

GPIA Student Government

MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 1, 2006; 5:00PM-7:00PM; ROOM 619

ATTENDANCE:

Chaired by Anushay Anjum and Savith Sampath

Ivan Hall, Amy Walker, Aparna, Albert Larew, Sara Rowbottom, Zac Hall

(i) MID-SEMESTER PARTY: AFTER THOUGHTS

- Over all, the after thoughts were good. Relocation of the party was suggested.
- A Suggestion Box will be placed near the student mail boxes since it worked so well for the party. It might be helpful for us to hear about ideas from those who are unable to attend meetings and social events. Amy Walker will work on putting together a box.
- Anushay created a Suggestion Spreadsheet for Jonathan after the party which will be continued as a forum for our communication with GPIA staff. Please take a look at the attached spread sheet. Members are welcome to add their suggestions and suggestions they hear from other students. As we move along, we will write the Stud. Gov. comments.
- Our remaining budget for next semester is \$175. We can work with USS if we want to hold another mid-semester party.

(ii) EVALUATIONS AND OTHER STUDENT RELATED INQUIRIES

- They have been helpful to those who have looked through them. Ivan suggested that putting them online will prove to be more helpful for feedback to teachers/instructors and as well as increase student accessibility. Co-Chairs will discuss the possibility of doing so in our next meeting with Jonathan.
- Savith mentioned that most of the new students don't have a mailbox yet. Some of the students who have graduated still have mail boxes. He also expressed the importance of a mail box for exchanging notes, books, etc. He will discuss this with Phil Akre and try to get all students mail boxes as soon as possible.
- Amy talked about issues brought up by Project Africa on the lack of Africa related classes offered at GPIA. This has been brought up a lot of times and we have discussed it with Jonathan. An Africanist has been hired by GPIA who is to start teaching in the fall 2007.

(iii) NYU/Columbia/GPIA Social (GPIA; Wagner Student Association; NYU Global Affairs Graduate Society; Columbia International Affairs Association; Columbia Public Administration Association; CUNY Graduate Center)

- We will co-host a fall happy hour/social night on December 8, 2006; 5:30pm-9:00pm at Slainte located at 304 Bowery with the Wagner Student Association. We are interested in a monthly social night across schools that will prove an opportunity for students to network and possibly collaborate on future projects. Anushay is in the process of communicating with these schools on events and the planning of a larger SIPA/GPIA/Wagner Spring Happy Hour.
- A weekly GPIA social hour for spring was highly suggested. Regardless of whether we do it with Wagner/SIPA, GPIA should host its own weekly happy hour.

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Ideas, suggestions and comments are welcome. Please let us know if you have a place in mind for the spring.

- I would like to thank Matt Simonds who made it possible for us to get in touch with the Wagner Student Association and for organizing a happy hour a few weeks ago.

(iv) CONCENTRATION/CLASSES UPDATES

- We did not discuss concentration updates as we did not have any concentration RA's in attendance, except Sara. However, it was suggested that students should attend concentration meetings and read the minutes sent out by the RA's or contact them directly in order to find out more information. We also suggest the RA's to send us a brief profile so we can put it up on our website for easier access to students.

- Zac Hall, who served as a student government representative on the faculty search committee, informed us that GPIA has offered a position to a GPIA/political science candidate (we forget his name!). GPIA is awaiting his response. He might start teaching a course on South East Asian politics or a creation course on his area of research in the fall.

(v) SUMMER FIELD PROGRAMS

- It was suggested that spring workshops with former IFP students should be held in order to help students going in summer 2007 prepare for their trips. Questions on the structure or lack of a structure were brought up by most members in attendance. Co-Chairs have brought this up with Jonathan and will continue talking to him and faculty coordinators.

- It was suggested that the UN/Geneva and World Bank should be brought back as a potential IFP.

- Sara talked about her experience with the Dakar program.

(vi) GPIA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

- We briefly discussed the fall GPIA/Alumni event. Caroline Nichols, who is spearheading this project with GPIA staff, was unable to attend but had informed us earlier about it. It was well-attended and most alumni seemed to be in favor of organizing an alumni association. Caroline might need help in planning a spring event with GPIA students and alumni. Please contact her for more details.

(vii) UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE

- The USS is an officially recognized organization now. They will have elections in spring; they have a budget (stud. Gov. to work with them in the future); there is a representative position available. The student govt. will nominate interested students and the final decision will be made by the USS board. If you are interested please contact us directly.

- The school has a centralization committee that is working on centralizing many of the tasks undertaken by all the departments. GPIA govt. suggested that they centralize evaluations and provide online accessibility. We are pleased to announce that our government is one of the only governments that have a good working relationship with our department as far as student concerns go.

- For more updates, please see the attached minutes from the USS meetings.

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(viii) GPIA WIKI

- Andy Thornton is working on putting this together. Co-Chairs will discuss this with Jonathan in our upcoming meeting.
- We updated those who were not in attendance in the last meeting about the GPIA wiki idea. It will be pretty much like wikipedia except it will have GPIA content where students will be able to edit information. Stud. Govt. also suggested having online student profiles. This will be student administered.

(ix) STUDENT GOVERNMENT SPRING 2007

- ELECTIONS: we discussed positions for next semester. We have not decided on what positions will be available and when the elections will be held.
- Savith and Amy volunteered to speak at the spring 2007 orientation.
- In our last meeting, a GPIA Mentor type program was suggested for incoming students, where students can be linked with continuing students in order to help them out during their first semester. Jonathan is in favor of this. We will continue our talks regarding the mentorship program with him next week. It was suggested that a few continuing students should be designated as mentors. This is of course on a voluntarily basis. Should be announced at orientation and sent out on the listserv. Contact us if you want to volunteer in mentoring new students. The international student services office already has a mentor program. Perhaps we can work with them.
- Savith will work on making sure that the student Checklist form that we get from our advisor be provided to incoming students to better understand the 2 year structure of the program.
- We are going to reinstate the use of STUDENT ONLY listserv. Torsten and Natalie initiated it last year but not a lot of students have signed up. It could be used as a discussion forum for students and hopefully lesser emails could be sent to the gpia listserv. It is highly recommended students sign up to it and new students are made to sign up to it as well.

Thanks to all who attended.