

Mental Health-Counseling and Psychological Services

A representative provided information about the resources for mental health, counseling services and related topics. Their office is located on the 8th floor of Lerner hall and the staff consists of ~30 people. They are involved in short-term intervention as well as outreach in the community. Approx. 18% clients are GSAS students. They work on the entire gamut of problems-academics, relationships, depression and anxiety. Counselors belong to diverse groups, ethnicities and backgrounds. Walk-ins are welcome but online appointments are preferred. A response is usually made within 24 hours over the phone. During the busy parts of the year, there is a waiting time of 2 weeks for an appointment. Short term treatment and then refer to community as Aetna pays for 20 sessions. There are groups that cater to eating disorders, procrastination workshops, substance abuse, and relationships. They work with people outside of campus as well. Confidentiality is maintained, except when the client could hurt themselves or others. Pan-Ivy summit 2012 is going to focus on graduate students' mental health. Requested that these resources be publicized among the student body. There is always somebody on call but the office is not open on the weekends. Information is available on the website- <http://health.columbia.edu/services/cps> . International students are less likely to use such services so there is a need to reach out to them in particular. The uptown departments have a separate health services.

Group Recognition

- Baraza:
 - Started last year with some funds from MESAAS. Hosted online web events. Trial period to run the website and 2500 hits for academic content. Drive traffic to the website.
 - Blog for graduate students to think about theoretical problems of political events. Critical reviews monthly. Feature piece every semester. In-person meetings and small in scale every two-three weeks.
 - Members include students from Islamic studies, English dept. and are all grad students. Few people outside Columbia. Digital Humanities. Further information is available at barazaonline.org
 - Approved for recognition Voted-Yes 24, Abstention-1.
- Women's Allied Forum in Academics (WAFA):
 - Creating events talking to each other about challenges they face in academic settings. Started talking about challenges about academic problems. Similar problems in the academic space. Approved for recognition. Voted-Yes 22 No 1 Abstention 2

- SNIPS:
 - Connect science and engineering students to rest of the graduate student body. Disconnect between science and engineering students to share their research. GSAC recognition to go beyond traditional boundaries. Approved for recognition-Voted Yes-24 Abstention-2.

Student Initiative Grants

A proposal was tabled by the Finance Chair to change the procedure for SIG approvals. The finance committee would validate a set of criteria and reps. would be informed and have no longer a right to vote. Also, rolling applications results in a shortage of funding at the end of the semester even if the proposal is good. So that procedure may have to be changed. This Motion was voted to be re-tabled at a later stage with additional information. The following grants were considered:

- Qubit- Motion passed with two abstentions.
- Election Returns Party: No departmental funding. Motion passed.
- Consulting Club: Expenses for food. Suggested donations from companies. Motion passed.
- Biotechnology Association: Connections to industry. Passed with \$666, as recommended by the committee.
- Indian student association: AV equipment, rehearsal charges, food. Passed motion.
- Society for Biomaterials: Yearly expenses. Passed motion.
- Sustainable Development Doctoral Society: Food. \$1000 available from SIPA. Passed motion with \$600 from the committee.

GSAC updates: Hamdi

A Mental health Awareness Survey will be carried out. The Plenary has to approve the survey.

A&E and Social events-TEASE events started and is coordinating events with other schools. Annual ski trip is at the planning stage.