

**GSA General Assembly Meeting**  
**Monday, September 16th, 2019**  
**6:00PM, Watson (60 Sachem Street), Room A74**

*Meeting was called to order at 6.02pm*

I. Approval of minutes  
The minutes were approved.

II. Approval of agenda  
The agenda was approved.

III. Input for University Librarian search  
The Chair (**Lucy Armentano, Psychology**) provided information on the ongoing university librarian search and solicited input from the Assembly.

**CJ Rice (History):** Any new library initiatives should consider that humanities graduate students often do not have departmental spaces for meeting with students. Library cafes or open tables don't provide the privacy we need for this work.. **Zach Michielli (Architecture):** In terms of research resources, there is some scatter-brainedness to the digital collections. Why are some items available online but not others? **Maria del Mar Galindo (English):** Many humanities students do not have any university space to work other than the library. **Trevor Williams (Economics):** Library hours are not sufficient for graduate students who don't have access to residential college libraries; this is particularly true in the summer. **Spencer Small (Slavic Lang&Lit):** Two concerns: the aggressive pursuit of recalled materials (students on research leave can end up paying large fines), and the poor care given to some shelved materials. Some fragile items are very haphazardly kept. **Ethan Perets (Chemistry):** I have served on a library advisory committee. This is a good way to get involved, and I am happy to take Assembly feedback to that space. **Sara Misgen (Religious Studies):** Any new librarian should prioritize strengthening relationships with faculty and staff. The recent Bass renovation process eroded many relationships.

IV. Committee overview and introduction of committee chairs and officers  
The Chair drew representatives' attention to the New Rep Packet and to the duties of GSA representatives, which include serving on a committee, interacting with constituents, and holding a department meeting.

A. Facilities and Healthcare

**Jenette Creso (F&H Chair, Biomedical Engineering):** Graduate healthcare is the biggest priority for 2019-2020: improving vision and dental offerings, ensuring University takes the lead on negotiating these, and continuing to enhance mental health care as well as general wellness service provision. Other priorities include improving conditions in graduate student dorms, increasing grad student access to social and academic work spaces, and identifying space needs by department. In collaboration with GPSS we will continue to develop a Peer Support Network, and make more wellness services available.

## B. Academic and Professional Development

**Estella Barbosa de Souza (APD Chair, Physics):** In 2019-2020 we will take an umbrella approach to gathering professional development resources and increasing grad student access to them. In partnership with OCS we are developing resources specific to each department, and preparing an upcoming survey. Another priority is ensuring that the university and departments provide more information on academic requirements, degree progression, and guidelines for forward movement in programs. We also want to work on making more resources available to students facing issues with mentoring, professional development, or related academic issues.

## C. Public Relations

**Zach Michielli (PR Chair, Architecture):** Every year PR works to prepare the guidebook for new students, The Compass. We are the communications arm of the GSA; this year we are enhancing our social media presence, including through an official Twitter account that will provide relevant information to grad students. We also produce a podcast, which we want to rethink. In the past the largest listener community has been alumni; we are thinking about how to shift this toward an audience of current students.

**Nicolle Rosa Mercado (Molecular Biophysics&Biochemistry):** What kinds of topics have been covered in the podcast? Could we shift toward topics that affect graduate students? **Zach Michielli:** This is part of the focus. In the past our most popular podcasts have included an extended interview with Chief Higgins. **James Kweon (Chemistry):** What kind of resources are available for production? **Zach Michielli:** The university has a SoundCloud page on which over 40 podcasts are hosted. There's a professional broadcast studio at 135 College Street, with all the resources you need for production and great editing support. **CJ Rice (History):** Is a podcast the most useful medium for reaching out to students? Are there other strategies? **Nicolle Rosa Mercado:** Podcasts can be a great medium for people who spend a lot of time commuting or working on certain tasks in an academic setting. **Zach Michielli:** The podcast represents one opportunity for us to engage with students; it is not our primary form of communication.

## D. Transit and Security

**Meaghan McGeary (T&S Chair, Experimental Pathology):** We are working on a strategic plan for improving bike safety and accessibility. In terms of accessibility, we want graduate students to have more access to university spaces, and more information on how decisions are made regarding access. We are working with GPSS on securing UPass for grad students, with University support: this would give access to all CT Transit, including trains and buses. We also carry out continual evaluation and update of the shuttle system, including providing shuttle information.

## E. Service

**Megan Kelley (Service Chair, Neuroscience):** One of our primary goals is to define the identity of Service as a committee in more detail. We have been active for two years, providing services to graduate students and to and with the greater New Haven community. Going forward we are targeting areas that have a big impact on health and wellbeing. We'll be continuing to offer Tax Facts and Ask a Lawyer (in association with the New Haven Bar), planning and improving on Relax and Chill events, and working with Yale Votes to register graduate students to vote and to increase access to absentee ballots. We also want to prioritize identifying barriers to access and success, which would include collecting information on financial and tax anxiety.

**Ethan Perets (Chemistry):** What will Service's role be in responding to more political issues? **Megan Kelley:** Our priority is to remain inclusive, but to respond to the Assembly's desire to engage in diverse spaces.

#### F. Officers

The officers introduced themselves and their functions.

#### V. Parliamentary overview

The topic was tabled for later in the meeting. There was time to return to the item. The Parliamentarian gave an overview of Roberts Rules and parliamentary etiquette, highlighting the importance of respect and inclusivity as prerequisites to lively debate.

#### VI. Elections

##### A. Advisory Committee on Investor Responsibility

The Chair indicated that GSA would make two nominations and GPSS an additional two; President Salovey's office would pick a final candidate. Christopher Londa (Classics) was elected by unanimous consent as GSA nominee for the Committee.

##### B. Advisory Committee on Community Policing

The Chair introduced the committee, highlighting that it had been recently established, with GSA advocating for a seat. Sylvia Ryerson (American Studies) was nominated to serve on the committee. The GSA Secretary will follow up this nomination, as Sylvia Ryerson is not a GSA Rep.

##### C. Police Advisory Board

Da'Von Boyd (Political Science) was nominated to be the GSA representative on the Police Advisory Board. The GSA Secretary will follow up this nomination, as Da'Von Boyd was not present at this point of the meeting.

#### VII. Department meeting overview

The Treasurer gave an overview of departmental meeting responsibilities and policies.

**Matthew Ellis (Cellular and Molecular Physiology):** If a department has no elected rep, what happens?

**Jeremy Gaison (Physics):** Departmental reps should feel free to include individuals from other departments that do not have a rep.

#### VIII. Budget Approval

The item was tabled for a following meeting.

#### IX. Miscellaneous

The Chair noted that this was the final day to submit nominations to the Title IX Advisory Board, noting the Board was particularly seeking Humanities and Social Science representatives.

*Meeting adjourned at 7.38.*