

## **EGSA meeting minutes February 10, 2004**

### **Present:**

- Kumari Beck
- Cher Hill
- Isabelle Eaton
- Mahboubbeh Asgari
- Marela Dichupa
- Sarah Hickinbottom
- Kristi Lauridsen (recorder)

### **1. Minutes of the last meeting**

Approved.

### **2. Discussion of draft letter to the dean re: tuition fee increase (Kumari)**

- It was mentioned that some universities are providing free tuition to PhD students (ie. UBC)
- It was recognized that departments are experiencing cutbacks to overhead funding
- At the last GPC meeting it was discussed that MA and MEd students can no longer register part time – these students will end up spending more in fees over time if they can't afford to take more than 1 course per term
- Tuition fee increases are especially difficult for marginalized groups
- Our goals for higher education support the current government's platform of "accessibility" and "lifelong learning," especially due to the large number of adult learners in the Faculty of Ed.
- The dean is sponsoring an upcoming conference on diverse learning
- There has been some support expressed by faculty members already
- The next step is to prepare an informational insert/survey for the next newsletter asking students for feedback on how tuition increases have affected them. Kumari will also circulate the draft letter for input, then circulate to all educ-grads and present a hard copy to Dean Shaker

### **3. Update on logo/website (Mahboubbeh/Isabelle)**

- Isabelle is updating the website frequently
- We need to have 1-2 people officially responsible for communication (website, etc.) on the next slate for EGSA positions

### **4. Lounge (Kumari)**

- There will be a signup sheet posted; volunteers are needed each month to be responsible for keeping the lounge clean
- Cher will put out a request on the email list for good quality second-hand furniture to begin replacing the existing furniture; Sarah suggested having a charity come and pick up the old furniture.
- Contact Kumari if you would like to volunteer to be in charge of the “lounge re-decorating” project

#### **5. Women in the Academy (WitA) symposium (Cher)**

- There has been good response for funding from student-related organizations, including \$1000 from SFSS who have been extremely supportive
- The president’s office has given \$1500 to the project
- Next meeting Thurs. of next week

#### **6. Financial report**

- EGSA received \$400 above base funding from SFSS to fund the recent pub night
- It was decided to allocate the current available budget of \$800 as follows: \$200 funding for the WitA symposium \$150 food/beverages for an event to honour Heesoon Bai’s Excellence in Teaching Award (organizers: Hartley and Thomas)
- \$150 toward new furniture for the lounge \$300 conference grants for grad students (Cher will send out details on the email list; Kumari suggested we should list general criteria for conference funding applications on the webpage); if not used for grants, this \$ will be divided between WitA and the lounge

#### **7. Salon at Paul Shaker’s house (Kumari)**

- 36/50 spots have been filled
- There will be a wait list created, with those on it given priority for the next salon

#### **8. EGSA executive elections in April**

- It was noted that we need to advertise which positions are available with job descriptions
- Kumari expressed that she is willing to be co-chair with a new person if requested

#### **9. Reports from committee reps**

##### *GPC (Isabelle)*

- There has been a need indicated for GP to work together with EGSA to develop a system so that conference funding can be available to grad students year-round

- Approx. 1000 application packages for grad programs have been sent out this year to date
- New program possibilities include a First Nations Education PhD and a joint Education/Linguistics ESL M.Ed. to be offered in China
- GPC passed a motion to strike a working committee to discuss the possibility of an MEd in Educational Practice

*Space Committee (Kumari)*

- The committee has not met recently n a suggestion was made to consider having a “TA interview room” for meeting with students
- Kumari suggested posting a schedule in the “viewing room” area for people to post their hours of intended use of the space to accommodate more space sharing

**10. Next year’s education symposium (Kumari)**

- There will be a meeting for those interested in being on the planning committee within the next 2 weeks

**11. Adjourned.**

Date of next meeting TBA.