**GSA General Assembly Meeting**

April 13th, 2016

Meeting began at 6:45 PM

I. Approval of minutes

 a. No changes. Minutes stand as written.

II. Approval of agenda

 a. One minor change. Starting with department meeting reports. One rep has to leave early.

III. Deep Dive- Academics and Professional Development

* 1. Haven’t met too much this semester, but one very productive meeting with Graduate Students of Color Coalition. They are eager to expand membership. Mark proposed that we are an opportunity to help expand this. They were curious to know which departments have held meetings about diversity and inclusion. Quick show of hands—On the order of five departments or so.
	2. Recommendation from GSCC- designated member of steering committee to act as diversity and inclusion rep. It won’t take effect this year, but hopefully will in the fall. Liz mentioned that the bylaws require two meetings of awareness, which is more than we have left. Not a new steering position, just someone on the board will be designated as the diversity rep and serve as liaison between GSCC and GSA and also with Michelle Nearon’s office.
	3. Emilio (Neuro)- Would the new representative be beyond the quotas for steering? How will it be determined? Things to think about when doing it next year.
	4. Sebastian was going to talk about the libraries, but he is not present.
	5. Holly (Biomedical Engineering)- joint mentoring with GSAA—pairing alumni with current graduate students. Did not have to be professional mentoring, could be life mentoring, graduate mentoring, creating a family mentoring, non-traditional career mentoring. Each semester trying to expand to one new subject per division. There was not a ton of interest in this this year, but if anyone is interested in helping over the summer, let Holly know. Mark noted that this is excellent especially for humanities students who want more of a presence in the department for people in non-academic careers. Holly also noted that there are mentors from small teaching schools, R01 universities, entrepreneurs, etc.
	6. Office of Career Strategy Committee. New initiative on developing non-academic career options. Organized some workshops and job treks. APD has been working with BCC and GSAA to tweak career days to really fine tune it to students and their needs. Also trying to establish a framework for better dealing with internships and how this interacts with leaves of absence. Trying to explore federal grants and scholarships to try to make up the gaps in funding. Polling lots of other universities to see what they’re doing in terms of paying students when they’re gone and which companies they’re interacting with.

IV. Deep Dive- Facilities and Healthcare

 a. FHC has focused on childcare support, the Wellness Project, Yale housing, and the Schwarzman center. Other areas of interest are gym access, 24 hr study space, and waste management.

 b. Recent achievements: submitted a proposal for childcare subsidy; DeStress fest, Yale Health Plan policy discussion meeting, Yale Off Campus Housing website updates.

 c. Childcare support subsidy proposal (Wendy): partnered with GPSS To get info on grad and professional student data; got data from Yale health plan, proposed a sliding scale based on family income and type of care; proposal would cover 40% of families but may need to cover more depending on the income cut-off; now being reviewed by finance department and provost office. Dean Cooley has also made a commitment to coming up with a plan that addresses childcare subsidies in some way.

 d. DeStress Fest (Danielle and Susan: sponsored by the wellness grant, organized by the GSA, Student Wellness, and Yale Housing. Several hundred students showed up. Did a quick survey to see how people found out about the event— about 1/3 said it was from an email from their DGS, about 15% from Dean Cooley’s video.

 e. Yale off campus housing search website (Andrew): website needed work, bedroom search function did not work as intended, no sorting by number of reviews, hard to compare multiple listings at once. Changes: assigning reviews by landlord instead of by property, now can right click to open multiple listings side by side, search results now dynamically change as map view changes, Yale Housing may switch to a new vendor that can address these issues.

 f. Yale Health- policy and coverage discussion (Bryan): Why can’t we just go to YNHH clinics and not wait three months for appointments at Yale Health? Complaints of questions? Member.services@yale.edu or Margaret Hionis (203- 432-0246). Yale health student handbook has information on home health care, hospice, chiropractic, increased rehab maximum, pediatric dental and visions. These are results of ACA compliance.

 g. Summer steering ideas an outstanding tasks (Stacy): HGS replacement space, dental and eyemed policy change, Yale Health membership advisory board, mental health focus group project. Vision for grad housing: what do students want?

 h. for more information, Liz distributed the slides from the FHC deep dive via email.

V. Deep Dive- Public Relations

 a. Website (Mate): We keep being told we will be moved to Druple 7 from Druple 6, but no changes have yet been made. Mate will keep an eye on this, but at least we have the administrative functions restored to the website (which had been taken away previously).

 b. Podcast (Nick): Alicia and Nick have been working on the podcast and met with the Office of the General Counsel to discuss copyright issues of the podcast. There are many issues that PR is working out including disclaimers, regulating comments, and who will host the podcast (Yale website? Outside website? Etc.). The big question is who will own the podcast. GSA Could, but we would be responsible for legal issues that arise. Yale could, but we will need to be granted a license, unless we are considered Yale, then Yale might not be able to grant Yale a license—something the OGC will work on. Yale could also have to approve what we produce, so we will have to work with the OGC to make sure we retain enough rights and that the university does not get absolute veto power. Nick and Alicia will be in touch with Dean Cooley and Dean Harper-Mangels to figure out what the best direction is. The general assembly seems to think that Yale owning the podcast is better. Also, Yale owning the podcast means they take care of any legal issues that arise from it. Music is another legal issue. Laura (music) offered to compose some of the music for the podcasts, which removes some of the issue regarding copyrights and rights clearance. Nick played an introduction that Alicia produced, and the general assembly received it well.

