

GSA General Assembly Meeting

Wednesday, October 16th, 2013

1. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. Approved without objection.
2. Approval of the Agenda
 - a. Approved without objection.
3. Reports
 - a. Steering Committee (Brian Dunican)
 - i. Composed of the four executive officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer) plus 6 other members that balance the divisions.
 - ii. At last week's meeting, we continued our petition for more work/meeting space, and started talking about how we might go about extending the hours of the HGS Common Room into a 24/7 space. (The short answer is that the challenge is security.)
 - iii. There was a question from the body about the department surveys.
 1. The survey does not include terminal master's students (there was a separate report about them last year; ask your DGS/Registrar).
 2. Any department with fewer than 10 respondents did not get a copy of the department-specific responses due to the small sample size.
 - iv. Continued discussing that we wanted to be involved in the Yale College grading committee.
 - v. We also discussed how teaching assignments are being assigned, the Provost is interested in discussing/examining this as well.
 - b. Academics and Professional Development (Caitlin Verboon)
 - i. We meet on the off-Wednesday at 7:30pm in the Common Room.
 - ii. Our last meeting was very exciting. The online committee, chaired by Greg Wright, has one representative from the Graduate School (Sara Ronis, a grad teaching fellow).
 1. We nominated 4 other students who will be considered by Greg to narrow down to 2 additional reps.
 - iii. We discussed online education; please attend our next meeting if interested.
 - iv. Committee is working on a report about a university-wide teaching review.
 - v. We will also be bringing up legislation regarding the changes to graduate students taking language classes.
 - c. Facilities and Healthcare (Michelle Kriner)
 - i. Regular meeting time is directly after the General Assembly Meetings.

- ii. Met before this week's meeting to discuss the Deep Dive; report delayed due to the Deep Dive.
 - d. Transit and Security (Sachi Inukai)
 - i. Filled in by Bill Ruff.
 - ii. T&S handles any issue handled to security and transit, meets with administrators in charge of those divisions.
 - iii. Meeting on Nov. 1 with Spangler and Lindler.
 - iv. Reviewing the GSA survey data in preparation for this meeting.
 - v. Meetings at 6:30pm before the General Assembly Meetings.
 - e. Publicity Committee (Justine Walden)
 - i. Discussing GSA identity, recognition campaigns, distinguishing GSA from GPSS, branding, etc. Many great ideas and will start delegating projects. Will have much more to report next week.
 - f. Conference Travel Fellowship (Brian Vlastakis)
- 4. Guide to Department Meetings (Joori Park)
 - a. \$100 per representative to hold a department meeting. Basically, email Joori when you want to hold a department meeting and she will guide you through the process.
 - b. We are tax-exempt so please take note of this.
 - c. After you have your meeting, please fill out the Qualtrics survey to make a record of how your meeting went.
 - i. Following the rubric is optional. Please fill out the survey as closely as possible.
 - d. After your department meeting, you'll be asked to report to the Assembly with a summary of your meeting
 - e. Questions from the Floor
 - i. If your department is supposed to have 2 members but you currently only have 1, how much money do you get?
 - 1. Joori: Usually get a little bit more than one, but not the full two, due to budget constraints; flexible based on the expected attendance.
 - ii. When your department relays a concern to you, how do you relay it to the General Body?
 - 1. Brian: After you ask to hold a meeting, your name is put on the agenda to give a report. Filling out the survey will also form a mine-able database of information for the committees to use.
- 5. ITS Academic Administrative Technologies Program Review Committee (Brian)
 - a. Need one or two nominees for this new committee, whose charge is:
 - i. ITS and Student and Faculty Administrative Services (SFAS), the parent organization of the University Registrar's Office, are partnering to develop a system development prioritization committee (also known as a ITS Academic Administrative Technologies Program Review Committee). This group would review and prioritize all academic administration system development proposals in order to make recommendations to the ITS Technology Initiatives Committee (TIC) who in turn will make recommendations to the University Officers for funding.

Members of the committee would meet monthly beginning in October to review new proposals and subsequently to review progress and re-prioritize when additional projects are added. The first task would be to vet requests for the TIC and officers meetings in November. Attached is a PDF document that gives an overview of the additional committees that either already have been initiated or in the process of forming for FY 14 and how they would interact with TIC and other Strategic Committees such as ITSAC.

