

## GSA General Assembly Meeting

1/14/15

Start: 7:00PM

- I. Invited Speaker – Chaplain Candice Provey
  - a. Going to discuss services that they offer.
  - b. 15 minutes – 10 min talk; 5 min questions
  - c. About Candice Provey.
    - i. Associate Chaplain.
    - ii. Ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church.
  - d. How many have heard of the Chaplain’s office?
    - i. Most of the room.
    - ii. Not many have taken part of the services.
  - e. What does a chaplain do? What do the chaplains at Yale specifically do? Helpful for her to get a sense of how graduate students view the Chaplain’s Office.
    - i. Works with communities on campus in times of crisis.
    - ii. Chaplains are found often in Hospitals, the Military, and at the University.
    - iii. Supports religious and spiritual life.
    - iv. Works with Yale religious ministry’s group.
    - v. Works with the over 25 religious groups at Yale.
    - vi. Help people get connected to religious groups.
    - vii. Pastoral Care (see below).
    - viii. Campus-wide celebrations.
      1. Ex. Diwali.
      2. <http://chaplain.yale.edu/CalendarofEvents>
  - f. Chaplain’s Office at Yale (<http://chaplain.yale.edu/>)
    - i. Multifaith religious staff at Chaplain’s office.
    - ii. Staff
      1. Omer Bajwa – Coordinator for Muslim Life
      2. Asha Shipman – Hindu Life Advisor

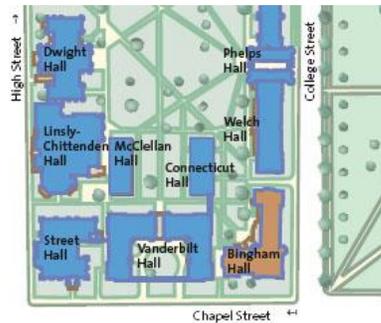
3. Sharon Kugler – University Chaplain (does a lot of work across campus)
4. Maytal Saltiel – Assistant University Chaplain for Special Programs
5. The Reverend Ian Oliver – Senior Associate Chaplain for Protestant Life, Pastor of the University Church

g. Pastoral Care

- i. Mental health and wellness
- ii. Work with both communities across campus and individuals.
- iii. Contact any staff member at the Chaplain’s Office.

<http://chaplain.yale.edu/staff>

- iv. Located in Bingham Hall.



- v. Open from 8:30-11:00.
- vi. Student-staffed in the evening with Peer Liasons (Older undergrads to counsel freshman).
- viii. Talk to people about religious-specific issues
- ix. Talk to people about relationships.
  1. Transitions in life (ex. moving to college).
  2. Major life changes.
- x. Mental health and counseling not the right fit for some.
  1. Don’t want to go to mental health or need to make a plan for the next few weeks until appointment at MH.
  2. Not a clinical setting.
  3. Contact is fairly informal.
  4. Relational rather than clinical.

- xi. Lots of programs, read more online.
- xii. Spring Break Immersion. <http://chaplain.yale.edu/springbreak>
  - 1. Open to grad students \$50.
  - 2. Broad introduction to New Haven.
- xiii. Questions
  - 1. Relationship with mental health? Do they direct people to you? – Colton.
    - a. In terms of appointments, no very separate.
    - b. Friendly relationship, can call MH to direct students to these services.
    - c. Relationship with SHARE center is friendly as well.
    - d. Can walk people through the process of MH.
    - e. Some people go to MH and want a more religious counseling.
    - f. Not overflow for MH.
  - 2. Peer Liaisons, are they all undergraduates? – Rachel.
    - a. Yes, upperclassmen that support freshmen.
    - b. Partnership with McDougal Fellows intended to serve that purpose with the graduate school.
  - 3. Wellness fellow, peer advocates, starting point for people to talk to? What is their role? What sort of training do they receive? – Wendy.
    - a. Not intended to be peer counselors.
    - b. Undergraduate liaisons are to be familiar with the office.
      - i. Reach out to the freshman class
      - ii. Help them to find communities of support.
    - c. Meet weekly during the semester.
    - d. Up front training at the Chaplain's Office.
    - e. Ongoing conversation throughout the year.
  - 4. Satellite office hours? Chaplain at HGS for 2 hours? Colton
    - a. If there is interest in that, we would be interested.



