

Meeting minutes

GPSA SAC Meeting

2016-09-22, 5pm, 121 Weill Hall

- Attendance: Alex, Anna, Iian, Nate R., Richard, Madhur, Manisha. (Jason absent)
- Minutes from 2016-09-08 meeting approved unanimously.
- Charter & Bylaws
 - Do we want to add "having a member of the SAC available during the grievance procedure" to the Charter & Bylaws
 - Concern that this might be viewed as infringing on CGSU, "stealing" their idea, though this has been discussed in SAC last year. Pre-election this seems to be a non-issue, though will notify them of our intent. Moreover, CGSU's purview will not cover professional students, even after a "yes" vote.
 - Is there a need to codify this in the Charter & Bylaws?
 - We can ask the grad school (and professional schools) to put note on the webpage with the grievance procedure telling students that the GPSA SAC is available to guide them through the process, provide someone to accompany them. This doesn't require changing Charter & Bylaws.
 - Is it possible to find out when someone has filed a grievance? Likely no, privacy concerns. The student must come to us.
 - We can set up this on a "trial basis"
 - Few official grievances are filed, most likely resolved within departments. Many people do not know about grievance procedure and may not trust administration to adjudicate.
 - Also have something sent to DGS's, GFA's, and Field Reps re: GPSA and the service we can provide during the grievance process.
 - There is a pilot program for "professional behavior", currently going on in ECE for first year grads, related to reducing/raising awareness about sexual harassment. Likely to be spread to other departments. We should ask for SAC to be included on their resource list.
 - We could use a specific email address for the SAC chair.
 - **TASKS** (done by next meeting):
 - Alex: Write letter for DGSs, GFAs, and Field reps with brief summary of GPSA, GPSA SAC, and advertise our ability to provide someone to accompany graduate students in grievance process. (Try not to use words like "advise") Share on Google Drive folder for feedback from SAC members.
 - Nate: Contact Dean Knuth and professional schools about getting word out onto websites.
 - Iian: Contact CGSU about our intentions.
 - Anna: Get GPSA and SAC on first year "professional behavior" resource list
 - Future meetings: Develop plan of action for grievances (by end of October)
- Tobacco use policies:
 - Taken up by Campus Welfare Committee
 - Some pushback anticipated, particularly amongst employees. Ulysses from CWC wants sense of the constituencies. This issue to be discussed at breakout session at next GPSA meeting.

- We don't need to do anything more.

- Plantations name change:

- Purpose of resolution is to give ammunition to those who want to change the name when going before Board of Trustees. As for name, main reason for a change is that "Plantations" doesn't accurately describe what they do.

- Should we explicitly address connotation of slavery in the word "plantation" in our language? Political issues?

- Approved resolution as is: 6-0-1.

- Decided to insert language regarding connotation of slavery.

- Amendment approved 6-0-1.

- Resolution will be circulated amongst the voting members.

Maplewood:

- Town of Ithaca is stalling approval for the development, the developer is getting impatient.

We're trying to urge the Town of Ithaca to move on this.

- Added mention of commitment to using electric heating, and sustainability.

- Vote to make SAC a cosponsor of the resolution (which is directly relevant to graduate student well-being): 6-0-1.

Grad student surveys:

- Will be discussed with Dean Knuth. Further discussion tabled.

Dine & Discuss:

- Decided on Spring.

- Need to discuss topic next time. Further discussion tabled.

Future SAC meetings will be on Thursdays at 5pm in 121 Weill Hall.

Next time: Dine & Discuss, Advocacy role in Grievances, Policy 6.4 re: faculty.

Long term: Dealing with visitors re: sex harassment/assault?