- ii. We believe that in order to represent effectively the needs of schools, faculty, staff and students that the group should have representation from the schools (including Yale College, the GSAS and the professional schools), from the FAS academic departments (individuals representing the chair, DUS, DGS and instructor roles), and from students (again representing Yale College, the GSAS, and the professional schools).
 - b. What is an academic administrative system? This includes things such as the SIS website (address update, account holds), Dissertation Progress Report system, Online Course Selection, Faculty Grading System, Online Course Evaluation Form, and Yale BlueBook.
 - c. Group will be comprised of students, faculty, and administrators and will make recommendations about further development and purchases.
 - d. Point of information – Colton: Is printing included in this committee’s scope?
 - i. Brian: I don’t know, but this is probably a good place to raise this question anyway.
 - ii. Ankit Disa
 - iii. Debayan Gupta
 - 1. Brian moves to approve the nominees by verbal acclaim.
Approved.
6. University Committee on Investor Responsibility (Faustin Carter)
- a. Nominees -- One nominee, two year appointment.
 - i. Brian Dunican
 - ii. Colton Lynner
 - b. Elections
 - i. Brian Dunican
 - 1. Gavel passes to Faustin to avoid conflict of interest.
 - 2. Interested in this committee due to my graduate student research; I work in a lab that focuses on development and discovery of alternative fuel sources from novel organisms. Have had the opportunity to travel twice to the Amazon in Ecuador and spend time there, particularly in the Yasuni National Preserve, which is accessible to the native people, researchers, and select oil companies.
 - 3. At the same time and in the same region you see the local people working in and around the preserves. Oil has let Ecuador build infrastructure, education, improve agriculture, etc. Not as black and white as it seems.
 - 4. Fossil-Free Yale has encouraged Yale to divest from fossil fuel companies. Yale’s particular holdings are not made public but it’s almost certain they are invested in domestic energy to some portion. I have not a small level of personal experience

5. Brian recognizes that he's also Chair but says that he thinks can handle a couple extra meetings, and the reading is the sort that he would do anyway.
 6. Questions
 - a. What would you bring to the committee?
 - i. See above.
 - b. Ethical considerations versus profit.
 - i. The mandate of the committee is to weigh exclusively ethical concerns; it has some limitations based on how it's constructed.
 - ii. Prisons are strong proponents for mandatory minimums and strong sentencing
 - iii. Would have to see all the data and that's why I want to be part of this committee.
 - ii. Colton Lynner
 1. Former investment banker, now 4th year grad student.
 2. What would you bring to the committee?
 - a. Yale has the ability to impact the economy but it has to be done in the right way.
 3. There was a recent issue about Yale investing in the CCA, which owns Central American prisons; what's your opinion?
 - a. For-private prisons are not necessarily a bad thing.
 4. Kyle: Can you be more specific about your investment experience?
 - a. Mergers and acquisitions at an investment bank in Minneapolis and then private equity in industrials and consumer products.
 - c. Closed discussion.
 - d. Brian approved.
7. Open question: Have you been contacted by you DGS about the GSAS survey
 - a. About 13 people raised their hands (but 5 are physicists).
 - i. They have until December 1.
 8. Deep Dive: Facilities and Healthcare (Michelle Kriner)
 - a. Study Space (Elizabeth Lang)
 - i. Trying to figure out which departments do not have study space/departmental space, based on the survey sent out in the Spring. If you are part of a department where the majority said you do have access to department space and/or department space, your department will not be on the table.
 1. Was recently made aware that History of Science and Med do have access to some amount of space, although it may be tiny (via the School of Medicine, and the History Department space).

- ii. Elizabeth displayed a list of departments that, to her current knowledge, did not have space but wanted it, and asked representatives who were present to help confirm or change these perceptions.
 - b. Housing, Mental Health, and Tax Advice cannot be addressed due to time concerns.
 - c. Move to table the rest of the Deep Dive for next meeting; approved.
- 9. Announcements from the Floor
 - a. Paul: YCC report, our report, YDN, changing campus culture, brainstorming please talk to me and Michelle and FHC if you have ideas.
 - b. Motion to table the group photo; approved.

10. Adjournment