

## **GSA General Assembly Meeting**

Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013

1. Guest Speaker: Haley McCarthy
  - a. Haley is a Health Educator with Student Wellness at Yale Health.
  - b. Haley is the only Health Educator dedicated to students at Yale; she is a department of one. She serves all undergrads and grads., with a focus on non-crisis stress management (prevention) and sexual health/STIs.
  - c. Haley supervises two student groups:
    - i. Peer Health Educators
      1. Undergrads who volunteer throughout the year. They do programming and are responsible for stocking condoms in their college.
    - ii. Co-advisor for the Graduate Wellness Follows from McDougal (with Lisa Brandes); they share in the cost of employing 2 fellows for the academic year.
      1. Supervise the Wellness Ambassadors – talk to Haley if interested.
  - d. Haley discusses some of the services and initiatives she provides for the community:
    - i. STI (Sexually-Transmitted Infections) awareness campaigns
      1. Free testing at Yale Health, year-round.
      2. Work with Student Health to get the word out, a special effort twice a year.
      3. Current advice is to get tested for every new partner or every 6 months
    - ii. Safer sex supplies around campus
      1. Locations include HGS, OISS, Yale Health, etc.
      2. Work with some other students and accommodate individual requests.
    - iii. Sex education programming on request, e.g. Safer Sex 101.
    - iv. Sex and Chocolate event
      1. Sex and Chocolate is an anonymous safer sex Q&A held at GPSCY a few days before Valentine's Day.
      2. Work with the STI nurse and people send in questions anonymously.
    - v. Assisting general resources, mindfulness. Doesn't handle crises; Haley says "if someone would come to me and say 'I need to talk to someone,' I would walk them up to Mental Health and Counseling." Her role is to help manage daily stressors, time managements.
    - vi. Aromatherapy by request
    - vii. Mindfulness and journaling at HGS
    - viii. Breathing and guided meditation

1. Tends to occur at HGS once per semester if not twice per semester
- ix. Stress-Down Day
  1. Chair massages, aromatherapy, snacks (berry parfaits), holiday cards, stress management tips, info tables
- x. Also work with student groups on a smaller basis
- xi. In the spring, Spring Chill-out in HGS courtyard for graduate students only, probably end of April this year
- xii. Working on two newer projects:
  1. Student Wellness works with Go Blue Labs (offshoot of Yale Therapeutic Neuroscience Clinic) to make some videos – Judson Brewer
    - a. <http://yalehealth.yale.edu/relax>
  2. Smoking cessation
    - a. Craving to Quit app
- xiii. Working on sleep issues as well.
  1. Piloted a program where we brought in a sleep researcher to HGS, gave out earplugs and decorated sleep masks
- e. Questions and Feedback
  - i. Brian: What methods do you use to publicize your events and other information?
    1. McDougal Life Notes
    2. Postering
    3. Facebook page
  - ii. Paul: Any specific groups you work with?
    1. Yale School of Drama requests me a lot.
    2. Law School has a month dedicated to care and wellness in March.
    3. Public Health has a graduate assistant.
    4. Put out a call at the end of the last year to departments for liaisons through the Wellness Ambassador program
      - a. Poor response
        - i. Was sent to all grad students, to the DGS liaisons...
        - ii. Sometimes interest wanes due to dissertation progress.
    5. If anyone is looking for help with keeping their event posters fun yet appropriate (e.g. avoiding things that sound more like binge-drinking), Haley is happy to help. Alcohol isn't her focus area, but she's focused on positive messaging as a community.
  - iii. Do you work with Payne-Whitney?

1. Funding is an issue. Their classes cost money, and PWG is a business, which is why Haley tends to work with outside vendors.
  - iv. Brian: We've heard about the alcohol issue from other areas as well; is there an uptick in people coming in with alcohol-related problems?
    1. I think we're more aware of it as a school, especially on the undergrad side because they're also underage. We don't want to promote alcohol as the focus of events; community and wellness should be the focus. For undergraduates the messaging is often moderation and looking out for each other. Wouldn't say there's a graduate student problem, it's a campus climate shift.
  - v. Saad: Given the stress around job search time, is there a relation between your office and career services?
    1. Currently no relation.
    2. Did use to come to the dissertation boot-camp.
    3. It would make sense, so if someone has a contact or would like to suggest that to them, that would be great.
  - vi. Brian: If you could change or strengthen one thing about the campus climate or campus culture, what would it be?
    1. Centralized place for students to access their health and wellness resources. There are a lot of other offices related to a higher quality of student life. Would be great to have a lecture hall geared towards non-academic events, more meeting space.
  - f. Haley: wants to add that rooms like this are a good melting pot, so having a location where there can be more mingling would be very good and create bridges and create relationships; social support is a huge part of getting through grad school.
2. Approval of the Minutes
  - a. Approved.
3. Approval of the Agenda.
  - a. Approved.
4. Resolution F13-007: Teaching Assessment Committee Proposal (Caitlin Verboon)
  - a. As people on the APD committee know, we drafted a proposal to create a teaching assessment committee, and presented it to Dean Pollard via Steering. This resolution is formally offering GSA support to the committee, which is not an internal committee.
  - b. Discussions
    - i. Why do the findings of the committee need to be submitted by a certain date if it's an external committee?
      1. Point of information: The date in the resolution is the last GSA meeting.

