

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

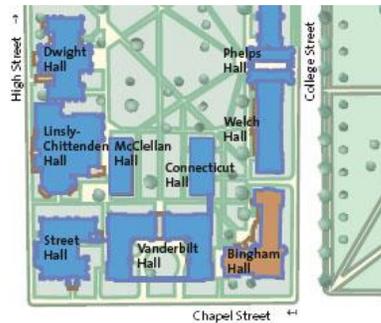
3. Sharon Kugler – University Chaplain (does a lot of work across campus)
4. Maytal Saltiel – Assistant University Chaplain for Special Programs
5. The Reverend Ian Oliver – Senior Associate Chaplain for Protestant Life, Pastor of the University Church

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 17th 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 7th 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. 6th 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 1st-4th 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. 13th 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 31st Brunch (Parent Students)
- a. Send information to Elizabeth Salm to send out.

Adjourned at 8:06PM