

EGSA Minutes

Monday, December 6, 2004

Attendees: Kristi Lauridsen, Hisako Hayashi, Cher Hill, Thomas Falkenberg, Soheila Gholamazad, Jen Ivey, Mark Weiler, Kumari Beck, Roland Schulz (for a short time), Michael Caulkins.

Chair: Hisako

Minute Recorder: Kumari

Meeting was called to order by Hisako.

Agenda was read out and approved as presented.

1. Report from Kristi on meeting with Tom O'Shea, Director Grad programs.

Kristi met with Tom on December 2, and it was a most productive and informative meeting.

-A report on EGSA activities to date was shared with Tom. It was quite a range and impressive slate of activities when it was all assembled.

-Colloquium series – Tom's concern was that there were not enough faculty supporting the series, even with some meetings arranged for a 12:30 start. He will review this.

-PhD Review: Kristi had communicated our wish to participate in making change happen. Tom had commented on the overlaps with staff, student and faculty concerns, also mentioned by Dr. Driver (Dean, Grad studies) as common issues.

-For Tom, the priority was developing Educ 900, the PhD orientation/intro course, through which he felt many of the concerns could be addressed. He was also looking at modifying the application process for the PhD program in terms of matching up applicants with potential supervisors in their area of interest rather than wait for students to be half way through their program to look for supervisors.

-Kristi now has a copy of the space report! Kristi suggested to Tom that professors might be willing to share office space with TA's for their courses; Tom said he would initiate liaison with Undergrad Programs in this regard. Tom will request CET to look at computer capacity upstairs in the TA/Grad student office space. Kristi made a formal request to Tom for a private space for TA's to meet with students.

-Kumari reported on an informal chat with Tom regarding support for Grad students writing for scholarships. Following her experience on applying for a SSHRC scholarship, apart from a university-wide workshop on how to apply for one, it was recommended (at that

workshop) that there be departmental support for all candidates within a department to pursue such opportunities. Tom had said he would follow up with Phil Winne, also to see if the Faculty Support person could become involved for grad student support.

2. Investment Fund

Thanks to Cher for all the research and follow up on the investment possibilities for the fund. There needs to be general follow-up now to implement the results of our decision.

3. Faculty budget negotiation process

A note had been circulated inviting members of the Faculty of Education to be present on Jan. 19 for a presentation on the University Budget allocation process for the faculty.

Education is the first faculty in this series.

In the discussion following, it was agreed that:

- ✓ We need to be more informed about what the process is and how to participate effectively;
- ✓ We need to find out what is at stake and whether there ways in which students can support Faculty positions and vice versa;
- ✓ Get this information from the Dean's office (action Kumari);
- ✓ Report what we learn on the 19th to other student associations and SFSS;
- ✓ 3 students identified who are going to the 19 meeting, and whoever else wishes to come is welcomed. (Kumari, Hisako, Michael).

4. Christmas party

5 people had applied for subsidies, and the \$100 had been divided amongst them. The party promises to be loads of fun!

5. Budget and Finances – report from Soheila

There's \$200 left over from this semester's conference funding, and it will be carried over to the next semester.

Of the \$1500 granted from SFSS for the Fall symposium, we have used up all but \$89. If anyone has receipts outstanding, please submit these to Soheila soon.

There's \$150 + \$72 left over in general funds for this semester.

\$50 cash from a previous event was voted on for Christmas Share Family donated through the Faculty (Kumari).

From the general funds, it was decided to acknowledge all that Grad Programs staff does for students. After discussion on various ways to show our appreciation, the following motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To spend up to \$100 on gift certificates for Grad Programs staff. A gift also to be purchased for Alana in the Dean's office.

Motion: To spend up to \$400 on Spring Social. Passed.

6. Spring Social

Timing for this was discussed.

It should not clash with the Colloquium series, and should help students get together before the semester got too busy.

Decision: Mid January before Jan 26 – Week of Jan 17 – either Tues, Wed or Thursday – whatever day had the most classes. Action: Hisako to find out and book room.

7. Spring event at the Dean's house

Kristi and Hisako had met with Jan Flagel to talk about this. There had been discussion on the pros and cons of having too structured of an event, vs a social event. The decision had been that grad students suggest a plan for the event, which would then be hosted by Paul and Jan at their home.

Various ideas for the event were proposed –

Thomas outlined an activity designed by Cheryl, based on the question “Why are we here?” (meaning grad school – but various meanings could be ascribed to it)

Other ideas were also discussed – including one proposed by Cher – having cards with key questions on them, and having people match up cards during the evening.

It was agreed that these idea be refined and put down as possibilities so that the evening could be discussed with Jan.

Mid-February was agreed to be a good time.

EGSA will help with posters, email and informing classes. If the event is going to be a social evening (and there were opinions expressed that this might be a good thing too) then this needs to be advertised as such.

Follow up: Those who proposed ideas for the event, please write them up and they will be considered later.

8. Trevor L. Had been invited to the meeting but was not present, so the item was tabled.

9. Committee reports

SFSS- Gratitude and thanks expressed to Mark who had done a great job these past months in being the SFSS Rep. Mary Catherine had expressed an interest in the job and would be invited to the next meeting.

GPC – Thomas reported that course evaluation form had been circulated for comment and changes were noted. 3 more travel grants had been granted including a \$700 SSHRC travel grant. Guidelines for switching from M.Ed to MA had been formalized.

The idea of grad students being automatically signed up on the Grad E list was proposed. The objections were that there was too much junk mail on the present list. As a trial period, Karen Kirkland had proposed separating educ-grads from all-education to see if that works. More information will follow.

CSSE Conference – Kumari reported that she had been accepted on the executive of the CCSE as a rep of the Comparative and International Education SIG. She would like to promote the CCSE grad student round table session as being a very useful one to attend and propose papers to. Cher, Kumari and Thomas reported on positive connections from attending the CSSE conference in general,

Meeting was adjourned at around 5 pm.

10. Next meeting: Jan. 10, 2005 at 3:30.