**GSA General Assembly Meeting**

March 2nd, 2016

Meeting began at 6:45 PM

1. Guest Speaker: Professor Matthew Jacobson, American Studies and African American Studies, FAS Senate Member
   * 1. Professor Jacobson introduced himself in his capacity as member of the ad hoc committee for diversity on the faculty senate. The senate has been invested in the issues of the students. The administration is well intended, but the senate does not believe they know what they are doing. The purpose of this committee on the senate is to point the administration towards the appropriate expertise.
     2. Excited about Deputy Dean of Diversity. Concerned that the office will not have enough power. Tend to be a bit skeptical and they hope the position goes as far as it needs to.
     3. Senate is crafting various reforms. Administration is working on reforms too. Lots of concern and energy about reforming some of the structures around mentoring practices, retention practices, etc. One place where we are vulnerable across the university is at the stage of tenure. Faculty who would be approved for tenure elsewhere are not here because of standards of excellence at Yale. Women and faculty of color are especially vulnerable at this point. Midcareer academics need to change their structure—change the profile of the faculty by changing these structures.
     4. Writing a report to deliver to the administration in April. Here tonight to hear students’ concerns, advice, how the world looks from where we sit. How do issues of faculty diversity affect us in professionalization, mentoring, in the classroom, etc.??
     5. Two general questions: 1) How do you feel you and your colleagues are affected by the lack of diversity and diversity issues when it comes to Yale’s faculty profile. 2) What’s your opinion of the general campus climate? How is graduate student morale?
     6. Andrey (Comp Lit)- Professors are discovering they have less and less power, while the administration and managerial positions have more. Are we taking away the power the faculty would have had before by putting it in the hands of a new office?
        1. Turning point of faculty speaking up and dissenting was around the Yale-NUS partnership. New hires are meant to be affiliated with departments that are affiliated with issues (dept. of refugee studies, af am studies, sociology, etc.) Core of faculty in these fields can establish a community in these studies and build outwards. Fairly high profile people will be in these positions. If the administration can be oriented correctly and put power behind the decision-making, it works.
        2. Andrey- Is there a legislative plan to get this in place?
        3. FAS senate plays a watchdog role, not necessarily legislative role. Purpose of reports is to point out problems and then suggest solutions. Different views amongst different populations. Alumni are mostly more conservative.
     7. Katie (Psychology)- how does this affect us? Zero faculty of color. Lost very good graduate students because of this. Prof J.—Is the problem heard? Katie thinks so.
     8. Mark (Music)- Question about attrition- Faculty diversity is a major concern, as is inclusivity. Often raised issues with administrators, but it seems like admin doesn’t listen to concerns. How are you laying out the case to them that something needs to be done?
     9. Laid out the case- people who need to hear it are hearing it. Note: two diversity announcements 1) before Halloween: came out of years of agitation on these kinds of questions. The arguments are being heard! Argument doesn’t need to be made. Bigger problem is challenge to get over language of excellence. Making point that we aren’t as good as we can be because of these issues. URM professors have left and had stellar careers—28 since early 2000s.
     10. Joe (Public Health)- what stage in promotion process is this the biggest issue with retention? What’s the desirable outcome?
     11. In humanities fields, the point of vulnerability is at the senior junior stage—people who have one book out but not two. Poached very easily by other places that can give tenure right away. Impossible to get people at this stage because they likely have tenure elsewhere, but can’t get tenure here just yet.   
         Ideal intervention would be robust combination of getting a consensus about what the tenure system should look like. What merits associate professor with tenure? Recruit at that rank and bring promising people up to that rank. Make it all happen at the same time.
     12. Are there more tenure track positions coming up? Administration is very clear on not adding more people. There is, however, some room to grow.
     13. Wendy (MD/PhD)- do faculty in humanities pay their own salaries? Can humanities professors pay their own salaries? Probably not because it is such a different model between the disciplines. Also because Drs. are more expensive than humanities profs.
     14. Wendy- what is Yale doing outside of university environment to get more people to come here. For example, no day care spots. Not super family friendly. Prof J.—This is the kind of thinking that’s needed. There are things to university does, but there is much more that needs to be done and dreamed up.
     15. Bryan (FES)- looking at issue of international scholar. How does faculty senate look at faculty catching up to population composition? What’s the end goal? How do we make sure there’s a long-term plan to adjust to the changes. Student diversity is not something senate is trying to match, but trying to get closer to it. Undergraduate admissions office has done a better job at making these changes than any other body on campus. There is an incredible mismatch between diversified student population and faculty. How much is enough? What is success? Trying to align the faculty with students needs. Senate has not really thought about what the end point is.
     16. Emilio (Neuro) – one issue raised at faculty panel centered around this issue—do FAS or admins have programs that fix pipeline issues.? Prof. J. spoke of Bridge programs to help people into high school to college, college-to graduate school, grad school to professorship.