 c. PR status and function (Alex): PR functions differently than other committees, and in some sense, is connected to each of the other committees. Something to think about for the future is the role of PR and how it should be regulated and coordinated. This semester, PR functioned with about four people taking care of the core business and most of the work could be done remotely. Something to think about for the future. Additionally, the PR secretary should be at executive board meetings to be kept in the loop and to be better informed- this will help when putting together the newsletter.

VI. Department Meeting Reports

* 1. Film Studies/Comparative Literature – Andrew Vielkind and Andrey Tolstoy
	2. 38 in comp lit; 5 attended; 5 more 34 in film; 12 attended. Several of those are in comp lit, so some overlap.
	3. First thing discussed is professionalization. Some students were concerned about having to pay for both annual membership and conference registration for the main professional organization yearly conference. Can grad school subsidize one or both?
	4. Largest concern expressed: lack of conference travel funds. People really want it to be expanded. In film studies, people in their earliest years are expected to go to conferences. Interviews happen at these conferences, so they’re important for career development. There are no department-offered funds right now. First year ever, department covered registration fee for students presenting papers—it likely won’t happen again. Students at Harvard get $500 per year for conference travel funding.
	5. Departments need more awareness of non-academic or non-research intensive jobs, including teaching. Not a lot of transparency about non-TF 7th year jobs (other research positions for example)
	6. Need more dissertation filing dates—need a summer one so that people can strategize about options and decide whether they’re going to go into their 7th year or go on the job market.
	7. Need day care. Law school and med school have day care centers—Liz pointed out that they’re for faculty and professors. Grad school should have one too, but actually for students.
	8. Seventh year fees- everyone is against them. This is especially hard on international students—they can’t legally get a job in their 7th year.
	9. Could there be a one-time equipment credit to use on buying a better laptop or something since science students use Yale equipment. Point was made that these are paid from research grants and it is not from the university. It isn’t something that’s going to the students directly. Andrey commented that these imbalances cause difficulties on the job market.
	10. Expand associates in teaching program.
	11. Astronomy – Joey Schmitt
	12. 14 of about 25 showed up. APD: department is good at helping get academic jobs and open to getting resources for non-academic jobs. Seminar series where non-academics come to talk. T&S: Some drivers seem like they hate interacting with people. People want more frequent weekend blue line shuttles. Dental is a bit better than not having anything at all, but not much. Everyone loves the gym hours. Feedback and ideas: cheaper parking lot in Gibbs parking lot (800-1000 per year, whereas street permit is 25 dollars). For TFs: maybe get a few free meals in the dining halls to meet undergrads they’re teaching. Chris- for individual students who might be interested doing it—apply to undergraduate college affiliate program.
	13. Music – Mark Rodgers and Laura Brown
	14. 16 of 42 students attended. Main issue- diversity of race and gender. One student thinks there should be required training for all students and faculty. Another expressed concern about arguments about free speech—continuing of debates that have been happening on campus. Some unique solutions in the music department. Second issue: bureaucracy: greater amount of inter-organizational dialogue. There actually is a lot, but there is a feeling that they aren’t talking to each other. Third issue: mental health. More mixed reviews than in previous years. One student said mental health is doing a really great job. The amount and quality of care is great and easy to access and the emergency number is easy to use. Some students didn’t like that they could only make and break appointments by directly contacting their therapist. One creative solution: regarding diversity issue. Regular professional development. Yale Director for Faculty Teaching Initiatives held session that was tailored to the department and it was incredibly helpful.
	15. 1. Is there an FAS committee on sexual misconduct?
	16. 2. Will we still be able to call in for mental health appointments after it turns online? (Visually impaired student concerns?)
	17. 3. Will the shuttles switch when the roads change directions in New Haven.
	18. MCDB – Joori Park and Carlie
	19. Just over 40 people in the department. Around 10 at meeting. Some major concerns are that the department systems want a mentorship program for minority students. Want mentors with similar backgrounds. Huge problem with facilities in KBT—lights randomly go off, elevators shut off, elevators fall, autoclaves shut off, bats, mice, pipes leaking.
	20. Department members are extremely happy with study spaces—science library is 24/7. Schwarzman center- students wouldn’t use it because they have KBT, but it’s still a cool idea.
	21. Concern about CTL. Non-native English students wanted more classes about learning etiquette in US classes.
	22. Problems with shuttles tailing each other

VII. Announcements and concerns from the floor

1. GSA Representatives Elections – Nominations open; Elections next week
2. Officer Elections – April 27th
3. Alex- April newsletter in the works. Send anything to him.

VIII. Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

**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 DayChair 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 |