

1. Joe – Whether a resolution would be strengthened by extending it to students in science? You receive an outside fellowship – increase pay, extra year of funding. Broader interest, unified approach if it was addressing all students?

a. Designed to address the issues in SS and H.

b. Would be open to changing.

c. Stronger outcome of the resolution – putting every one on an even playing field.

d. Will – might be worth it to make another resolution.

e. Extend this same principle to the sciences?

2. Colton – Those of you that read this, one could make the argument that nobody loses anything, whining. Makes you less likely to apply for outside funding? Could hold off on Resolution for 1 year

to collect data? Because this program discriminates against those with external fellowships. Holding off for one year. Seeing what the data suggests. As this is not a strong argument. “I don’t like that someone got something I didn’t.”

- a. Could propose that we collect data on the topic.
 - b. 1 year is not enough of sample collection.
 - c. The argument has been made and isn’t well received.
3. Ryan – one additional year of funding for those who get fellowship?
 - a. I think that this is suggesting that you get that one additional year of teaching at some point.
 4. Amanda – I don’t think that the statistics won’t tell you anything. It’s more about jobs that you want. The conversation
 5. Cindy – how is it forcing you to choose?
 - a. Need to choose early for some fellowships.
 - b. Much easier to get a six year funding than to get the fellowships.
 - c. Makes sixth year funding easier?
 - d. Forces the dilemma, fellowship takes extra work.
 6. Emilio – the way I see it, why is the dilemma here now and not from before?
 7. How many years do you get to teaching?
 - a. Third and fourth year.
 8. We need to vote if we want to extend the meeting or table the discussion?
 - a. Objections to tabling it or not?
 - i. No objections.
 - ii. Voted to table by show of hands.
 - b. Okay, happy to answer questions via email.
Mark.rodgers@yale.edu, jakub.koguciuk@yale.edu, & William.gray@yale.edu
- c. S15-004: Delaying the 7th Year Funding Decrease**
- i. Delaying the funding cut to the stipend.
 - ii. Unfair to penalize those who had no time to prepare.
 - iii. Grandfather in those who won’t have access to the 6th year funding.
 - iv. Questions
 1. Clarification – which years are you referring to?
 - a. Current 6th years.
 - b. Grandfathering in.
 - c. As of now, getting 20% pay cut next year.
 2. Rachel – is there any room for continuing to waive the continuing education fee?
 - a. Nothing in there now.
 3. Why isn’t the wording clearer?
 4. How many years are we talking?
 - v. Discussion

1. Move to table – Rachel
 - a. Seconded.
 - b. By show of hands – tabled till next meeting.
 2. Please if you feel strongly – talk to resolution makers before the meeting.
- V. Department Meeting Reports
- a. Music – Mark Rodgers
 - i. 15 people attended.
 - ii. Positive things to say about department-related matters.
 - iii. New department level initiatives.
 - iv. APD
 1. Running department organized workshops for last year.
 - a. Grant writing, etc.
 - b. Implement those in other departments?
 2. More non-academics career advice for humanities.
 3. High conc. of PTAIs are music training.
 4. TF training in general could be improved.
 - a. Include lessons like syllabus design.
 5. More training in time management.
 - v. TS
 1. Majority either walk or take the shuttle.
 2. Like the crosswalk signs that were painted in downtown.
 3. Cyclist want better clearing of the roads.
 - vi. Mental Healthcare
 1. Better access to psychiatrists.
 2. They often don't call back for weeks.
 3. No hold line at Mental Health, so will go automatically to voicemail.
 4. Clinicians have no idea about what we are doing in grad school.
 5. Increase types of therapists available.
 6. Disability office should be made aware of the fact that mental health is a disability.
 7. More transparency about the system – sometimes doing things that they are not allowed to.
 8. Like the idea of peer counseling.
 - vii. Compiling a database of successful CTF applications.
 - viii. Pianos need to be tuned around campus.
- VI. Slavic Languages and Literatures – Amanda Lerner
- a. Mental Health and Yale Health
 - i. Many problems with mental health.
 1. 12 session limit.
 2. Too few psychologists.
 3. Don't call you back.
 4. Rumor that law students get preference.
 5. Yale hospital program.
 - ii. Prescriptions are hard to refill.

- iii. No one received an insurance card when they get here.
 - iv. They aren't aware that you should carry your insurance card.
 - v. Hard to get referrals.
 - b. TS
 - i. No one knows where the orange goes at night.
 - ii. Like law school shuttles.
 - iii. Don't like grocery shuttles.
 - iv. Lighting on the sidewalk towards downtown after the Peabody is dim.
 - c. General/Other
 - i. CTF – not transparent.
 - ii. Everyone hates qualtrics.
 - iii. OCS – not useful for humanities.
 - iv. Grant databases not up-to-date.
 - v. Like the recreational ice skating.
 - d. Comments
 - i. Joey – You can get an insurance card from Yale Health. You just have to send in for it.
 - ii. Consuelo – should we be carrying an insurance card?
 - 1. Yes.
- VII. Forestry and Environmental Studies – Bryan Yoon, Eleanor Stokes, and Meghna Krishnadas
- a. TS
 - i. Should run in both directions for all shuttles.
 - ii. Shuttle kiosk at union station.
 - iii. Red line crowded in the morning.
 - b. Healthcare
 - i. Want a list of dentists.
 - ii. Clarification of how insurance works overseas.
 - iii. Too long to see specialist.
 - iv. Walk in for mental health.
 - c. Childcare
 - i. No parents could come to the meeting.
 - ii. Need more support from the University.
 - iii. Will have professional babysitter at next meeting.
 - d. Award money spent overseas is tax-exempt.
 - i. Needs to be a comprehensive website explaining this.
 - e. Clarification on 6th year funding.
 - i. No one is funded by PI.
 - f. More transparency about GSA CTF.
 - g. More outreach for New Haven.
 - h. Grad students are long term local Residents.
- VIII. MDPHD – Wendy Xiao.
- a. Going to Yale health plan is a hassle
 - i. All students are at the Med school.
 - ii. Would be nice to get cross-coverage with the hospital.
 - b. During 3rd year in med school, impossible to go to doctors due to time constraints.

