HCURA Committee Descriptions, 2010-2011
We’re looking for ambitious students who want to expand a burgeoning student organization and personally meet the leading researchers from Harvard as well as other colleges. If you have any questions about committee applications, please feel free to email the committee chairs (listed below) or Charles Liu ’11 (liu18@fas.harvard.edu), 2010 HCURA President. HCURA elections, at which the new HCURA Board is elected, are held each February.

Mission Statement
The Harvard College Undergraduate Research Association (HCURA) aims to foster an interdisciplinary research community at Harvard College by: 1.) connecting students with research opportunities; 2.) promoting regular interactions between faculty and students through lively discussions and symposia; and 3.) encouraging exchange of ideas between students of different academic and research backgrounds.

Advising Programs Committee
Co-Chairs: Tony Shen ’12 (tshen@fas.harvard.edu) & Sharon Song ’12 (sssong@fas.harvard.edu)

The HCURA Advising Program is a peer mentor program designed to connect Harvard students seeking to get involved in research in a given field with students with experience in undergraduate research in that field. While Harvard has a variety of resources to help students get involved in research, the peer advising system allows students to share different aspects of the undergraduate research experience apart from the logistical process of finding a position. The Advising Programs Committee will be responsible for maintaining this program, as well as providing resources to help our advisors better assist our advisees. Also, for the purpose of building a research community, the committee will also be responsible for organizing events for advisors and advisees to meet others involved in the program.

Finally, the Advising Programs Committee will co-organize various research advising-related events with Harvard’s Office of Undergraduate Research Initiatives, Student Employment Office, and summer programs like PRISE (the Program for Research in Science and Engineering) and BLISS (the Behavioral Laboratory in the Social Sciences). These events will help students get started in research and find funding and summer housing.

Joining the Advising Programs Committee is a great way to get to know the head tutors and concentration advisers of each concentration at Harvard, as well as the directors of fellowship, grant, and summer housing programs like HCRP and PRISE.
Seminars and Socials Committee
Co-Chairs: Johanna Lee ’13 (johanna.m.lee@gmail.com) & Ye Zhao ’13 (yezhao@college.harvard.edu)

The Seminars and Socials Committee is in charge of organizing various events for HCURA, including monthly faculty talks, the annual “fireside chat” with Nobel Laureate and HCURA adviser Dudley Herschbach, and study breaks. The responsibilities of the committee can be broadly grouped into seminars and socials. For the seminars, members will work with the co-chairs on finding, contacting, and scheduling renowned faculty to speak at monthly faculty talks with students. Applicants should be interested in searching for and getting in touch with energetic, accomplished, and lively faculty researchers to speak about their research or field. For the socials, members will work with the co-chairs to plan a variety of social events. In the past, we have held themed study breaks, such as our Winter Social held prior to Winter Break. Members will help generate ideas for study breaks, advising gatherings, and other fun events made to unite everyone in HCURA together. In addition, they will help the co-chairs organize and put together the events planned. As a member of the Seminars and Socials Committee, there are a lot of opportunities to get to know faculty better, and there is a lot of room for innovation, creativity, and fun.

Special Events Committee
Co-Chairs: Caleb Yeung ’12 (cmyeung@fas.harvard.edu) & Janet Song ’13 (janetsong@college.harvard.edu)

The Special Projects Committee is in charge of planning several large events that HCURA holds throughout the year, including the annual Harvard Undergraduate Research Symposium (HURS), the Boston Undergraduate Research Symposium (BURS), and the Faculty Appreciation Dinner. This is a great opportunity for applicants who are interested in organizing large initiatives and making a significant impact on the Harvard and Boston research communities. The responsibilities for a committee member will include assisting the committee chair on event planning and logistics, generating creative ideas for the symposia, communicating with Harvard faculty and staff, and interacting with students from Harvard and other colleges. Committee members will be able to play an integral role in putting together these events, as well as meet many faculty, administrators, and students in the process. The time commitment for this committee will be flexible but will increase significantly nearing the time of the special events.

Experience in organizing events is not necessary and creative design skills will be useful. Some of the most exciting opportunities that previous committee members have enjoyed are the ability to directly contact and build relationships with professors and fellow researchers, learn about the logistics of writing and presenting research, and be directly recognized as an organizer of the most important and multidisciplinary research symposiums in all of Boston.