GSA General Assembly Meeting
February 29, 2012

Report from the “Academics and Professional Development Committee”

By Oliver Bunn

1. Follow-Up from Meeting with Teaching Fellow Program

   • We will continue to follow-up on the meeting from February 8, 2012, to check on the items that have been discussed.
   • Dean Hackman is involved in various conversations with member of the Dean’s Office and will report back to us in the near future.
   • In general, the Teaching Fellow Program has been very open-minded to the suggestions that we have made and to solving the problems that we have raised.

2. Language Teaching

   • Jan van Treeck, our committee’s Teaching Advocate, aims at collecting data about the teaching load of graduate students involved with language courses and about language teaching at Yale in general.
   • He will contact the GSA representatives from departments involved in language teaching to set up a meeting.
   • During this meeting, he would like the representatives to fill out a survey. The data from this survey will later be used in conversations with the Teaching Fellow Program and the Dean’s Office in general.
   • The Steering Committee will show the survey to the Dean’s Office in order to rule out that the information addressed by the survey has not already been collected elsewhere.
   • If you have any questions about the committee’s effort related to language teaching or would like to remain informed about the survey and the collected data, please contact jan.vantreeck@yale.edu.

3. Review of the Academics Section of the Compass

   • We have started to review the Academics section of the Compass.
   • The following changes have been discussed:
     o Provide more information about the Academic Deans.
     o Include the two new Academic Deans.
     o Complete the list of offices relevant for graduate students.
     o Include a description of all mentoring-related programs.
     o Eliminate the Mentoring Statement.
     o Create a new sub-section on stages in graduate school on way to Ph.D. (from information currently in Glossary).
     o Create a new section on Support, including Title IX-related information, Mental Health, Security etc.
4. Coffee Voucher Program

- The actual voucher is being designed.
- The administration needs to authorize swipe cards at the participating locations and the staff needs to be trained to deal with the vouchers.
- The program ought to be ready to go shortly after Spring Break.