

GSA General Assembly Meeting Minutes

3/25/15

Start 7:05PM

- I. Invited speaker: Professor Amy Hungerford.
 - a. Professor of English and American Studies; Master of Morse College; Divisional Director of Humanities.
 - b. Invited due to her role as Head of the HGS Humanities Exploratory Committee.
 - c. Outline of Amy Hungerford discussion.
 - i. Amy will give a brief introduction to the goals of the HGS Humanities Exploratory Committee.
 - ii. Joori will ask broad questions to start the discussion.
 - iii. Discussion
 - d. Introduction
 - i. Delighted to be here.
 - ii. Want to find good ideas about space usage and how to help increase intellectual productivity.
 - iii. Foster intellectual life at Yale.
 - iv. Put Yale at the forefront of the development and growth in Humanities.
 - v. What role the academic study of the humanities has in the future?
 - vi. Interesting time for humanities in the public.
 1. Fellowships.
 2. Cultural environment.
 - vii. Graduate Education.
 1. Need to be connected to the outside world.
 - viii. The opportunity to create departmental space and life as well as interdepartmental space.
 - ix. The kinds of interactions that you need to have can happen more easily.
 - x. Where we can acknowledge your growth as teachers?
 - xi. Interdisciplinary prospects.
 1. Locating departments that have lots in common but are far apart.
 2. Joint seminars.

3. Giving that interaction a space to live.
- xii. \$25 million gift for HGS tower to be the Swenson tower.
- xiii. Composition of the Committee.
 1. 15 people.
 2. Lloyd Suttle – Deputy Provost from the Office of the Provost.
 3. George Zdru – Planning Director.
 4. Not departmental representation, but a wide variety of people/talents.
 - a. Think, listen, plan.
- xiv. Want to have meetings like this with as many groups as possible.
- xv. Open to any individual contact – please spread that around.
- xvi. Met with History
 1. Very imaginative.
 - a. Building space here for teaching with objects – an exhibit.
 - b. Baby parking room – hire your own babysitter; good for a meeting.
 - c. Social life of the department.
 2. Know they will stay in HGS, so the conversation was more focused on how to design the space.
- xvii. Questions
 1. Joori – How to utilize the space to be most productive for the humanities? What is your definition of a department?
 - a. 23% of the faculty have joint appointments – fully joint positions.
 - b. Massively interdisciplinary, though most joint appointments gravitate towards one.
 - c. Every department wants a space that it controls.
 - i. Meetings.
 - ii. Seminars.
 - iii. Committee meetings.
 - d. Some departments can share easily.

- e. What resources should be shared? What should belong to the departments? Examples of space.
 - i. IT support – great to have onsite.
 - ii. Administrative staff space.
 - iii. Social space.
 - iv. Student space – teaching, meetings.
 - f. Hope we can purposefully design these spaces so that they can be lived with/in comfortably
2. Shared vs Not shared; you itemized these, but can you put things in one or the other; What should each department have? – Joori
- a. Coffee shop – shared.
 - b. Food space – shared.
 - c. IT support – shared.
 - d. Exhibit space – shared.
 - e. Could have more fluid offices – for interdisciplinary groups; several years “lease.”
 - f. Brooklyn Writers space as an example.
 - i. Public space.
 - ii. Quiet.
 - iii. Small fee for use.
 - g. Sir Thomas More
 - i. Writing Bootcamp.
 - ii. Provide breakfast and lunch.
 - iii. Can work all day.
 - h. Writing lab?
 - i. Not-shared
 - i. Meeting space.
 - ii. Place where undergraduates can meet with an advisor.
 - iii. Administrative.

3. Is anyone in a department in which graduate student space is really good?
 - a. Consuelo (Political Science)
 - i. Good setup.
 - ii. Every floor has a carrel space.
 - iii. Can enter with IDs 24/7.
 - iv. About 12-15 desks.
 - v. Storage and desks.
 - vi. Place for coats?
 1. By the chairs.
 - vii. Couches; fridge.
 - b. Emilio (Neurobiology) – good to have the shared space that you can get work done in; have access to it 24 hours a day. Sciences have that in their lab space.
 - i. Have multiple levels of people in one space?
 1. Post-docs.
 2. Upper graduate students.
 3. PIs.
 - ii. Anyone in humanities in a multigenerational group?
 1. No.
 2. We would like to encourage this.
 - c. Rachel Love (Classics)
 - i. [Whitney Working Groups](#) are structured like that.
 - ii. Interdisciplinary.
 - iii. Not faculty members that you are directly answerable to.
 1. There is a question is to whether the WRG will be here.
 2. It would be great to have a space dedicated to working groups.

- d. Ankit (Physics)
 - i. Each floor has administrative offices, faculty offices, student offices.
 - ii. In the center is a room that is shared.
 - 1. For groups.
 - 2. Social events.
 - 3. Birthdays.
 - 4. Open space with no doors.
 - iii. Undergraduate Engineering Building at Cornell.
 - 1. Huge open atrium in the front of the building.
 - 2. Little study nooks.
 - 3. Tables and chairs.
 - 4. Like to be able to work somewhere that is somewhat quiet.
- e. Reading Room – McDougal Center, is it Quiet or Loud?
 - i. Some of both?
 - ii. People avoid because of that possibility sometimes.
 - iii. Economics uses it for TFing, holds office hours.
- f. Nazanin
 - i. Student rooms need to be well located.
 - ii. Near printers, registrars, administration.
- g. HGS Resident.
 - i. It's disappointing to hear that what we are losing is not going to be talked about.
 - ii. Shouldn't we talk about the interdisciplinary space for all of the graduate school? All of the different disciplines.
 - iii. Get more out of the interaction with people outside of the discipline.

