

GSA General Assembly Meeting

Wednesday, October 2, 2013

Start time: 7:20pm.

1. Approval of the Agenda
 - a. Approved

2. Reports
 - a. Steering Committee (Brian Dunican)
 - i. Dean Tom Pollard met with the University Vice Presidents to talk about housing.
 - ii. We met with Vice President Kim Goff-Crews to present all the work we'd done since last March. She also wanted to talk about housing, which was exciting, since last year we passed a resolution requesting a university-wide housing committee.
 - iii. The university-wide housing committee is moving forward! Entire professional/graduate student body will be emailed and asked to apply. The committee includes permanent GSA and permanent GPSS spots.
 - b. Academics and Professional Development (Caitlin Verboon)
 - i. The committee filled their advocacy positions.
 1. ODEO Advocate: Nazanin Sullivan
 2. GTC Advocate: Ryan Hall
 3. Library Advocate: Mark Roberts
 4. Career Center: Helen Rankin
 - ii. Next meeting is next Wednesday at 8:30 in HGS.
 - iii. Also subcommittee meetings on the GSA calendar.
 - c. Facilities and Healthcare (Michelle Kriner)
 - i. Had first meeting two weeks ago.
 - ii. Discussed projects from last year and new projects.
 - iii. The committee filled their advocacy positions.
 1. Member Advisory Committee Representative: Paul Baranay
 2. Student Coverage Task Force Representative: Sarah Bowman
 - iv. Next meeting is tonight after the assembly meeting.
 - v. If anyone is interested in Westville as an issue, please come to the meeting tonight.
 - d. Transit and Security (Bill Ruff)
 - i. First meeting was earlier tonight.
 - ii. Appointed a representative to the University-Wide Traffic/Safety Committee: Evan Rodriguez.
 - iii. Meetings will be 6:30 before the general assembly.
 - iv. The committee will be meeting on Nov 1 with Deputy Provost Spangler and Associate Vice President Lindner, regarding security and transit issues.
 1. Send any issues to Sachi and Bill if you want things to be addressed.
 - v. Bill went to the UW Traffic/Safety Committee

1. City is taking steps to increase pedestrian safety and use of bikes on the streets, such as the Elm City Open Streets Initiative (elmcityopenstreets.org)
 2. Yale Bike Share is also live to promote bikes on campus.
 3. Bicycle Safety Training course once a week.
 4. Point-in-time survey; looking for volunteers to help count ridership; please talk to Bill if you're interested in helping.
- e. Publicity Committee (Justine Walden)
 - i. Met after GSA meeting two weeks ago, brainstormed, appointed positions.
 - ii. Please email Justine if you're not on the committee and have ideas.
 - f. Conference Travel Fellowship (Brian Vlastakis)
 - i. August cycle update.
 - ii. 92 eligible applicants, totaling \$96,000 requested. Can only fund \$15,000 per cycle.
 - iii. Thanks to our readers: Andrea, Brian Dunican, Brian Vlastakis, Lauren Tilton, Sachi, Joori, Caitlin, Cynthia.
 - iv. Upcoming cycle has been announced and is due November 1. Tell your constituents!
 - v. At the next meeting, Brian will be asking for volunteers to read.
 - g. Questions for Standing Committees
 - i. Point of interest from Brian: don't have to be on the committees to attend meetings with administrators; email them if you'd like to help out.
3. Steering Committee Nominations Elections
 - a. One Social Science position
 - i. One nominee: Nicholas Torciello
 1. 5th year in Health/Policy department
 2. Nicholas says he's been on the GSA for 2 or 3 years now, that he's served on the renovations committee for HGS, meets with the Dean and other administrators frequently, and that he has a good sense of what's going on and happy to help serve
 - b. One position from any division
 - i. One nominee: Cindy Rush
 1. Statistics, 4th year
 2. Worked a lot with the survey and has an idea of what graduate students needs are.
 - c. Both are voted in by acclamation.
4. Graduate School Wide Survey data summary (Cindy Rush)
 - a. Cindy presented on a selected group of 20 questions from the GSA survey sent out last academic year.
 - b. Brian points out that people who live on campus are an entire numeric value less happy than those who live off-campus.
 - c. Questions:

- i. Is there data on Westville?
 - 1. Cindy: Didn't get included, could be written in.
- ii. Why isn't the whole data set public?
 - 1. Brian: We don't want to publish the whole raw data set because demographic information can be used to uniquely identify respondents. However, data can be made available if needed.
- iii. Sarah Bowman: How did you select these 20 questions to present?
 - 1. Cindy: prioritized questions that were easy to present to a large group and interesting to everyone. There were other very relevant questions (e.g. legal aid, dental plan) that weren't included in the interest of time.

