



Ivy Summit Workshop Agendas (Detailed)

October 10, 2009 - 2:30pm - 5:45pm

Session 1 - 2:40pm to 3:30pm

Workshop A: Annual Presidents' Meeting

Moderator: Nighthawk Evensen

Room: ILR CC 329

Summary: This is a gathering of the presidents/chairpersons from each student government or their appointed representatives (some schools may have more than one representative based on their system of governance). We discuss the Ivy Summit, its strengths and weaknesses, and plans for future summits. This is also an opportunity for the presidents/chairpersons simply to speak candidly with each other and build relationships that we hope will foster future collaborations. After we discuss plans for the next two Ivy Summits, we open the floor for the presidents/chairpersons to discuss their schools' issues of greatest concern and possible roads forward.

Discussion Topics/Questions:

- I. Ivy Summit 2010 - Princeton
- II. Ivy Summit 2011 - ?
- III. Open discussion of concerns and pressing issues
 - a. Technological outreach
 - b. Meeting structure - what works and what does not

Nighthawk Evensen is a PhD student at Cornell in the field of Natural Resources. He is currently serving as the GPSA President. Last year, he served as the GPSA Finance Commission Chair.

Workshop B: The Economic Situation and the Impact on the University

Moderators: Cresten Mansfeldt and Asia Sikora

Room: ILR CC 423

Summary: After a year of significant budget tightening, balancing, and strain, this workshop strives to provide a forum to discuss how the economic tightening impacted graduate and professional students around the Ivy League.

Discussion Topics/Questions:

1. Construction hiring and pauses on all campuses?
 - a. Recruitment for new professors?
 - b. Office/lab space on hold? Residents?
2. Cutbacks in services? Grants? Aid?
3. Involvement of Graduate Students in the Response
 - a. In the immediate response
 - b. Long term planning
- c. How open has the administration been to student input?
4. Is there an overarching strategic plan to respond from the financial crisis?
 - a. Is it solely looking at the financial aspect or is it being used to retool the school?
 - b. Who is running it? Administrators? Outside Consultants?
 - c. How are the graduate students being represented?
 - d. What is the roll of the Graduate Student Governing Body in these decisions?
5. Graduate Student Body Size Increased?
6. How has the impact been felt in the professional schools?
 - a. More student enrollment?
 - b. Less funds available?
7. Were specific funding opportunities external to your school cutback this year?
8. Other specific issues

Cresten Mansfeldt is a PhD student in Civil & Environmental Engineering. He is currently serving as the Student Advocacy Chair for GPSA.

Asia (pronounced Ah-sha) Sikora is a 4th year PhD student in the field of Policy Analysis and Management in the College of Human Ecology. She has participated in GPSA for two years now and is currently the GPSA Finance Commission Chairperson.

Workshop C: Student Housing - Where the University and the City Merge

Moderators: Svante Myrick and Ed Strong

Room: ILR CC 425

Summary: Securing safe, quality and affordable housing for students is an issue that many universities face. On-campus housing is often comparatively expensive and geared toward undergraduate living. Choosing to live off campus presents a variety of issues and can leave students vulnerable to irresponsible landlords, unsafe housing conditions and predatory leases. What can students do to change this?

Discussion Topics/Questions:

- The political and economic reasons underlying current conditions
- A look behind the curtains of city government and University-City relations.
- How student neighborhoods affect the adjacent community.
- Do mixed-residential neighborhoods always work?
- What students can do to affect their housing options both on and off campus?
- How are on-campus options for students changing in these economic times?
- What responsibility does a University have to provide housing to its students?
- How is the cost of this responsibility tied to its tax-exempt status?
- Balancing the differing needs of Graduate and Undergraduate students.
- Transportation as a key component of a housing solution.
- Resources for tenants to understand their rights.
- Domestic and especially international students.

Svante Myrick '09 was elected to Ithaca's Common Council in the fall of 2007. He sits on the City of Ithaca's Planning Committee and chaired the Collegetown Vision Implementation Committee.

Ed Strong is a PhD student at Cornell in the field of Genetics and Development. He is currently the Graduate & Professional chair of the University Assembly. He has been an active member of the GPSA and the Collegetown Neighborhood Council for several years.

