GSD SOCIETY MEETING NOTES

Cathias Top Tips for Being Great:

overall it is fair to say Cathia was excited and thinks that a GSD society is a good idea

There is a strategic move by the university towards more PBL degrees (problem based learning) so we are having unique students in this case #darlingsoftheuniversity

We must play up to our interdisciplinary roots and focus on being cross departmental and inclusive always, never letting one focus e.g.- politics overrule another e.g.-theatre

The international society is based in economics and would not be able to facilitate for all our different course needs but we should become allies with these people and tag along to events they hold as no doubt they will be linked and interesting.

We must try not to compete with any other sustainability focused society but instead try and encourage lots of collaboration and mixing to create a strong network of sustainability warriors throughout campus. Here comes the hippie army.

The focus needs to be on GLOBAL – what can be global about this society?

- What can be local about this society?
- We need to have a GEOGRAPHICAL flavour to us – what is our scope/vision

IT CAN NOT BE BORING

The society must be diverse, in its events, in its people and in its opinions. The society should become a forum to represent the different ideas held throughout the GSD course even when they clash – ESPECIALLY when they clash

We must not take over from the role of the SSLC.

Cathia is unsure about budget limitations but would do her very best to scrape the money scratchings off the floor for us, beg, borrow but probably not steal (not socially sustainable)

Cathia then left as wants this to be a STUDENT project.

David stood in as a mediator roll

These were David’s main points: GSD SOCIETY = GOOD

Good for next year to have this to see and to get involved in when they arrive, make them feel part of the cohort. Good for social cohesion of the course to keep everyone feeling involved.

Should Collab with liberal arts for bigger events such as Christmas parties (he’s got his priorities right!)

Then David left it up to us to discuss to here’s what then ensued:

Are you all sitting comfortably...

What should the society do?
- Extended versions of seminars amongst ourselves to continue academic discussion
- Study groups for revision purposes
- Do more related to current news
- More contact hours within ourselves
- Hold debates?
- Bring in other types of courses that we feel are relevant but aren't necessarily linked yet, history of art, creative writing etc.
- More interdepartmental mixing and teaching the whole cohort about your respective field
- Try and avoid being connected to unsustainable businesses
- Have more links with local business that can improve our connection to the outside world

Things we want to do possibly:

Bring back the farmer’s market onto campus

Work more sustainable food ideas in the society, should we do vegan café events for the uni to encourage people to think vegan?

**ROLES/HIERARCHY**

Should we have a president?

We obviously need a president for SU bureaucratic reasons but how we conduct their role is up to us

Should we take away the sense of power and authority from the president and use it as more of a mediator role, who sits in exec meetings and makes sure that everyone knows what’s going on and that we all stay connected with each other and help each other out. Less of a dominating force but more of a helpful connector and ‘keeper of knowledge’. Just someone who knows what’s going on and makes sure everyone is doing their bit and is there to connect people to the right people for help.

The relationships between other departments

We should create string links with the other departments

Make them like us not fear our new crazy ideas of learning and what students should be.

Advertise the course to other non GSD students either to steal them on to our course (too late for this now probably but for next year ahah)

Mix with liberal arts department and become a more collective school

**MAKE CULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY A MAJOR FACTOR IN THE SOCIETY AS IT SEEMS TO GET LEFT BEHIND ON THE COURSE**

Mix more with theatre/arts and the socially focussed groups on campus

LGBTQ, BLM etc.

*Establishing a society that freshers will feel excited about*
Create a buddy system for freshers when they arrive so that we can continue to create cohesion not hierarchy.

How should we promote the course to prospective students? Student blogs and pictures of events on the course page.

A page called About us students where we put genuine accurate portrayals of our time here and the course.

Blog by one member of each different cohort group, so a blog by an econ and a sociologist.

Money in the society Dollar dollar dollar
If we create a system were those who can afford to pay to be a member give more so that others who can’t afford it can have in for free.

We need to make sure that the finances of this society are TRANSPARENT and people can see and know where their money goes.

Running for Roles
There was lots of different discussion about the type of roles we should have in the society and the list that we came up with which we think it quite encompassing will be up on the GSD website soon along with the ability to apply for them. If you think there is a role that we need in the society that we have not got then pitch it because these are not set in stone, we are creating this from scratch and we have every right to make it as personal to our ideas as we want. There is no older group of students ruling over us – WE HAVE THE POWER.

YOU CAN ONLY APPLY FOR ONE ROLE. The only time you can apply for 2 if it’s also the president. IF YOU DO NOT GET THAT ROLE DON’T WORRY YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE ON THE SUBTEAM – plus it’s only the job of doing all the heavy work the sub team will be equally important and needed. You do not need to run for election if you just want to be on the sub team once elections are over and we know who the execs are then they will invite people to be on their different sub teams – everyone needs a little help from their friends.

So, we came up with the roles of

President/Mediator this will be decided by who is chosen to lead the society.

When running for this role you will need to state in your mandate what sort of leader you would want to be, we are not just voting for a person but a SYSTEM, we are choosing if we want the person who is just going to mediate or the person who is going to be the more traditional president. This needs to be clear in your application. This way we can create the structure of the society exactly how we want it and in a way, that reflects who we are as a society.

Secretary who will also become the Vice President

Treasurer

Equal Opps and Safety

Academic Enrichment

Sustainable Careers

Social Exec
Local Outreach

Campus Outreach

Academic Outreach

Communications/Marketing

Culture & Arts

We have not made STRICT definitions of what these roles will entail because we want them to be malleable and have the ability to change as we work out how this society will run. Basically, nothing is set in stone, the person who gets the role also takes on the responsibility of defining that role, we are very much in the BETA stage and so are not making anything that is set in stone. Once again people we have the power – oooo this is all very exciting isn’t it!

We will hold the elections very soon and a more concrete idea of the society and its functions will be decided by the execs because we can’t make decisions because nobody has been elected to represent the people yet – currently we are just lost souls in a room postulating about the future. Once a democracy is in place then the real action and fun times can begin to roll.