     17. Christopher (linguistics)- challenging notion of excellence? There is less excellence because of people who are lost. Students who most struggle to be here are the ones who rely mostly on the continuity of the faculty that is diverse. Loss of faculty is most hurting students here who are already relying on them.
     18. Colin (French)- graduate students are very receptive to ideas, but if we knew more about the process and when problems arose, we could be better advocates.
     19. Did anyone go to a series of breakout sessions and teach ins in Sudler hall? Andrey went. Teach in about the endowment? No not this one. Liz- useful but not advertised widely amongst gradate students.
     20. Andrey (Comp Lit)-visibility of events is a huge issue. What almost everyone finds stressful- almost every position you take at Yale, you’re on a soapbox. Culture of division is a huge issue. Even for example with GSA, GPSS, and GESO. Everyone is fighting for a better university for everyone. Prof. J asked for recommendations for intervention? Generally love but we have to rethink relationships to each other, especially in the sciences—there are huge problems. Lots of revenge on campus right now, and this is not the way to go.
     21. Fabian Eckert (Econ)- what are the two sides ? What’s the division in the faculty, where are the fault lines? Is it ignorance? Sluggishness to act? Prof J.—Seems to be the stubbornness of institutions. When inhabiting administrative office, lose a piece of faculty perspective—lose sight of the real mission of the university because more powerful administrators feel themselves more answerable to the corporation than to faculty and students.
     22. Liz will make a Google form for further questions and comments that will be sent out to all reps.
2. Approval of Minutes
   1. No additional comments or corrections.
3. Approval of Agenda
   1. No additional Comments or corrections.
4. Department Meeting Reports
   1. Cell Biology and Experimental Pathology – Huiyan Jin and Deb Ayeni
      1. Deb reported-about ten students attending. Some positive things in terms of feedback are gym hours, especially nighttime hours.
      2. Issue- appointments for eye exams, and lots of complaints for wait time. Complicated to get a contact lens fitting. Appointment is not covered. Neither is a year long supply of contact lenses.
      3. Suggestions- Some comments or evaluation form FOR the DGS.
      4. OCS and Teaching center- people have been pretty positive about it. Happy that OCS is reaching out to student groups. Science Diplomats said they might be a good group to reach out to. One complaint about OCS is that there are limited resources for teaching careers at small universities because the office is viewing that as an academic position, but faculty members in the department don’t know how to advise for this. Seems to be a gap in resources. Teaching center should have a better review of levels of TFing.
      5. Two small complaints- access to medical school gym for graduate students. App for door-to-door service- in the process of piloting that.
      6. Wendy - no committee on Yale Health plan. This is a problem. Can someone convene the committee? Used to have reps on this committee and it doesn’t exist anymore.
      7. Bryan- Yale health decides coverage and they convene a meeting with leaders once the price and coverage has been set. Committee existed because of ObamaCare compliance, but no longer exists.
      8. Wendy- copay for contact lens fitting if you have the eyemed.
   2. Geology And Geophysics – Holger Petermann & Kiersten Daviau
      1. Holger reported-50 grad students. Only 17 attended, but geophysics includes atmospheric sciences and ocean sciences. Only three of these students attended. Traditional geologists attend though.
      2. Some students suffer from chronic diseases, and specialty care is not great. Can this somehow be changed? This will be a long-term struggle.
      3. Andrey- mental or other chronic conditions? Other chronic conditions.
      4. Lengthy discussion on new TF system. Lots of problems with this. Partially registrar problems and partially new system not being communicated well to the students.
      5. Why does the shuttle system have to run in loops? Student has to get on shuttle in east rock and then go to grocery store then wait for 20 minutes for next shuttle.
      6. Concerned comment about wrong way bike riding. Concern that students might get hit.
   3. Computational Biology and Bioinformatics – Mate Nagy
      1. Mate reported- Terrible turnout. About 32 people and 9 people showed up after 15 people saying they would come.
      2. People who showed up are the social ones. Very good about gym hours. No issues with department space—24 hours access to labs. Also small area for ad hoc meetings. Eye med and dental- don’t see real benefit because they’re still paying lots out of pocket.
      3. Some ideas for Schwarzman center- trampolines and soft walls, other things like lots of charging locations. People found that it has been difficult to have sufficient free plugs in current study spaces.
      4. Generally people are happy and there are no major issues.
      5. Gym—heavy bags—no boxing equipment
   4. Sociology – James Hurlbert and Dicky Yangzom
      1. James presented on sociology. 48 students in department and similar concerns. Lots of gym questions—bumper plates for Olympic weightlifting in the gym? Someone wanted access to the varsity gym, but that’s unlikely. Happy about 6th year funding-- led to questions about 7th year funding. International student raised issue that his 7th year funding technically isn’t enough to let him stay in the country.
      2. McDougal used to have an academic advisor, but doesn’t seem to be there in OCS. The students get sent to the DGS, but DGSs are often out of touch with how terrible the job market is.
      3. Childcare and taxes were also concern, but these are perennial issues.
   5. Public Health – Joe Lewnard, Michael Cohen, and Ryan Boyko
      1. Lots of buildings at Yale, but students have access to very few! Online portal to request access to particular buildings? Walking escorts do not come below frontage road. Not great for people who want to walk. Conference funding is not good- CTF is not enough.
