1. Introductions – Robin Ladouceur is the new Assistant Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences. She has a PhD in Slavic Languages and Literatures from Yale and has worked at the Center for Language study with the Instructional Technology Group on such initiatives as adapting social media for instructional use.

2. Grant databases – Dean Ladouceur’s comments:
   a. The GSAS grants database was formerly maintained by Dean Barnaby and Senior Administrative Assistant Alicia Grendziszewski. Understaffing and insufficient resources have inhibited regular database updates. There is some possibility of a fellow being hired in the future to collate information from the various deans.
   b. Ladouceur will advocate for greater unification of Yale’s disparate and often non-communicating systems – this includes meeting with Nancy Ruther of the Macmillan Center to discuss overlapping grants data between the Center’s website and the GSAS database. She will also participate in an upcoming meeting with a group of people who have an interest in the grants databases, including Art Hunt, who oversees the Yale College database, regarding a new Yale-wide database unifying all grant information. This project will take time, and results should not be expected before next fall.

3. Observations and Questions by GSA Representatives:
   a. What is the source of funding for the Yale grants databases? We do not currently have an answer to this question.
   b. There is a general consensus in favor of a unified grants database which would have a specific search criterion for graduate students.
   c. Department-specific databases (such as Chemistry’s) can coexist with the main database. They can be views taken from the new general database with department-specific search criteria, and the general database can benefit from the expertise of departments in grants pertaining to their own fields.
   d. Grant descriptions need to be vetted, as they come from a variety of sources.
   e. There are a number of problems with the current Yale College database: grant descriptions cannot be opened in new tabs, impeding research; only ten search results are shown per page; submission dates are often expired; search criteria are nebulous – it is possible, for
example, to select grants for “dissertation support” or “research,” or for each year of graduate study as well as for “pre-candidacy” and “post-candidacy”; some grants – such as the Rhodes Scholarship – always show up, meaning that many of those ten initial search results are always the same. Comparable searches using the Yale College and GSAS databases yield different results.

f. The GSAS database grant descriptions have in many cases not been updated in years and the interface offers very few search criteria. The GSAS database does not require users to authenticate themselves before searching.

g. Dean Ladouceur stresses that screenshots of observed problems with the databases are very useful when making the case for improvements.