2. Sebastian – accepted only as alternate representative.
  - v. Vote by acclamation
    1. Ankit – Elected.
    2. Sebastian – Elected.
- V. Department Meeting Reports.
- a. History (Ryan Hall, Nazanin Sullivan, Justine Walden, Alice Baumgartner, Jonny Bunning, Lena Eckert-Erdheim).
    - i. November 17<sup>th</sup> was the date of their meeting.
    - ii. Teaching
      1. Crisis with TF allocation.
        - a. Registrar put people in teaching years into TF2 positions with one section.
        - b. Those outside of Teaching Years got TF positions with 2 sections to maintain their stipend.
        - c. People counted on it for those upper years.
        - d. People in non-teaching years upset about this.
          - i. Lack of transparency.
          - ii. Lack of other teaching opportunities.
        - e. Teaching outside the department in classes such as English.
          - i. Hurts teaching training.
          - ii. And teaching quality for the undergrads.
      2. Can't push back any funding past the sixth-year due to policy.
      3. A lot of grants are capped at the sixth-year as well.
      4. Getting an outside grant looks good on CV, but then no available funds to continue after sixth-year.
      5. Suggestions
        - a. Want to be able to take a 7<sup>th</sup> year as teaching.
        - b. Would like more input into the curriculum.
          - i. Not totally at the whim of faculty.
        - c. Public speaking workshops for humanities
        - d. Workshops on teaching: ex. how to craft a lecture.

6. Writing Center – no appointments
- iii. CLAIS – funding cut, want to express support for that center and the services it provides.
  1. Grants
  2. Travel
  3. Speakers
- iv. Other Suggestions.
  1. Mental Health
    - a. Couldn't get prescriptions filled when visited an outside psychiatrist.
  2. Better labeling of shuttle stops
  3. More GSA visibility at the beginning of the year.
- v. Questions
  1. Anthropology same issues.
  2. 6<sup>th</sup> year funding is in the early stages. Colton
    - a. They are waiting to seeing what will happen this first year.
    - b. Trying to call it terminal year funding instead.
- b. Political Science (Consuelo Amat Matus, Christopher Price)
  - i. Mental Health is a real concern due to the suicide earlier this year.
    1. Prevention
      - a. Not new flyers or websites.
      - b. Improving departmental culture.
        - i. Mentoring.
        - ii. Peer outreach.
        - iii. Leadership by faculty.
    2. When students go on health leave – maintain access to benefits.
    3. Stress-puppy visits.
  - ii. Security
    1. System opaque in terms of sexual harassment/sexual misconduct.
    2. Is there a larger student role in dealing with these cases?
  - iii. Transportation

1. Red line is overcrowded.
  2. Preferred night lines maintain regular bus routes, not zig-zagging.
  3. Emphasis on both riders' rights and responsibilities. Yale students are often at fault too.
- iv. Conference Travel Fellowships
1. Would prefer larger awards, even if it comes with lifetime cap or time limitation of reapplying.
- v. Teaching and Writing Center
1. Opportunities website – want it to be mandatory as there's not much point if there are few classes listed.
  2. Existing teaching training is not very helpful.
  3. Boot-camps are well-liked. If funds are an issue, make people pay money that they would forfeit for nonattendance.
- vi. Career Services
1. Would like longer or more subsidized access to Interfolio for the job hunt.
  2. Either 5 years, or, if shorter, paying for sending letter, etc.
  3. Could offer it until landing first job?
- vii. Facilities
1. Longer gym hours and fewer long breaks (semester, etc.) by the gym.
  2. Longer access to the stacks at the libraries – motivated by 24 hour study space, not stack access.
  3. Gym and library take priority over common study spaces.
- viii. Consuelo
1. 27/68 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> years
  2. Setting up a meeting with our chair and our DGS to discuss the conversation.
  3. Survey to rank preferences.
- ix. Med school library – Erin
1. Stress relief dog every Friday.

