

Yale Divinity School Student Government

General Body Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2022 from 5:30pm to 7:00pm

Welcome, Introductions, and Check-ins

- E-Board introductions and check ins
 - Tamara Fore-Ravelo: President, prioritizing inclusion and healing for the coming year
 - Mark Dinger: Vice President, notes time covenant and meeting ending at or before 7
 - Spencer Law: Secretary, taking minutes
 - Morenike Oyebade: Treasurer, newly elected
- General Body check ins, a hope/priority/plan for the year
 - J.R. Hane: integrating grad schools in New Haven community
 - Edwin Perez: engaging people who aren't engaged
 - Vincent Lin: international student perspective
 - Patrick Tugwell:
 - Brooklyne Olivera: expansive idea of ministry
 - Kim Melgoza: increase diversity and inclusion
 - Milton Gilder: listening to peers and bringing their voices to the table
 - Myles Riley: ensuring first year voices are heard
 - Michael Akande: napping station in library
 - Meredith Noorda: introduce students to field of Mormon Studies
 - Makayla Bezzant: increase awareness of opportunities for students
 - Moe Graviat: improving access and visibility of ISM resources for all students
 - Alice Seo-Young: representing international voices and students
 - Pauli Xu: interested in ways of prayer and sharing prayer
 - Alexis Cash: making connections, getting to know people, advocating for women
 - Sarah Menard: encouraging others to bring their full selves to this space
 - Clara Sims:
 - Claire Campbell: bringing knowledge of Div Farm to students
 - Meredith Barges: justice and advocacy work
 - Max Sklar: serve students interested in spiritual direction
 - Tasha Brownfield: curate spaces for people who feel unheard or unable to participate on campus
 - Kevin Marsh: bring concerns of queer community forward, intersectional justice work
 - Sierra Gonzalez: ensuring students have access to food that accommodates dietary needs

- Jeremy O'Neill: get BDS students involved in broader YDS community and vice versa
- Adena Moulton:
- Andre Gilford: make this space much more safe, healing from trauma associated with being in white space
- Lydia Hoffman: sense of belonging for students
- Hannah Vase: creating welcoming and inviting space for Asian, Asian American, biracial students
- Jamal Davis Neal, Jr.: positive presence in difficult parts of the year, open invitation to hang with Jamal in the common room
- Ellen Van Dyke Bell: justice work, food for students after 5pm, observe and work to resolve issues

General Updates

- Conversations regarding accessibility at Commencement 2023
 - Mark presents that conversations have happened and are continuing with Dean Sterling's office
 - Jamal asks for clarity on the specific problem
 - Mark clarifies that the problem is regarding construction of a ramp for commencement leading up to the lower, central stone platform on the quad that is accessible for all
- Mark introduces All-School Read, nominations open September 27
- Mark introduces Book Trade Initiative:
 - Drop off your used books at bookshelf outside OSA and take what you'd like to keep
 - Do not leave books around the bookshelf or they will be discarded by facilities management
- Mark introduces Food Pantry initiative
 - Seeking clubs to sponsor food pantry for sustainability
 - Clubs need to keep the space organized and discard expired products
 - Plans for a food drive before fall break/reading period, one before finals, one before spring break
 - Claire asks about access to free menstrual products, seeking space to put donated menstrual products
 - Tasha brings up the need to put menstrual products in bathrooms of all gender designations, and to keep them in an unlocked and accessible location outside of restrooms as well
 - Meredith B. raises GPSS Period Project initiative, partnering with company that can provide products, last year she talked with Dean Sterling who is willing to provide support and funding given coordination efforts

- Andre confirms ongoing GPSS involvement with Period Project
- Ellen raises that Bard College provides free menstrual supplies
- Edwin raises necessity of keeping the food pantry space sanitary and clean, need for collective effort to avoid expired and moldy foods
- Ellen adds that the microwave was dirty today, Tasha says she cleaned it up today
- Spencer presents on Yale Connect and shows future location of meeting minutes on website
- Mark introduces club fair tomorrow, Sept. 27, not only for first year students, Kit affirms that club fair is for everyone and will be super fun
- Mark introduces Town Hall with Dean Sterling event this Thursday Sept. 29 at 12:30 in the Old Refectory for strategic planning for next 5 years
- Mark introduces Name It, Heal It Tuesday October 11 at 5:30pm
 - Tamara explains that Pastor Judy Peterson will be speaking about LGBTQ inclusion in Christian spaces
- Activity fair during alumni convocation seeks student group registration
 - Fri, Oct 14th, 3:30 PM, 2nd Floor Common Room, <https://cglink.me/2dA/r1763393>
 - Spencer emphasizes opportunity to connect with alumni

Matters for Discussion

- Elections have ended
 - Mark explains process of appointing new GPSS senator as Jamal steps up to GPSS E-Board
 - E-Board is seeking second year students to submit blurbs for appointment
- Bicentennial celebration is this year
 - Reach out to Lisa Huck, Mark Dingler, or Jamal Davis Neal, Jr. to get involved
 - Jamal encourages attendance at convocation and bicentennial events to meet alumni
- All-School Read introduced
 - Bringing author to YDS
 - Nomination form sent out with these meeting minutes tomorrow, nominations of alumni authors are encouraged
 - Nominations will be accepted through Friday, October 7 at 5pm

For the Good of the Order

- Next meeting October 24 at 5:30pm
- Meredith asks for more details about accessibility at convocation
 - Mark explains technical details of the ramp to reach the bottom platform, Spencer affirms that diagrams for ramp are in the works

Mark adjourns meeting at 6:48pm