STHSA - 2.3.15

Lauren DeLano

Nico Romeijn-Stout

Alisa Harris

Meghan Wagner

Anne Hillman

Lauren Hickey

Katie Omberg

Kaci Norman

Haley Jones

Brian Teed

Professor John Hart

Tom Baynham

Opening Prayer

Alissa Harris – new Director of Communications

* Coordinating communications across STH
* Working first and foremost on internal communication
  + LCD screens
  + Collegium with Valentina
  + \*\*Communications Survey - please fill out!!!
* What do students need as far as communications?
  + Flyers for STH events all in one place - what are the rules and who do we need to go through to get flyers up?
  + What features would you like to see in a calendar?
  + Office on 4th floor
  + \*\*Submit events to sth calendar, can email flyers to her
    - Directions at top of page about how to submit

Roundtable Worship

* Haley Jones requesting Rountable Worship to be a Student Interest Group
* Once a month
* $75/a semester
* Anne: motion
* Lauren Hickey: second motion
* All in favor, none opposed, none abstained

Galantine's Day - a day to celebrate women, February 11

* Community Life and AHSC
* Katie: motion
* Anne: second motion
* All in favor, none opposed, none abstained

STHSA is looking to have an event called “Hosted Conversations” revolving around the topic, School of the Prophets

* "School of the prophets" - self-proclamation - Is this what we are doing? What does that mean?
  + Academically
  + Community/Spiritual Life
* Panel of students who speak to these topics and then have small breakout groups

Issues of Mental Health

* At the Town Hall Meeting in the Fall, there seemed to be a lot of concern from first years about the difficulty and challenges of transitioning into first year. This concern seemed to be especially prevalent for second-career students.
* One student summed up their STH experience saying: "This is a wonderful place to be. This is a hard place to be."
* There are concerns about what people know and don't know about mental health at STH. Where they can get help at BU and in Boston in general.
  + We learned at STHSA that faculty receive a list of places they can send students. How can this list be made more accessible to students? To STHSA?
  + Who should be responsible for making sure the options for receiving help are easily accessible to students?
* How do we help people who are experiencing bouts, how do we have open conversations, how do we remove the stigma?
* What are the statistics of mental illness and mental health problems within STH vs. other Schools of Theology
  + Why is it acceptable to expect that our STH experience will lead to mental health issues?
  + Why is it not an overall healthy experience? What is too much stress?
  + There is a fine line between expected of transformation of students and anticipated rigor of a program?
* How can admissions, the Deans Office, etc. help with this? Does this need to be a conversation had at Orientation? Or what about in the class the Deans are teaching for first years next year?
  + Is it true that Dean Lightsey's office should be a place to go for emergency funds for students who need help paying for council or for other mental health issues?
  + One suggestion made, was to potentially have a Mental Health Awareness session as a part of Orientation, so that students can be aware of signs of depression or other mental health issues.
* When questions were brought up about why professors or TAs don’t do more to help students, it was noted that meeting with our advisors only once a semester is not enough to form relationships with them where they might notice the onset of mental health issues.
  + Dr. Hart gave his input saying at the end of the semester particularly, professors are also stressed, so they can’t as easily notice students stress levels. Also, all students seem more stressed towards the end semester, so it is hard to pinpoint which students seem to be having more trouble than others unless students seek out a professor or TA for help or guidance.
  + One TA in the meeting, also noted that TA’s have a lot of pressure on them to identify when students seem to be exhibiting signs of mental health issues. However, the TAs are not trained in this area, nor do they always feel comfortable because there is a fine line between reaching out to a student and making them feel uncomfortable.
* What about the STH community is not supportive, if we have to go into gr to find support and feel special, what are we lacking? It seems that most of the clubs are segregated in certain ways. Is it because people want and need that support from people similar to themselves or is it because there is something lacking in the STH community that leads to this separation?

Other News:

* From Anne Hillman : coin card valentines for malaria. Ten bucks, saves a life. Spiritual life using it as their Lenten thing. Keep an eye out!