

QoL Meeting Minutes

Chaired by John Rearick (rearick@fas.harvard.edu) and
Patrick Charbonneau (pcharbon@fas.harvard.edu)
in Cabot Division Room

December 9th, 2004 at 12h

1 UHS Mental Health Contact

Margery Gans came to the meeting to discuss mental health resources available for students. The phone screening procedure and options available for care within UHS (therapists, groups, etc.), at the Bureau of Study Council, and outside the campus were presented.

She also explained the episode of care approach (Yale model) of 12 visits with a possibility to extend if judged necessary. She also noted that UHS satellite office at the Law school offers more privacy and is sometimes less crowded.

Finally, flyers about resources were distributed and an effort to link up information to the QoL website will be made. This hopes to state again that the group is a point of contact for other students if they have questions about the importance of mental health or about the resources available.

2 Visiting Committee

An update on the visiting committee meeting was given. General information about the issues discussed and the HWIC/QoL joint talking points were presented. Enquiries on the final recommendations will be made to the chair of the group.

3 English as a Second Language

It was noted that a greater effort should be made to improve the English language skills of a number of CCB graduate students. This would ease their communication with fellow students and guarantee them a better graduate school/career experience. This point should be taken more seriously by certain faculty members. Various proposals were discussed. This will be discussed again later this year.

4 Organic Cumulative Exams

A serious proposal to replace the organic cume system by an oral defense of a research proposal is being presented to the faculty meeting next week. Student representatives, QoL co-chairmen and Polina Kehayova, were consulted about an intermediate version of the proposal. Student's comments allowed for precision of some of the points and were generally received positively.

Since the final vote has not been taken on this issue, the details are still in the air. There is however hope that the best interest of the student body will be taken into account in the final decision.

5 GSC Update

Chris Neumann gave the update on GSC business. Funding deadline for conference grants is January 31st, 2005. The application form and more details are available on their website.

<http://www.hcs.harvard.edu/~gsc/grants/>

6 MCB/CCB/OEB Rotation Update

Melissa Grachan and Chris Neumann attended the joint meeting and gave an update. In short, the CCB system will not change and MCB will try to make its rotation system more compatible to ours, by allowing 4 or 8-week rotations, December group joining, and August rotations. No significant changes to the OEB system will be made.

7 Survey Update

The survey numerical results were distributed. They show a strong support for the mission statement of QoL and a confidence in QoL for making recommendations in the student's name.

It was agreed that the results should be made available online to the entire CCB community. The discussion will be continued with the CCB Chair at the January meeting.

Finally, a draw amongst all participants allowed to select a winner of the gift certificate: Yi-Wen Huang. Thanks to everyone for the very high participation rate!

8 QoL Co-Chair/Secretary Position

Patrick Charbonneau will soon complete his term as a QoL co-chair. Also, a new officer position of QoL Secretary will be created. Candidacy proposals are being registered for both at this point.

Meeting adjourned at 13h15.
Notes taken by Patrick Charbonneau (pcharbon@fas.harvard.edu)