GSA General Assembly Meeting
January 18, 2012

Report from the “Academics and Professional Development Committee”

By Oliver Bunn

1. Emphasis of the Committee for Spring Semester 2012

   • Mentoring
     • We will continue to collect responses from the Departmental Meetings about the reports on graduate education that Dean Pollard has issued in August 2011.
     • An initial and unofficial summary of graduate student responses has met substantial interest within the Dean's Office.
     • The summary has contributed to the decision to hold the Brown Bag lunches as open-discussion events between all graduate students on campus and Dean Pollard.
     • We will launch a coffee voucher program to strengthen mentoring relations between graduate students and faculty.

   • Language Teaching
     • We will look into graduate students' access to language courses, in particular the Reading Courses offered by the Center for Language Studies.
     • We will also concern ourselves with the roles of graduate students as teaching fellows or instructors in language courses.

   • Graduate Teaching
     • In a conversation with the Teaching Fellow Program, we would like to obtain further information about graduate students as teaching fellows in Ph.D.-level graduate courses, in particular in the Social Sciences.
     • We would like to have a discussion about the procedure, by which teaching positions are assigned, particularly in the Humanities.

   • Alumni Relations
     • Currently, there exists an ad-hoc committee, chaired by Erica Westerman, on alumni relations.
     • This committee will merge back into our committee by April 1, 2012.
• A major initiative for graduate students is a program, in which graduate students can shadow an alumnus. Victoria Blodgett from Graduate Career Services leads this initiative.

• Compass
  • In the Spring Semester 2012, we also want to update the Academics section of the Compass.

2. **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).