GSA General Assembly Meeting  
November 2, 2011

Report from the “Academics and Professional Development Committee”

By Oliver Bunn

1. Dissertation Progress Report (DPR)
   
   • In our last committee meeting, we have finalized a draft of the student section of the DPR and have started working on the advisor section.
   • Subsequently, we have met with Dean Harper-Mangels to have a very constructive discussion about our revision and the proposal for the student section that the Dean’s Office has concurrently prepared.
   • Now, Dean Harper-Mangels merges the two documents and we will continue our discussion with him next week.

2. Next Meeting
   
   • Wednesday, November 9:
     o From noon until 12.30pm committee meeting in the McDougal Common Room to finalize draft for advisor section of DPR and prepare meeting with Dean Harper-Mangels.
     o From 12.30pm until 1.30pm meeting with Dean Harper-Mangels in order to continue discussion about DPR review.

3. Nominated Advocates
   
   • At the last meeting, the general assembly has approved the following nominations:
     o Jan van Treeck (jan.vantreeck@yale.edu) as the Graduate Teaching Center advocate,
     o Kevin Fogg (kevin.fogg@yale.edu) as the Graduate Career Services advocate,
     o Ksenia Sidorenko (ksenia.sidorenko@yale.edu) as the Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity advocate.
   • The Graduate School has approved these nominations.
   • Our committee has approached the respective offices and has let them know about the new advocates.
     o Primarily, the task of the advocates will be to facilitate the two-way communication between the GSA and the respective office.
     o So, if you have any questions or concerns related to the Graduate School offices above, do not hesitate to contact the respective advocate.
   • All three offices were very interested in having a good working relationship with the GSA and with our committee in particular.
• We will invite the directors of the three offices to one of our committee meetings in the near future.

4. Mentoring Week and Graduate Mentoring Award

• Our committee will bring a resolution in front of the general assembly today concerning Mentoring Week:
  o We will make the suggestion to formally discontinue Mentoring Week.
    - It has not found broad acceptance. The events were predominantly frequented by people that cared very deeply about mentoring anyway and did not contribute to change people's perceptions about the need for and the role of mentoring.
• We will not address the logistics of the Graduate Mentoring Award in the form of a motion yet, because the ongoing discussion about this topic between the Steering Committee and the Dean's Office is still very inconclusive:
  o However, we invite all representatives to share their thoughts on when to announce the award winners and when to present the award with our committee.
  o Please send those emails to oliver.bunn@yale.edu.

5. Getting Involved

• If you want to get involved, please contact the committee's chair Oliver Bunn (oliver.bunn@yale.edu) or the committee's secretary Marianne Wilson (Marianne.wilson@yale.edu).