



GSC Open Meeting December 7th 2011

1. Welcome
2. HUHS
 - a. Guests: Melanie Green (Chief Financial Officer HUHS), Paul Bererra (Mental Health Services), Linda Cannon (Patient Advocate and Manager of Patient Relations)
 - b. **Melanie** – Explains aspects of student health plan
 - i. Accessing Health Services – HUHS has created a new separate insurance website describing their policies
 - ii. A number of policies are available and brochures summarizing coverage under the student health fee are circulating around the room
 - iii. Improving Coverage - Everything and anything about the health plan is reviewed in the fall for the next year.
 1. Problems that have been brought to attention in years past include:
 - a. The need for access to pediatric coverage, the fact that many students were not living close enough to utilize currently offered services, and that the supplemental plan did not have enough coverage outside of HUHS. Coverage has been expanded to meet many of these needs.
 2. However, students are still paying the full bill for some services– HUHS has a very comprehensive plan on campus and is structured to increase your use of the HUHS services instead of going outside for services.
 3. To learn more about your plans coverage and to find out who your primary care physician is login into <http://hushp.harvard.edu/> with your student ID number and PIN
 - c. **Linda** – Is a Patient Advocate and explains that her job is to help students navigate the HUHS system
 - i. She will help international students who are unfamiliar with health care in this country
 - ii. She will help students who have a condition/illness that needs additional benefits and try and get them financial assistance
 - iii. She is in her office Monday through Friday and is on the front page of the website - always looking for any kind of feedback as it is all constructive and helps the medical community make changes that are beneficial to the Harvard community
 - iv. Q: is there a plan to remove copayment for contraceptives by August 1, 2012?

- ii. HUHS tries not to put artificial limits on you /your care, but it is still a challenge to provide for the following hard situations:
 - 1. For those who have or want psychotherapy over a long period of time
 - 2. Balancing medical necessary care and limitations of the available benefits
 - iii. Q: During a Leave of absence you don't have health coverage anymore - is that a HUHS thing or a GSAS thing?
 - 1. A: Our policy is that you can buy 4 months of coverage form when your leave is effective and the idea behind this is that you are in a transitional time
- 4. January @ GSAS
 - a. Lots of activities and there is a comprehensive list on the GSC website
- 5. GSC Winter Conference Grants – Due Feb 8th
- 6. GSC Student Group/GSO Funding – Deadline is Feb 15th
- 7. Mentoring Initiative Committee
 - a. Letter on excellent mentoring practices has been made, as of this Fall
 - b. A report has been put together and a survey has been put together into a cohesive document
 - c. If you are interested in this topic we will be putting together a committee to figure out what mentoring looks like
 - d. Asked for volunteers:
 - i. Cammi
 - ii. Kyrah Daniels – kdaniels @fas.harvard.edu
 - iii. Anthony Josehy Covarrubias – acovarr@gmail.com
- 8. Mental Health Committee
 - a. Dudley house has been planning and coming up with other ideas for spring events and if you are interested in being on that committee please volunteer:
 - i. Laura
 - ii. Cammi
 - b. Q: Do you send this request for volunteers to a wider community?
 - i. A: No – It is the responsibility of the departmental representatives to bring back this information to their departments
- 9. Constitutional/By Laws Committee
 - a. Volunteers: Patrick, Scott, Cammi, Michael and Jennifer
- 10. Harvard University IT Committee – all HU IT
 - a. Looking for at least 2-3 people to meet about twice a semester to discuss the groups projects and provide feedback on student's IT
 - b. It is definitely important to get representative on committee because we, as graduate students, have different needs than undergrads.
 - c. Patrick and Scott and maybe Gene (needs to be confirmed via email) have volunteered
- 11. AT-Large-Representative for International Students
 - a. Elected Jennifer

12. Next GSC Open meeting

- a. Next is 6:30 on Wed Feb 1st

13. Open Floor

- a. Summer – Presents her individual proposal regarding Non-Violent Protests on campus
 - i. There is an explanation of the voting procedure
 - ii. Q/M: To vote on this next tim
 - iii. Q/M: Can the/should the GSC even be considering making political statements/passing resolutions?
 - iv. Representatives will go back to their departments with the proposed resolution and the question of whether the GSC should engage in the larger political discourse of the country