- ii. Lesley: Could we insert something to talk about graduate student classes? (Allotment section currently only mentions undergraduate classes, but the Mission Statement is inclusive.) This is important because graduate classes sometimes get forgotten.
    - iii. Saad: Question about the number of faculty – 4 or 8?
    - iv. Michael Parker: Issue with the third whereas clause.
      - 1. better to modify the name of the committee – I first thought it was a committee on teaching evaluations
  - c. Amendments
    - i. Someone moves to amend the name to the Committee on Graduate Teaching.
      - 1. Seconded and passed
    - ii. Colton: I move to add “as edited and approved by the Academic and Professional Development Committee” to the end of the first therefore clause
      - 1. Seconded and passed
    - iii. Michael Parker: adds “teaching fellows and assistants” to the third whereas clause
    - iv. Robin: what about teaching assignments that involve managing a lab?
      - 1. Caitlyn: yes, we’re looking into that as part of our proposal, so that’s covered.
    - v. Faustin moves to strike the entire last resolved clause.
      - 1. Colton moves to amend part of this amendment – approved.
      - 2. Total amendment approved.
    - vi. Amendments closed.
  - d. Paul: Who will chair this committee?
    - i. Dunican: up to the Provost.
  - e. Ariana: What about the professional schools?
    - i. Caitlyn: As it stands, not included.
  - f. Elizabeth: Is it at all possible to get rid of shopping period?
  - g. Leslie: We should be concerned about graduate school TF’s that teach in the graduate school.
    - i. Brian: I believe that would be covered.
  - h. Motion carries with 88% approve, 4% disapprove, 8% abstain.
- 5. Genetics Department Report – Monica Bowen and Helen Rankin.
  - a. Held meeting about a month ago.
  - b. Facilities and Healthcare
    - i. Complained about discrepancy between family and spousal coverage, claims that students with children receive coverage for the whole family, but students with just a spouse do not.

- ii. Healthcare – perception of poor bedside manner by some physicians, assumption that they were undergraduates and affected by undergraduate epidemics
  - iii. Lots of effort to get specialists; dermatology referrals in particular are difficult.
  - iv. Current vision plan does not coverage contact lenses or contact lens fittings, would like for this to be included in the plan
  - v. Facilities – major interest in access to gym, especially weekend hours. Receptive to the idea of expanded gym hours.
  - vi. Idea of students at med campus having access to the med school gym at Harkness.
  - vii. Expand hours of McDougal Center, which are too short
  - viii. No interest in a 24-hour space, content with amount of space currently available at the medical school
- c. Transit and Security
  - i. Want the ability to distinguish if it's a short bus or a long bus, if it's an overflow bus, if it's full; difficulty getting to campus in the morning.
  - ii. Interest in tracking for door-to-door shuttles.
  - iii. Increased bike storage suggested, especially indoor bike parking due to bike theft and uncovered wear-and-tear
  - iv. Security: students could go all the way from Smilow to distant points without having to show their ID.
- d. Teaching
  - i. Transparency in TF selection.
- e. Publicizing events
  - i. Everyone knew that GSA existed, didn't know Common Grounds existed.
  - ii. Don't care about lawyer advice, but care about tax advice.
  - iii. Want more information about housing options.
- 6. Near Eastern Language and Culture: Elizabeth Lang
  - a. 3 separate disciplines: Egyptology, Assyriology, and Asian Studies.
  - b. Talked a lot about department-specific things and moving forward.
  - c. Would like a bike rack on College Street in front of 493.
  - d. Facilities and Healthcare
    - i. Generally satisfied
    - ii. Want to see Delta Dental cover more things (e.g. root canals, crowns)
    - iii. Want coverage for contacts and higher limits
  - e. No department student space – they want one.
  - f. More information about housing.
  - g. Better gym hours, finished construction, more access to specific sports hours (dominated by undergrads and undergrad groups).

- h. Our department is in HGS and would like for more food options in the cafeteria, want a continuous student space.
      - i. Classrooms uncomfortable.
      - ii. After-hours access in classrooms (for studying).
- 7. Steering Committee Report (Brian Dunican)
  - a. Provided information from survey meetings to Dean Pollard
  - b. Was a joint meeting with GPSS, several members of the executive committee, first time GPSS had met with the Dean of the Graduate School ever.
  - c. Talked a lot about the Teaching Proposal.
- 8. Transit and Security – Evan Rodriguez
  - a. Evan is also on University Wide Safety Committee
  - b. Update about New Haven’s street plan proposal: bike lanes are likely to be added to the street that had lots of trees on it in original proposal.
    - i. Concerns about bikes not stopping for pedestrians, and biking on the sidewalks.
      - 1. Flyer campaign – putting flyers onto bikes.
      - 2. They get complaints that bikes are on the paths they’re supposed to be on.
      - 3. Proposed ideas
        - a. Better infrastructure needed, e.g. getting onto the bike path
        - b. Unrealistic for people to go to events
  - c. Any concerns about the university’s response to the gunman incident, please send them to our committee so we can address them.
    - i. General sense is that the response was good.
- 9. Academics and Professional Development – Caitlin Verboon
  - a. No update because the resolution was their major piece of business.
- 10. Publicity – Justine Walden
  - a. Doing a lot behind the scenes
  - b. Focus on 8 areas
    - i. Review of website
    - ii. Social media – FB, Twitter
    - iii. Brochures, flyers, print pieces, swag
    - iv. Overall visual image (logo, website photos, brand recognition)
    - v. Systems – streamlining, rippling things through social media, feedback from other people (students)
    - vi. Involving reps into the publicity cycle
    - vii. *Yale Daily News* stories
    - viii. How does this all link to publicity
  - c. One thing that would cover all of these bases is a monthly GSA email, well-designed, inclusive, give people a sense of who we are, link to the website, a sense of progress; Justine is interested in how feasible this is.
  - d. Group photo at next meeting (two weeks).

## 11. Adjournment