5. Resolution F13-005: Student Center Ad-hoc Resolution (Michelle Kriner)

- a. In the spring of 2013, we created a Student Center Ad-Hoc with YCC and GPSS. It was the first a committee between all three bodies was created. It worked well and we want for it to continue.
 - i. The committee was charged with looking into the feasibility and needs of a student center, which will also be the charge of this year's committee. At the time, the idea was presented to the Corporation which was receptive asked to see the proposal.
- b. The 2013-2014 committee will continue the work of last year's committee ,including building off the environmental scan already created by getting data on facility usage and the surveys by GSA and GPSS that asked student-center related questions in May 2013 (which were added to the surveys thanks to last year's committee).
 - i. The goal is to create a proposal by Spring 2014 in time for three bodies' meetings with the Corporation (usually around April).
- c. YCC and GPSS have already agreed to the committee.
- d. The committee's report will include:
 - i. Environmental Scan
 - ii. List of needs of a Student Center (ex. 24 hour space, meeting rooms of different sizes, weekend dining etc)
 - iii. Possible proposals for adding a student center, such as
 - 1. Using an existing building with minimal renovations
 - 2. Using an existing building with extensive renovations
 - 3. 3. A new building
- e. Question: How did this start in the first place? Where did the demand come from?
 - i. Brian: Basically, from discussion from GPSS and GSA members. It mainly came out of our discussion about work space (e.g. 24-hour space) and realizing there was no common ground for graduate and professional students besides GPSCY. Communication was opened with YCC at one of the pan-government events; it turned out that YCC has similar concerns, as the undergraduate colleges are wonderful but it's hard to meet people from other colleges.
- f. Question from Justine Walden: What about the online student center idea?

- i. Brian: This doesn't overlap with that; that proposal ("GradStation") was sent to Kim Goff-Crews and the student life office. We're currently investigating how to hire programmers and what the cost would be by approaching the people who wrote YaleStation.
 - g. Question: It would be a student center for undergrads, grads, and professional students?
 - i. Brian: Yep.
 - h. Question: What about space in the University Commons after dinner?
 - i. Brian: Definitely something we could ask.
 - i. Motion passes with 92% in favor and 8% against, 0% abstain.
- 6. University Wide Housing Committee (Brian)
 - a. One representative needed (1 year appointment)
 - i. Wendy Xiao nominates herself and is approved without objection.
- 7. Committee appointment requests from Tom Pollard (Brian)
 - a. University Tribunal (1 year appointment)
 - i. Meets rarely to discuss disciplinary matters.
 - ii. Justine Walden nominates herself and is approved without objection.
 - b. Committee on Investor Responsibility (2 year appointment)
 - i. Amy Mount is nominated but is absent.
 - ii. Paul Baranay nominates Brian Duncian.
 - iii. Question from the floor about the extent of the committee's responsibilities.
 - iv. Brian moves to postpone so we have more information and so Amy can be here to accept or decline. Motion is approved without objection.
- 8. Concerns from the floor / Announcements
 - a. Brian Dunican: Fall elections are live to replace missing representatives.
 - b. Brian Dunican: Got a request from an old representative from Career Services to publicize the fact that their announcement list is now customizable to your own interests.
 - c. Brian Dunican: Yale Grad School Open House on Oct 12 from 2-4pm in HGS.
 - i. Anyone interested in talking about the GSA for some or part of this time?
 - 1. Elizabeth Lang can do at least part of it.
 - d. Paul: Puerto Rican-Jewish dinner celebrating Dr. Salovey and Marta Moret during Inauguration.
 - e. Colton: Department meetings - how do we get money?
 - i. Joori was planning on talking about it next meeting when we have the new reps, but the short version is to email Joori in advance of the meeting with the data of the meeting
 - f. Joori: In two weeks, we'll have our new representatives, and after our meeting we'll go over to GPSCY and we will have drink tickets!
 - g. Angharad Davis: Had some concerns with the electoral policy; why do you not have to be re-elected every year?
 - i. Brian: You do have to be re-elected...

- ii. Angharad: This was in Music, several years ago.
- iii. Brian: You can join the elections committee by emailing Faustin and you'll be included in the administering of the election. A lot of things have been automated so maybe that's how things got fixed.

9. Adjournment