1. Dissertation Progress Report (DPR)

- Stephen Gosden, a former GSA representative, has spear-headed a survey about the DPR last semester.
  - Students as well as faculty have provided feedback.
- Dean Pollard now wants to use the results of this survey to start a critical review of the DPR.
- Dean Harper-Mangels has examined the survey responses and has singled out two key aspects:
  - Better instructions, e.g. with respect to the inclusion of the professional development of the student.
  - Increased individualization of the report, e.g. different reports for the different divisions.
- Our committee is in the process of accessing the survey results in order to have a conversation with Dean Harper Mangels about the DPR.
  - We will have a meeting on September 28, 2011.
  - Whoever wants to get involved, is more than welcome to join us.
- Changing the DPR can easily become a protracted process, as the registrars as well as ITS will also get involved.
- DPR might even be abolished for departments that have other reporting systems already in place. These departments will then only be required to share their reports with the academic deans.
- Concerns and comments from members of committee:
  - Extending the reporting systems to younger years.
  - Evaluation of graduate program in DPR.
  - Reports turning into mandates.

2. Reports by Dean Pollard on the Improvement of Graduate Education (published in August 2011)

Report Titles:
Improving Graduate Education at Yale
Best Practices in Yale Graduate Programs
• After the reports have been published, Dean Pollard thinks that it is now the turn of the individual departments to take action.
• The Graduate School's administration will pursue a top-down approach to encourage departments to examine their graduate program. He has approached the GSA to complement the Graduate School's approach by a bottom-up approach.
• Luke Thompson, Kevin Fogg, and I have formulated a motion calling for discussion and evaluation of these two reports during the departmental meetings. Subsequently, representatives should give a report to our committee and also to the Dean's Office (although our committee can give this report to the Dean's Office).
• Concerns and comments from the members of the committee:
  • The points mentioned in each of the reports should be understood as a basis for discussion, not as mandates that must be implemented without any further discussion.
  • It is important to keep in mind the specificities of each department.

3. Mentoring

• We will have a discussion about Mentoring Week and the publicity for the Graduate Mentor Award in one of the next General Assembly Meetings.
• Past winners of the Graduate Mentor Award (including their speeches and/or mentoring statements) will be posted on the GSA webpage. The Graduate Teaching Center will then link to our content concerning the award.
• Jennifer Frederick currently holds mentoring seminars for graduate students and post-docs in the Sciences.
  o One-hour meetings, once a week, five weeks in total.
  o The seminars are designed to help participants prepare for their task as a mentor later in their professional life.
  o There is the possibility to also offer this kind of seminar for the Social Sciences and the Humanities.
  o The committee continues to study this possibility.
  o Our committee asks all representatives to raise this issue during the departmental meetings so that we can get a better idea of the students’ interest in these seminars.
4. **Next Committee Meeting**

- Wednesday, September 28, from noon until 12.30pm in the McDougal Common Room.
- Subsequently, we have our meeting with Dean Harper-Mangels about the DPR at 12.30pm.

5. **Library Committee**

- The Advisory Committee on Library Policy met on September 15, 2011 as the first meeting of the new academic year; Kevin Fogg joined the committee as the representative of graduate student interests.
- The meeting discussed library administration reorganization principles, guidelines for the use of space in Sterling, forthcoming facility changes in the library system, food and drink policy in Sterling and Bass, and library hours.
- Kevin Fogg also brought two items of graduate student interest to the committee meeting: a replacement for the Social Science Library in document delivery along Hillhouse Avenue and the potential to BorrowDirect books already in the Haas Library. The University Librarian Susan Gibbons is identifying point people among library staff for both of these items.
- **Students with suggestions for changes in library policy, or with opinions on the two aforementioned changes, should contact Kevin** ([kevin.fogg@yale.edu](mailto:kevin.fogg@yale.edu)) **directly.**