      2. Students say career consulting is not great, but most people haven’t taken advantage of it. People are pleasantly surprised when they do.
      3. Only 4 years of funding guaranteed in public health! Unrealistic for everyone! Many of the people are not even science-related PhDs –more social science, but on a six year timeline with at least two years of full time courses. Affects TA system.—students just took a pay cut without the 6th year benefit.
      4. Unsatisfied with Louise cluster- abomination against high performance computing (university’s high cluster computer)
      5. Gym hours have been great. Potentially weekend and afterhours times for mental health counseling. Not really a 9-5 problem. Could shuffle hours around to make more hours available on nights and weekends while not changing the overall number of hours they’re open?
5. 320 York St. Renovation Feedback
   1. University is in process of transforming HGS into hub for the humanities. Residential part will be changed into departmental space for more departments in humanities to move into building. Andrew (Film Studies) and Alex (Philosophy) on committee, which is in charge of making decisions about the building and its future. Some very important decisions will be made in the near future.
   2. Get some GSA feedback especially from humanities reps. There are two or three areas where we need very targeted feedback. Very likely that there will be graduate student dedicated space in the building, possibly in the tower. With respect to this- would reps and constituents want tower space to be more for department (department specific) OR rather have it be mixed up and have it be open to many departments? The reason for this is that the committee is eager to break down some of the disciplinary walls and to capitalize on having so many humanities departments in the same building/ space to foster collaboration
   3. Andrey- Will McDougal Center still be here? Alex- The current feel will be that there will be a café, but nothing has been decided on yet. Ceiling is protected so you can’t do anything to it. Limits lots of architectural possibilities.
   4. Joe- what has been discussed of humanities outreach? Andrew- largely intended to be humanities. Person at last meeting trying to advocate exhibition space to showcase scientific instruments to bridge gap, but this likely won’t happen.
   5. Katie would like an interdisciplinary space to interact with people across departments and divisions.
   6. Andrew- we’re thinking more about clustered space. How would this look? Assess workspaces already on campus. What WORKS well and what does not? Lockers, keycard access, etc. Trying to undo some of the strict departmentalization seen on campus. Clustered workspace might be a good idea.
   7. Angus (Literature)- current thinking on areas to meet with students from the classes you teach? Office space for example. Alex- One question to address. For example. If we have tower space do you imagine it as office space or quiet study space?
   8. Angus- having offices that are shared with a few people is a great way of building a community. But could also work un sharing offices with people in other departments or disciplines
   9. Mate- are spaces available for non-humanities to book? Alex and Andrew Probably only for humanities, but unclear. Likely because many humanities grad students don’t have spaces already.
   10. Laura (music)- assigned working stations- does anyone have a carrel in the stacks with a door that closes? Someone commented that those are only for faculty apparently? Could model after these as an option. Some kind of locker or something with a lock is a good idea. Drawer, locker, door, something secure is essential regardless of the space. Whether room with three people or a space to yourself. Gives a space to leave things and not feel unsafe leaving stuff around.
   11. Alex- There has to be two staircases and elevator shaft in tower due to structure. If convert all into SML carrel rooms, or Bass first come first serve rooms, there might be fewer spaces for people overall. Open spaces and open carrels—more spaces for more people. Are people receptive to the idea of a locker? Laura—locker does the job.
   12. Colin- there might be pushback because lockers are available at Bass. They aren’t that utilized. Many grad students don’t go to bass. Do people use lockers? A few, but not many. There are also ones in HGS, but many people did not know about them.
   13. If keycard access to rooms/ offices, still have an area to lock things? Laura- Yes still not super secure. Still want drawer or locker. Any further thoughts? Get in touch with Alex and Andrew. Meeting next Friday.
   14. Liz- we can try to get more information at next week’s meeting if we’d like.
6. Faculty Standards of Conduct Discussion
   1. FAS senate did not vote on standards and do not vote until next Thursday. Assembly will talk resolution stuff at the end of March. Katie- motion to table. Tabled.
7. Report from the Big Ydea
   1. Liz- This was supposed to be a short report on the big Ydea
   2. Katie- motion to table. Tabled. Likely won’t be discussed—Just wanted to inform people on what happened. Check out the YDN article for information
8. Mental Health Coordinator Needed for Humanities
   1. Bryan- does anyone want to be the representative for mental health advisory committee?  Liaison between GSA and mental health and counseling.
   2. Very important position for students. If interested, contact Bryan. Has to be a humanities representative.
   3. Andrey- how often does the committee meet? Likely a few times a semester. Andrey is interested and will serve as the GSA representative on the committee.
9. Concerns from the Floor
   1. Liz- next week’s meeting we will ahve Michelle Nearon speaking, and then we will have an opportunity to help give feedback to Office of the Secretary and Student Life with Kim Goff Crews. Looking at harassment and discrimination reporting. Get feedback on current procedures. Because of that, we will just have a few department meeting reports. Transit and security discussion will be tabled until after spring break.
10. Adjournment
    1. Bryan motioned to adjourn.
    2. Meeting adjourned at 8:09.