- iv. Where do you meet people that are not you once HGS is renovated?
 - 1. GPSCY?
- h. How did you come to your definition of interdisciplinary? Is that actually fostering interdisciplinary?
 - i. Could also ask what is a discipline?
 - ii. Methodological differences increases as you get out of humanities.
 - iii. What is fostered now among departments?
 - 1. Made a color coded map where the humanities departments are.
 - 2. Most are alone, not with any other departments.
 - iv. Practical problem of buildings specific to each discipline. Humanities shouldn't go into a science building.
 - 1. How can we build the links between the departments when it's not practical.
- i. Is this a done deal? I think there are important things in HGS that need to be addressed such as where Graduate Student Life will go. Brian D.
 - i. Her committee has no control over where these other areas will go.
 - ii. The gift was inspired by the idea of HGS as a home for humanities.
 - iii. One possibility is to give the space to only those that want it.
 - iv. She also is uncertain as to whether this will happen.
 - v. She cannot answer those questions.

4. Questions

- a. Fabian – Is your committee open to new members – faculty? What is the plan for the McDougal Center? The entire department uses it for the office hours. Not guaranteeing office space after 5th year.
 - i. Her committee has no jurisdiction over McDougal.
 - ii. The McDougal Common Room – no one will break that up.
 - iii. Don't know about the McDougal indenture is.
 - iv. Dining Hall will close – bleeding money.
- b. Rachel – Very involved with interdisciplinary groups. Space is at the bottom of our concerns. Funding and the culture of the humanities are the most important! This may inspire petty infighting.
 - i. Zack – seems silly to talk as though just placing people together will inspire interdisciplinary efforts.
 - ii. Agreed – the resources need to be placed appropriately.
 - iii. Need to think away from the traditional model.
 - iv. Colocation that has joint workspaces as well as social spaces will help.
 - v. The culture is already changing – part of a national movement.
 - vi. This will be to the detriment of the already operating as they have no funding.
 - vii. It seems backwards, but HGS needed to be renovated.
 - viii. Sounds like a solution in search of a problem.
 - ix. Gun to the head – not a fair characterization of the process.
 - 1. No one has forced anyone to do anything.

2. Need to reserve judgement till a decision has been made.
- x. Not promising to go, but what if we did. Explore the ideas that come from that.
- c. Lots of shared space; network social science. Whenever I'm in an alcove or in the library. Social Spaces need to be shared.
- d. Would any departments be forced? What would happen to the spaces that they currently use?
 - i. No.
 - ii. Coalition of the willing.
 - iii. Not sure what will happen to the spaces they use.
 - iv. Mark – deciding not to opt in, departments will be punished?
 1. Have concerns about that as well.
 2. $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ of the department is devoted to the space they currently used.
 3. Younger faculty may be the only ones to move.
 4. Survey individual faculty, who is dying to leave.
 5. Opt into the building individually.
 6. Nobody thinks that we will write off the departments that don't move.
- e. Cell Biology – Take a look at West Campus.
 - i. Very much divided the department.
 - ii. That's an argument for bringing them under one roof.
 - iii. How do you know which departments should be put together?
- f. We don't know a lot of the information.

- g. Top down – Leaders asked “what can we do to help the university intellectually?”
 - i. This seems like an opportunity.
 - ii. Top knows much information – but it’s not being spread to the rest of us.
- h. When does your committee expect to have a report?
 - i. Invite departments to start possibly planning if they are interested.
 - ii. If we have a number of departments, we should have more clarity by mid-fall.
- i. Bryan Yoon – is there any other committee along the same lines as the HGS Exploratory committee.
 - i. No, there is no committee to address those concerns.
- j. HGS is a part of our identity as graduate students. We understand that this is not your job.

II. Approval of Minutes 3/4/15

III. Approval of Minutes 3/25/15

IV. Approval of Agenda

V. Department Meeting Reports

a. Economics – Fabian Schrey.

- i. Generally happy.
- ii. Within the department concerns.
 - 1. Space – no place to hold office hours.
 - 2. Coffee shop should be open later.
 - 3. Library hours.
 - 4. Study space.
- iii. Interactive meetings on Science Hill.
 - 1. Interdepartmental courses.
- iv. Insurance abroad – already a committee addressing this.
- v. Ask-a-lawyer and ask-an-accountant aren’t necessary for them.

- vi. Like the HGS dining hall.
- b. Nursing – Ariana Chao.
 - i. Pretty happy.
 - ii. Wanted more online video services from Office of Career Strategy and Center for Teaching and Learning.
 - iii. Shuttle services – issues with the red line and orange line.
 - iv. More transparency from TF assignments.
 - v. 6 year funding an issue.
 - 1. But we got a grant that will allow people to finish their program.
 - 2. Will probably not be an issue now.
- c. Computational Biology and Bioinformatics – Mate Nagy.
 - i. Pretty happy.
 - ii. Lot of people going into industry.
 - 1. Current TF system doesn't help.
 - iii. Would like to have shuttle service to Westville.
 - iv. Wall and College – pedestrian stop sign would be great.
 - v. Access to West Campus gym.
 - vi. Course evaluation throughout the semester instead of just at the end.
 - vii. BBS holds our ethics class.
 - 1. No training for data ethics.
 - 2. Not in lab space, so most situations described not relevant.
 - viii. No good data backup in case of a crash.
 - 1. Yale does provide [GIT](#).
 - 2. School's IT departments will provide for [faculty](#).
 - ix. Don't see the use of Common Grounds.
 - x. Course Feedback
 - 1. Anonymous feedback tool on V2.

VI. Transit and Security Deep Dive – Tabled

VII. Adjournment

Meeting End – 8:25 PM