Workshop D: Recruitment and Retention in Student Organizations

Moderator: Michelle Leinfelder

Room: ILR CC 329

Summary: In this workshop, we will discuss how to augment participation in our student government groups. From recruitment activities to incentives for continued involvement, come let us know what works at your university.

Questions:

1. Do you have regular recruitment activities that you employ every year?
2. Do you advertise through campus media?
3. Do you participate in graduate/orientation activities?
4. Do you recruit throughout the year or just at the beginning?
5. Do you communication channels specifically for graduate students/professional students?
6. Do you find that students participate over multiple years?
7. Do officers get perks for being officers? What are they?
8. Do non-officers get these perks or other perks?

Michelle Leinfelder is in her final year of her PhD in Horticulture and has previously served as GPSA Events Chair, Executive VP, and President.

Workshop E: Sustainability Initiatives on Campus

Moderators: Dan Roth and Erica Gutierrez

Room: ILR CC 423

Summary: Sustainability is a topic that is surfacing across universities all across the nation. This workshop will explore some of the issues that universities face in managing and coordinating sustainability measures and education. We will examine the role that leadership plays, looking at the administration, as well as at the role of graduate and undergraduate students.

Agenda

Icebreaker: Please come prepared to talk about your experiences with a sustainability initiative or project on your campus. Successes? Obstacles? Lessons learned? (10 min)

- I. Cornell's Experience with Sustainability (10 min)
- II. Thinking Nationally: Experiences at Other Universities (5 min)
- III. Discussion: (15 min)
 1. How are sustainability efforts being initiated, sustained and coordinated?
 2. How is reorganization across campus affecting sustainability efforts?
 3. What mechanisms work best for communicating to students?
 4. What resources and sources of funding exist?
- IV. Actions? What are some concrete steps you can take at your university? (10 min)

Dan Roth is currently the Campus Sustainability Coordinator for the Office of Environmental Compliance, most recently working on Cornell's Climate Action Plan (CAP). He graduated from Cornell in 2007, earning his MS in Adult Education.

Erica Gutierrez is a 2nd year Masters student in the field of City & Regional Planning. She is currently serving as the Executive Vice President of GPSA, as the Chair of the ad-hoc GPSA Sustainability Committee, and on the Collegetown Neighborhood Council.

Workshop F: Graduate Student Benefits

Moderator: Asia Sikora

Room: ILR CC 425

Summary: What benefits currently exist for students on campus? Are these satisfactory? This workshop examines healthcare, childcare, wellness and other benefits on campus.

Agenda

I. Open Forum

II. How are you advocating for change in graduate student benefits?

II. Healthcare

a. Who pays and how much?

b. What coverage do you receive? (Dental, Eye, Spousal, Dependent, Chronic Illness)

c. Representation with healthcare decisions?

d. How have or are you advocating for change in this area?

IV. Childcare and Family Initiatives

a. On campus childcare options? Childcare Subsidies?

b. Alternative Childcare options (i.e. childcare networks, referrals to the community, etc.)

c. Leave policies. (Length, Stipend/duty coverage) How long? Stipend/duty coverage? Professional students?

d. Family Concerns

V. Wellness Initiatives

a. Mental Health Initiatives

b. Fitness Centers

c. Other Initiatives

d. Access and Promotion to the Graduate and Professional Student Communities?

VI. Additional benefits?

Asia (pronounced Ah-sha) Sikora is a 4th year PhD student in the field of Policy Analysis and Management in the College of Human Ecology. She has participated in GPSA for two years now and is currently the GPSA Finance Commission Chairperson.

Workshop G: Shared Governance at the University – a Discussion with a Student

Trustee

Moderator: Michael Walsh

Room: ILR CC 329

Summary: This workshop will focus on the role of graduate student government in the context of the larger university. The first half of the session will focus on the role of trustees at the university and how representative bodies can influence their Board. The remainder of the session will address working with other constituency representative bodies (undergraduate, employee, faculty or other grad/professional*) and opportunities as well as the problems that can arise.

