

## **GPIA STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

Meeting: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006

Time: 6:00PM – 8:00PM

Location: ROOM 615

Chaired by: Anushay Anjum

In Attendance: Savith Sampath, Rave Brown, Amy Walker, Stephanie Wist, James Baker, Matt Simond, Andy Thornton, Valina Persaud, Caroline Nichols, Sara Rowbottom, Adriana Yoto

- **Introduction**
  - Updates on the Student Government's current initiatives
  
- **Planning committee for GPIA Mid-Semester Party**

Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
Time and Location: TBA

  - Structure of the party
    - Introduction and a very brief overview to the GPIA Student Government (Who we are and what we do - past, present and future initiatives)
    - Updates on the Alumni Association
    - Updates on GPIA Website/Wiki
    - Listserv: Updates on Student ONLY listserv
    - Student Organizations: Brief overview on initiatives to be taken by student organizations and Student Government (Project Africa, Inti Raymi, Imagining Global Asia, University Student Senate, International Club)
    - Social Club: We will also have a couple of representatives from SIPA and Wagner to share some insights about their social events (happy hours etc.)
  - Maybe have student activities or an 'ice-breaker' activity
  - Open it up...
  - James Baker will work on putting together a flyer for the party
  - Matt Simond talked about the social club – another way of interacting with current students as well as other programs in the city. December 7<sup>th</sup> was proposed as a potential date to have a collaborative social night with SPIA and Wagner, the proceeds of which could go towards a charity.
  
- **GPIA Alumni Association**
  - Caroline Nichols talked about the Alumni reception on 11/6/2006 and the Alumni-Student reception in spring 2007 and the goal of GPIA to incorporate their Alumni with the current student body. This will initiate a better communication system, open current students to internship and work opportunities after graduation, etc.
  - She also briefly touched on the Alumni Affairs database and what it will entail (a work-in-progress)

- **Web-Site**
  - Andy Thornton proposed an idea for having a GPIA Wiki – which will allow registered students to edit content and make information more accessible to students, alumni, faculty and administration. It will be a step forward from GPIA info and the current GPIA website. It will independent of The New School system. It will provide a space for better communication and interaction between involved parties in the program. Members were very receptive of this idea and had some good feedback. It is only a work-in-progress and Andy will work with the administration to give us updated feedbacks. Student Gov. is willing to sponsorship it in any way possible.
  - The need for more student profiles was also raised. Currently the student gov. website is the only available source for this, we hope in the future students will use the Wiki and student ONLY listserv
  - Creating a ‘Web-Committee’ through the student government was also brought up. We will discuss this with the administration in our next meeting.
  - Student Gov. will promote the use of the Student ONLY listserv for new, continuing and prospective students
  
- **Courses/Instructors/Advisors**
  - Students discussed the need for standardizing core classes
  - Students complained about the advising on core classes, especially Comparative Development and Economics, and the lack of communication between new and continuing students
  - A mentor program, web-portal (Wiki), student listserv promotion was suggested to have a better system of communication
  
- **Evaluations**
  - Members discussed the need to make the evaluations Public (made available to students)
  - The need for Mid-Semester (class and instructor) evaluations was raised again, whether they be initiated by the respective instructor or by the administration
  - Student Gov. has been advocating this to the administration and we should be successful in achieving this goal by the end of the semester!
  
- **Summer Programs (Pre & Post internship workshops)**
  - There was a discussion about holding pre & post internship workshops with new, continuing and interested students in order to facilitate better understanding of personal experiences, constructive criticism of the internships, etc. However, the lack of time commitment was the biggest potential barrier for workshops like this to practically take place.
  
- **Financial Aid**
  - Members briefly touched on the issue of financial aid for the IFPs: they were advised to contact the financial aid office after talking to the administration