- x. Teaching Opportunities Website.
  - 1. Deadline for teaching positions to be filled.
  - 2. Shopping period is a problem. Can lose or gain TF positions based on that.
  - 3. Pre-shopping period, fill within departments first.
  - 4. Not mandatory for departments.
  - 5. Overflow, not all positions.
  - 6. Hard to fill, vacant position.
  - 7. Work in progress.
- c. African Studies – Joseph Guido
  - i. 13<sup>th</sup> November
    - 1. Ask a lawyer – liked.
    - 2. Ask an accountant – liked.
    - 3. MH services
      - a. Wondering what the wait times would be.
    - 4. Teaching Center
      - a. Certificate program for Masters students?
    - 5. Student Workspace
      - a. Lack of 24-hour study space.
    - 6. Happy with Transit.
  - d. Cell Bio – Brittany
    - i. Amistad safety.
    - ii. Shuttle changes at night.
      - 1. To-Door shuttle will take you to the train station.
    - iii. Career Services
      - 1. Not enough emphasis on academics.
      - 2. Geared to undergrads (jobs).
    - iv. Teaching
      - 1. Better description of what the responsibilities entail.
      - 2. Collecting papers to leading a section.
    - v. Pam Schirmeister will be here next time.

- vi. OCS does post things for PhD/masters.
- vii. Ankit – To-Door shuttle.
  - 1. After 6PM, Picks up at med school and takes you to your door.
  - 2. Alternate, north or south first.
  - 3. East or west first med school.

## VI. Compass

- a. What is?
  - i. Gives information about living and being a graduate student in new haven
- b. In need of updating beyond the ability of the publicity alone
- c. Questions
  - i. Summer Steering - Consuelo
    - 1. Existing collection of notes from the summer.
    - 2. Really overhauling, not just updating.
    - 3. Don't have the time in the summer. Really only making sure businesses are still here.
    - 4. Needed a major overhaul.
    - 5. Gives a longer time for changes and a larger body to discuss changes.
    - 6. Sections we want to add.
  - ii. Emilio Composition of the committee
    - 1. Must create it first.
- d. Move to amend
  - i. Change May to August?
    - 1. Will this affect the composition?
      - a. No.
    - 2. Passed.
- e. Voting by Acclamation
  - i. Passed.
- f. How do you want people to say they are interested?
  - i. Talk to me after the meeting or email me (nicholas.vincent@yale.edu).

## VII. CTF readers

- a. Two more reading periods.
- b. See and discuss the rubric.
- c. Discuss how it is run/decided.
- d. When is the reading?
- e. Announcements out the beginning of the following month.
- f. Sciences.
  - i. Joey Schmitt - Astronomy
  - ii. Wendy Xiao – MD/PhD
- g. Social Sciences.
  - i. Katie Oltman - Psychology
  - ii. Fabian - Economics
- h. Humanities.
  - i. Rachel Love - Classics
  - ii. Janna Gowan – Religious Studies

VIII. GSAS Newsletter.

- a. How often?
  - i. Is current way appropriate?
  - ii. Less is better.
  - iii. Once a month during the semester.
  - iv. A few for even less (7-8 people).
  - v. Once a semester – pick the most interesting things that happen?
- b. Article number?
  - i. How many have read it?
    - 1. Maybe 10-15 people.
  - ii. Like the research stories – more than leads (14).
  - iii. Like the alumni spotlights – (2) 4 dislike (not useful).
  - iv. Leads – small number (2).
  - v. Kudos – makes you feel good.
- c. One or two more important stories, stuff going on in the grad school.
  - i. Everything else should be a paragraph in length.
- d. Paper version was enjoyable.

- e. Subscription for paper version?
  - f. Broad comments
    - i. Colin – I see it every once of awhile online; articles too long.
    - ii. Kiersten – don't want to read about alumni not in my field; less stories but big ones.
- IX. Charter update
- a. We will all look over charter beforehand.
  - b. Discussion about what we should change before we hand it over to the Faculty.
- X. Pam Schirmeister
- a. Teaching and TF reform.
  - b. Confirm the attendance this next week.
- XI. Publicity
- a. Facebook – please like our page.
    - i. Hard to search for?
    - ii. Change the title?
  - b. Send it out with the agenda next time.
- XII. January 31<sup>st</sup> Brunch (Parent Students)
- a. Send information to Elizabeth Salm to send out.

Adjourned at 8:06PM