- c. Safety
 - i. Frontage road is very busy.
 - ii. Students have died at the intersection near York.
 - iii. Cameras are not enforcing running red lights.
 - iv. Cars are going really fast.
 - d. Like to have insurance session for what the insurance coverage.
 - e. Didn't hear about this at all – tax advice.
 - f. Med school gym is really crowded – no machines left to use.
 - g. Two covered bike racks at med school.
 - h. Comments
 - i. Can send a picture of the bike racks full and they will add more bike racks.
- IX. Security Dialogue
- a. Wednesday at lunch with Yale Security & Transportation officials as well as New Haven PD.
 - b. Lots of issues brought up during the department meeting reports.
 - i. Ex. Security guards at 3 PM but not at 6 PM.
 - c. Lunch provided.
 - d. Putting to together the agenda now and would like to see if there are other concerns.
 - e. Additional Concerns
 - i. Colton –traffic by the med school, traffic enforcement is needed.
 - 1. Prospect – driving or walking is also very dangerous at the intersections.
 - ii. Roads are too narrow with the snow shoveling – parking bans for one side of the street?
 - iii. Orange line – move the evening bus back to Orange St. or use smaller buses?
 - iv. Daylight savings time – take into account with security and transit.
 - v. Prash – trackers on door-to-door shuttles?
 - vi. Put lights in poorly light areas.
 - vii. Used to be a policy that door-to-door were only from or to Yale addresses.
 - viii. Amanda – after Peabody on Whitney Ave.
- X. CTF Deep dive – Brittany Angarola
- a. Purpose
 - i. Going over questions that get asked most often.
 - ii. Make the process more transparent and clearer.
 - iii. Some of the goals of CTF are confused.
 - 1. Split in the Rubric and evaluating – need or merit should be evaluated?
 - 2. A lot of value in emphasizing need over merit.
 - 3. But a lot of value in awarding those with cool research.
 - 4. Give max awards or give as many as possible?
 - 5. Is \$750 a good max?
 - 6. Winning negatively counts against you if you get even a small award?

7. For a lot of the winners – letters of recommendation play a huge role.
 - iv. What is most important for receiving funding should be shown on the website.
- b. Discussion
- i. Annelies (Music) – Maybe there should be more emphasis on need/merit on the Website.
 1. Need plays a huge role.
 2. Doesn't have to be that way.
 - ii. Perhaps we could decide 20% need, 80% merit, decide which you are? Create a max amount for each person?
 - iii. Amanda (Slavic Languages and Lits) – we favor talks that are directly related to dissertation. If we want to be relevant to dissertation, make that a main point of the essay question.
 1. Are talks directly related to the thesis more important?
 2. Whatever we decide, use the essay question that way.
 - iv. Chris (Political Science) – increasing the amounts that are given, decreasing the number still not helping.
 - v. Consuelo (Political Science) – biggest amount possible; max for the life of the student; number of conferences that a person has been to in the year; remove recommendation letters; not necessary.
 1. Brittany – hard to make good decision based on essays alone as most everyone has the skills to write in grad school.
 - vi. Mate – reiterating PS point.
 - vii. Brian (Forestry) – you really have to compete for this.
 1. Would like to see the names that won.
 2. Make the people who won, volunteer to review?
 - viii. Ryan – turn the recommendation into a link for professor; survey results; or remove it.
 1. Wonder if there might be a better max amount to get a few more people awards?
 - ix. Needs vs merit – fine with either way, how you define this – a scholarship or a financial aid?
 1. Brittany doesn't feel like she can make a decision about that alone; wants the input of the GSA general assembly.
 - x. Those of you who have read.
 1. Need vs merit?
 - a. Use need as a rubric.
 - b. Does the department have money?
 - c. Do you need this money to go?
 - d. Merit hard to judge.
 - i. Solely off of recommendation.
 - ii. No idea about many topics of research so difficult to know.
 - e. Need as a basis – see if it could be backed up with merit?
 - f. Hard to balance both.

- 2. Letters?
 - a. Crucial for establishing importance of conference.
 - b. Crucial for determining merit of recipient.
- 3. Max amount?
 - a. 25 people were funded last session. Often 25-35 people.
 - b. How many could receive max award - 20 per session.
 - c. Could we set a minimum amount given?
 - d. Some people just need \$200.
 - e. Ask what would be a minimum that people would accept for those that ask more?
 - f. Might be hard to make it clear.
- xi. Would you be interested in an Ad-hoc committee to revise the CTF rules?
 - 1. Only meets a few times.
 - 2. You could propose whatever you want.
 - 3. Yes, the general assembly is interested.
 - 4. Brittany will form a resolution for next meeting.
- c. Brittany will accept emails (Brittany.angarola@yale.edu).
- d. Points of Interest.
 - i. If you submit, doesn't seem to impact later chance of receiving.
 - ii. Brian – people found it arbitrary – total ask for CTF last year \$300,000 – total money available \$60,000.
 - iii. Numbers from previous years are available; allows for viewing statistics on departments.

XI. Announcements

- a. Publicity Poll
 - i. Should the GSA get a Twitter account?
 - 1. No interest from the general assembly.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM