**GSA General Assembly Meeting Agenda**

**Wednesday, September 27, 2017**

**6:30PM, Watson Center A74**

Meeting started at 6:42PM

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes are approved.

1. Approval of Agenda

Agenda is approved.

1. New Rep Introduction

The representatives introduced themselves.

Wendy Xiao: We have a lot of exciting opportunities this year! For people interested in non-academic careers and professional development, we are working on many projects in this area through the APD committee. We also have many ongoing projects in FHC, PR, and T&S. The childcare and family support program, announced today, was primarily negotiated by the GSA – we have biweekly meetings with the Dean, and you can have a lot of voice! Richard Crouse: can you explain the new policy (since spouses get health care already for families?). Wendy Xiao: that is correct. When the program first started about ten years ago, there was a decision to give spouses healthcare because there were a lot of international students, whose spouses could not work. With the new policy, 40% of students, whose spouses do not need healthcare (e.g., because they are already covered), can now receive a stipend amounting to over 10% of their stipend for the first child. Responding to comment by Sarah Babinski: the reason that means testing was ruled out was because it would cost 60K to hire a staff member to do that (this was also not GSA’s decision), and it was decided that this money would just be used to actually supporting graduate students. There is definitely still work in this area, but this is a great step forward.

The committee chairs introduced some of their projects. Transit and Security (Fabian Schrey): subsidizing CT transit so that students can go to Trader Joe’s, ideas about vending machines – please contact me if interested! Facilities and Healthcare (Susan Pratt): we are working on the dental plan this year. We are also running a mental health focus group, and we need social scientists to volunteer! Some of the other projects include personal study spaces and housing. Wendy Xiao: Susan has spent a huge amount of time compiling the dental plan report. There is a lot of momentum in this project! Susan Pratt: I have heard a lot of people not being happy with the dental plan. You can do something about it on this assembly if you are unhappy about something! Stephen Gaughran: we at APD are responsible for examining library hours, advising and faculty standards, including student-advisor relationships, diversity and inclusion (working with OGSDD), and bystander intervention training. Public Relations (Bara Badwan): PR is responsible for design (social media, posters, etc.), outreach (especially to the New Haven community), and Podcast (on different aspects of Yale, New Haven – we have podcasts on childcare, the music scene, and the Cushing Center).

1. Election: GSAS Executive Committee

Wendy Xiao: the executive committee meets once each month. We need one rep from each division. Dean Cooley and Sleight set the agenda, and they discuss policy changes across GSAS. Deliberations are confidential. Lucy Armentano: because the committee is confidential, students can speak freely and advocate on behalf of their constituents. It is

Humanities: Zach Michielli (Architecture) and Hector Peralta (American Studies)

Zach Michielli and Hector Peralta made speeches.

Zach Michielli is elected to the GSAS executive committee.

Social Sciences: Lucy Armentano and Nori Fukuoka

Lucy Armentano and Nori Fukuoka made speeches.

Lucy Armentano is elected to the GSAS executive committee.

Sciences: Stephen Albright, Jenette Creso, and Andrew Marino

Andrew Marino is elected to the GSAS executive committee.

1. Election: Student Wellness Committee

SWAG (Student Wellness Advisory Group) will gather at Yale Health on student wellness experience two to three times per semester. College SWAG and G&P SWAG will meet separately.

Nominations: Brian Bink and Andrew Marino

1. Nomination: “Pay as You Throw” Task Force

Wendy Xiao: for each of these university committee, we will nominate two GSA representatives.

Part of the Yale Sustainability project, the task force will be made up with faculty and students. We will hold 6 meetings throughout the academic year.

Nominations: Stephen Gaughran and Aaron Madden

1. Nomination: Provost’s Committee on Library Policy

Wendy Xiao: this committee advises University Librarian on library policies. Seb Bezerra was a longtime GSA rep on this committee and did not a lot of work to expand library hours.

Nominations: Tyler Bowen and Nick Curry

1. Nomination: Provost’s Committee on Digital Humanities

Nominations: Kristen Herdman, Andrew Vielkind, and Katie McConnell

1. Nomination: Provost’s Committee on Human Subjects Research

Wendy Xiao: we have worked very hard to get GSA reps onto Provost’s committees, so please go and attend meetings.

Nominations: Megan Cahill, Lucy Armentano, and Mytien Nguyen

1. Creating a Service Position for Ask-a-Lawyer and Tax Facts

Wendy Xiao: we on the executive board thought about creating a position responsible for community events (e.g., Ask-a-Lawyer, which is attended both by graduate students and by New Haven community members, and Tax Facts). We will have a more in-depth discussion about this position in the future. Laura Brown: do we feel strongly about whether this work should be handled by a committee or by a person? My experience with Ask-a-Lawyer suggests that this would be a good project for a group of people with a coordinator. Andrew Marino: long-term wise, we should probably have a robust committee.

1. Possible Hurricane Maria Fundraiser

Shanelle Shillingford: Hurricane Maria really damaged my country. A lot of people are homeless. I would like people to help me do a fundraiser or drive (and also come up with ideas). Jenn Sun: GPSS/McDougal/SOM did a fundraiser for recent hurricanes but did not include Maria. We can use GSA money to buy food or organize some of these events, but we cannot donate the money. GPSCY will give out the ballroom for free for fundraising, and we can use funds for DJs or food to attract. But what is the trustworthy place to send the funds to? (One fundraiser raised money using Venmo and sent money from the app to trustworthy places.) Shanelle Shillingford: there is a government-run place. Sydney Muchnik: could we incorporate this into a GPSCY event like Oktoberfest? Bara Badwan: I would like to volunteer myself and the PR committee for this cause. Gillian Anderson: I can check with SOM to see if there is an event for this in the works. David DeLeon and Sydney Muchnik also volunteered.

1. Department Meeting Report: Economics

Tabled.

1. Picture and Swag
2. Miscellaneous Issues: GPSCY Drink Tickets

Wendy Xiao: we have an event at GPSCY!

Meeting adjourned at