GSA General Assembly Meeting  
December 14, 2011

Report from the “Academics and Professional Development Committee”

By Kevin Fogg (item 1) and Oliver Bunn (item 2)

1. Center for Science and Social Science Information (CSSSI)

- Kelly Barrick, Head of Public Services for Yale Library, and Jill Parchuck, Director of the Social Science Library and incoming Director of the Center for Science and Social Science Information, joined our committee to talk about the opening of the new Center for Science and Social Science Information in the basement of the Kline Biology Tower.
- They outlined the facilities available in the CSSSI, and how these might serve graduate students.
- They provided an overview of the staff services in connection with the opening of the CSSSI.
- As library services move a little further from Hillhouse Avenue, Yale Library aims to find alternative accommodations for social scientists.
- Our committee had a discussion about future services that graduate students would like to see from the library system.
- Additional input on library services or graduate student needs can be directed to kevin.fogg@yale.edu or to either of the two guests.

2. Review of Fall Semester 2011 and Outlook for Spring Semester 2012

- In the Fall Semester 2011, our committee has been concerned with the following topics:
  
  o Supporting the Dean’s Office to revise the Dissertation Progress Report (DPR), taking into account the DPR survey from the Spring Semester 2011.
  o Collecting graduate student responses from the discussion of the reports on graduate education issued by Dean Pollard in August 2011.
  o Improving the logistics of the Graduate Mentoring Award and setting up a webpage for the award.
  o Intensify the contact with various offices within the Graduate School: Graduate Teaching Center (GTC), Graduate Career Services (GCS), Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity (ODEO).
  o Strengthening the voice of graduate students in the Yale Library system: Representation on the University Library Committee, serving as a focus group for the renovation of the nave of Sterling Memorial Library.
Potential areas of involvement for our committee for the Spring Semester 2012 include:

- Funding for veterans on campus.
- Shared services program.
- Mentoring, in particular the continuation of the collection of graduate student responses to Dean Pollard's reports.
- Teaching, in particular language and graduate teaching as well as the assignment process of teaching positions.
- Alumni relations.
- Update of the Academics section of the Compass.