GSA General Assembly Meeting  
November 30, 2011

Report from the “Academics and Professional Development Committee”  

By Oliver Bunn

1. Dissertation Progress Report (DPR)
   - Dean Harper-Mangels has created the new DPR document that will now be reviewed by the Dean’s office.
   - Our committee will also have a final look at the document, before the technical implementation of the new DPR begins.
   - It will be ready for the next student progress assessment in April 2012.

2. Conversation with Michelle Nearon from the Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity (ODEO)
   - Michelle Nearon had a conversation with our committee in the afternoon of November 30, 2011.
   - She outlined the different missions that ODEO has within the Graduate School. The responsibilities of her office cover the Bouchet Seminar series, involved in improvements of mentoring for graduate students, counseling, career advice, and recruiting, which goes substantially beyond the aspect of “just” advocating diversity.
   - Of particular interest for our committee are ODEO’s efforts to install a four-tiered mentoring program:
     i. Graduate students mentoring undergraduate students,
     ii. Advanced graduate students mentoring incoming graduate students,
     iii. Post-docs mentoring graduate students,
     iv. Faculty mentoring graduate students.
   - Currently, the program encompasses a total of around 25 participants.
   - Our committee will work with ODEO to help publicizing the program in the spring semester 2012 and will support the recruitment process in the summer before the fall semester 2012.
   - More detailed discussions will follow in a meeting of all the ODEO fellows with our committee in the beginning of the spring semester 2012.
   - ODEO is looking for graduate students to contact newly admitted graduate students in the spring semester 2012. This will involve sending an email a newly admitted graduate student to let them know that they can get in touch with you if they have questions about Yale or to offer to meet with them when they visit the campus.
• On the one hand, this will be directly related to ODEO’s mission to increase diversity on campus.
• On the other hand, students may be contacted from departments that do not encourage their own graduate students to get in touch with newly admitted graduate students.

3. 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).
• Please also contact Oliver if you have any questions or ideas with regard to the committee’s collaboration with ODEO.