

GSAC update - Hamdi

- Senate activities: TA standardizations are being discussed. A move by undergrads to standardize TA policy. There would be training sessions among graduate and undergraduate students. How should it be implemented? Handbook? Training sessions in the beginning of the semester. Philosophy vs. natural science as we can't have just one class.
 - What do the respective departments do? Are there a lot of undergrads who TA?
 - Opinions from the floor:
 - East Asian & History: 1 day training session with a presentation by faculty about situations that you could come across (fights, Columbia policy on student TA interactions, etc). Only for 1st yr TA's. It may be helpful, but mostly is a waste of time.
 - Music: not standardized. Some TA's have no training while others get a lot of training and take a 1-semester class.
 - Poli. Sci.: wouldn't want this training and the teaching assignments are too diverse to have 1 training session. TA's don't get much evaluation or correction from professors.
 - GSO: TA's only teach grad classes and they don't have a teaching requirement.
 - Mentorship and leadership within a department is required but not a broad training session from the university.
 - More rewards for good teaching? As an incentive.
- Executive VP A&S search:
 - Grad student will be on the search committee. New courses of study, MA tracks, Ph.D. tracks. Important position, above the Dean's level of interaction. How will the search affect your department?
 - No opinions from the floor.
- 301 Philosophy to be open in the spring semester as well.
- CGS submitted a letter to the provost's office
 - No opinions from the floor
- GSAC dept. requirements:
 - Finance structure with SIG's being changed will make the meetings shorter
 - How to increase attendance? More efficient meetings? Different times of the day?
 - Have stickers for students who are in depts. who have good standing so only they can attend GSAC events. Too strict?
 - Opinions from the floor:

- Does steering committee send emails to departments who don't have a rep.?
 - Don't ban all students just because one person doesn't hold up their end.
 - Depts. can apply for funding but that doesn't punish depts. that much.
 - Start the dialogue of publicizing that the position is open and what perks there are to being a dept. rep. Flyers? Emails.
 - Show the students that GSAC is more influential in the bigger picture.
 - Stipend for reps.? Even if it's small.
 - Events before TEASE events? Get a lot of turn out?
 - Smaller meetings, more efficient, different time? (No students from outside campuses though)
 - Have faculty tell students about GSAC.
 - Online mechanism so students can vote for their representative.
- Opinion from the floor: YES.

Alumni Update - Neena

- There is an alumni/GSAC student mixer sometime at the end of Feb 2013 that is being organized by CCE and the GSAS Alumni association.
 - They're planning on introducing the student guests to the alumni board members and then having smaller more intimate round table discussions to promote networking between the alums students.
- Also there will be more events hosted by CCE "fireside chats" which have 12-20 students to speak with an alumnus about their job. Different sectors outside of academia like consulting, healthcare are being considered.

Social update - Howard

- 3 TEASE events in the Fall semester. Would have had more, except for festifall.
- Coming Spring-5 TEASE events. Held in Lerner Hall. Attendance has increased to well above 300 people, so a bigger venue will help.
- Wine tasting event: with an invited speaker to talk about different bottles of wine.
 - Good response
 - Want to make it into a series in the spring
- Poker night with the engineering school.
 - Tournament style.
 - Request to repeat the event in the spring
 - Cosponsored a comedy night downtown.
- Spring events:
 - New events and events we're reviving. Bowling event with another school on campus, inter-dept. trivia nights.
 - Ideas from the floor? email Howard.

QoL Update – Sophia

- QoL survey next semester but also will have a university wide survey which will be shorter than the other one because it will compliment the university-wide survey.
- It will be tailored to specifically grad school life.
- Previous survey is on the website.