Agenda

Part I – The Trustees

1. Supreme Control - The powers and responsibilities trustees have in overseeing the university
2. Advocates not Activists – The history and role student trustees at Cornell and current issues
3. Interacting with the Board - Sharing concerns and needs with those with supreme control

Part II – Everyone Else

1. Attracting the Administrators - Who does your organization report to? Are there other administrators that may be effective? What degree of authority does an organization exert over specific administrative units?
2. Friends or Foes? Often the undergraduate government garners all the attention. Graduate student governments can leverage this to their advantage. Graduate bodies should also be ready for potential conflicts with undergraduate politicians
3. Unlikely Allies - Staff and faculty as partners when common interests arise
4. Bridging the Gaps – Effective communication between bodies can avoid conflict and help attain goals

Participants are asked to be ready to share and discuss the following information from their own schools:

- A. Makeup of the Colleges Board of Trustees. How big are the boards? What is the overall structure? Are there any constituency elected representatives (i.e. Alumni)? What is the level of student access to the Board?
- B. Makeup of the university's constituency representative bodies. What are the primary, faculty staff and undergraduate bodies? What are the other graduate and/or professional student representative bodies?
- C. What sort of legislative authority does your organization have?

Michael J. Walsh is a Ph.D. candidate in the department of Biological & Environmental Engineering. He has held the position of Secretary and VP for the GPSA and has served as a member of the Presidents Climate Commitment Implementation Committee. In 2008, Michael was elected by the Cornell student body to serve a two-year term as a university trustee.

Workshop H: Intercampus Collaboration

Moderators: Brian Forster and Jonathan Oliver

Room: ILR CC 423

Summary: While student government bodies look for ways to increase participation, what happens when the university is divided into several campus units? One way is by the establishment of multiple student governments at each campus. How can these governing bodies come together and collectively best serve all the graduate and professional students of the college? In this session, we will address issues and possible solutions to promoting student government intercampus relationships within a university.

Topics/Questions:

- Beginning discussion of the status of intercampus collaborations at the different Ivy Schools currently.
- What factors limit intercampus collaboration between student governments?
- What factors promote intercampus collaboration between student governments?
- Has there ever been an issue that you are aware of that graduate student governments came together as “one voice” for graduate and professional students? How was this achieved? Was the collaboration needed?
- How can intercampus collaborations be maintained throughout the years?

Brian Forster is a PhD student in Microbiology. He is currently serving as the Vice President of Operations for the GPSA, as well as a member of GPSA Communications. Last year, Brian served as Chair of the GPSA Student Advocacy Committee.

Jonathan Oliver is a PhD student in Plant Pathology and is currently the Events Committee Chair of the Student Association of the Geneva Experimental Station (SAGES). He has previously served as the President of SAGES.

Workshop I: Creating Dialogue About Diversity on Campus

Moderators: Srich Murugesan and Erica Gutierrez

Room: ILR CC 425

Summary: The subject of diversity must be continuously revisited. This workshop will examine different approaches that universities take to guaranteeing diversity and cross-cultural communication and understanding on campus.

Agenda

Open Forum: Define Diversity. What issues have you dealt with at your university? In the classroom? With professors? With students? On campus and around town?

- I. How can universities guarantee a culture of multi-cultural understanding and appreciation for diversity?
 - a. Racial, international, gender, socio-economic background
 - b. Cornell's commitment to diversity
 - c. Courses and modules on diversity; integration into all courses
- II. Thinking About Diversity Among Students and Faculty
 - a. What mechanisms for accountability exist? How can students access information about hiring or student application processes?
 - b. How does faculty and student diversity affect the learning environment?
- III. What organizations exist on campus?
 - a. Are they active in advocacy? Why or why not? (resources, dominant culture)
 - b. How do diversity initiatives vary from field to field?
- IV. Financial Resources
 - a. What types of 'Diversity Scholarships' exist?
 - b. What effects has the economic crisis had on funding sources?
- V. How about student relationships with the local community?
 - a. Is there tolerance? Awareness of differences?

Srich Murugesan is a PhD student in the field of Biochemistry, Molecular & Cellular Biology. He has been active in GPSA for the last few years and is currently serving as the Events Committee Chair.

Erica Gutierrez is a 2nd year Masters student in the field of City & Regional Planning. She is currently serving as the Executive Vice President of GPSA, as the Chair of the ad-hoc GPSA Sustainability Committee, and on the Collegetown Neighborhood Council.