GSA General Assembly Meeting
October 5, 2011

Report from the “Academics and Professional Development Committee”

By Oliver Bunn

1. Dissertation Progress Report (DPR)

• Last week: Committee meeting concerning results of DPR survey.
• Subsequently: Meeting with Dean Harper-Mangels to have a conversation about administration’s reading of survey results.

• Technical situation:
  o Major overhaul of DPR requires significant input from university’s IT department, which is unrealistic until 2013, maybe even 2014.
  o General flow of information and structure of the DPR can therefore not be changed for the 2012 version of the report.
  o However, changes to the general instructions and the text for each question are possible. Moreover, it is possible to initiate emails to the parties involved in the DPR and design the content of these emails.

• Preliminary standing of discussion for the 2012 DPR (given technical situation):
  o Purpose and scope of the DPR to be clarified in the instructions of the DPR.
  o There will be clear instructions to upload existing assessment reports (as are currently done in the Sciences). When report system is already in place, DPR should not impose extra burden on students and faculty.
  o The DGS will have the opportunity to reject a DPR and send it back to the student and the advisor(s).
  o Students will have the opportunity to talk about their professional development, but it will not be mandatory.
  o Students may even be allowed to upload a CV to initiate a discussion of their professional development and their prospects for the application process.
  o Students receive the opportunity to reply to the comments of the advisor(s) and the DGS. This will be part of an email that they receive after the submission of the report of the advisor(s) and DGS.
  o Students will be asked about the frequency of their meetings with advisor(s). Currently, only the advisor(s) are asked this question.
  o The month-to-month plan that students are asked to provide will be changed.
• The committee has been asked to come up with a draft for the general instructions of the DPR, the texts for all the entry fields of the DPR, as well as the emails that will be sent to the involved parties.
• Simultaneously, Deans Harper-Mangels and Barnaby will prepare their draft of these texts.
• We will have a discussion of the different drafts in approximately three weeks.

2. Next Meeting

• Wednesday, October 12, from 7pm until 8pm in the McDougal Common Room.
• Topics to be discussed:
  o Draft of the new instructions for the DPR.
  o Mentoring Week and the Graduate Mentor Award.
  o Nominations for committees (see Resolution 11-002).
  o Teaching regulations for outside positions.