**Parliamentary Procedure Basics Reviewed**

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| **Type** | **Purpose** | **To Enact Motion** |
| Main Motion  “I move that…” | To take action on behalf of the body | Second needed. Debatable. Requires majority vote. |

**Privileged Motions**

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| **Type** | **Purpose** | **To Enact Motion** |
| Call for orders of the Day  Chair asks if there are any objections to the agenda. | Asks Assembly to stick to the agenda | Not debatable; approved unless there is an objection, requires 1/3 to sustain. |
| Adjourn  “I move to adjourn” | End of meeting | Second needed. Not debatable. Not amendable. Meeting closes unless there is an objection, otherwise immediately voted upon and requires majority vote. |

**Subsidiary Motions**

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| **Type** | **Purpose** | **To Enact Motion** |
| Table Current Business  “I move to table the current business…” – Indefinitely or a set amount of time. | To lay one matter aside temporarily so that a more urgent matter can be considered. | Second needed. Not debatable. Not amendable. Requires majority vote. |
| Call the Question  “I move the previous question” “I call the question” | Closes debate and forces vote. | Second needed. Not debatable. Not amendable. Requires 2/3 vote. |
| Motion to Limit or Extend Debate  “I move that debate be limited to (or end at)…” | Limits or extends debate. | Second needed. Not debatable. Not amendable. Requires 2/3 vote. |
| Motion to refer  “I move that we refer the question of…to…(name of group) for…(further study) | Another group considers the motion and may change or modify the motion and then present it to the assembly. | Second needed. Debatable. Amendable. Requires majority vote. |
| Amendments  “I move to amend the motion by…” | Used to change a motion. Change must be related to the subject of the motion. | Second needed. Debatable. Amendable. Requires majority vote. |

**Incidental Motions**

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| **Type** | **Purpose** | **To Enact Motion** |
| Point of order  “Point of order” | A question about the process or a particular motion. Typically to call attention to a mistake in parliamentary procedure or a question of Scope based on the Charter and Bylaws. | The member addresses the Chair. She/he need not be recognized before speaking, She/he may interrupt a speaker who has the floor. Automatic if granted by the Chair. No second needed. Not debatable. Not amendable. No vote. |
| Point of information  “Point of information” | To ask about the particular motion | Automatic |
| Parliamentary Inquiry  “Parliamentary Inquiry” | To ask about the particular process | Automatic |