

EGSA Minutes

Thursday, February 3, 2005

Attendees: Kristi Lauridsen, Mark Weiler, Michael Caulkins, Cher Hill, Cathi Shaw, Mary Catherine Lennon, Jen Ivey, Soheila Gholamazad, Kumari Beck, Johanne Provencal, Thomas Falkenberg, Jack Stone

Chair: Kristi

Minute Recorder: Cathi

Happy Birthday to Hisako who was sick (so didn't get to hear the birthday greetings!).

1. Appoint/Ask someone to add the phrase 'Est. Jan 16, 1991' to the official EGSA logo. Cher suggested we ask Mahboubbeh since it was her original piece of art. Soheila indicated that Mahboubbeh didn't have the file any more. Cathi and Cher both have copies. Kristi will ask Mahboubbeh and if she agrees, we will send her the file.
2. Brainstorm ideas for keeping track of recent (and distant) grads from Graduate Programs for the newsletter. Cher asked if the Alumni Association could help us with it. Cathi suggested that those of us who know of people who have graduated can contact them directly. A need to hear about people who land non-academic jobs after graduation was identified. Kristi suggested that we include some kind of paperwork when students do their thesis defense asking them to let us know what they are doing in 4-6 months. Before the next newsletter (May) Kristi suggested we contact people we know who have finished their studies. Cher suggested looking at convocation list from the fall and try to contact those people, as well as, contacting faculty to see if they have kept in touch with their students. Soheila offered to look at the Fall 04 convocation list. Kristi asked that each of us talk to contacts we have (students and professors). This item will be added to the agenda for March meeting where we will report back on what we have found.
3. Vote on what to do with the \$100 donation for grad lounge from International Program Coordinator. Soheila suggested that we get a bottled water cooler for the lounge. We discussed asking for donations to keep water going. Kumari suggested that we

may be able to get water donated. It was also suggested that we may want to use the money to get the pictures framed from the events (Education W/O Borders) to have on the walls of the lounge, to purchase some plants and/or to purchase an electric fan. Kristi indicated that we may have money for both items. Kristi made a motion to spend the \$100 on the water cooler. Cher 2nded. Carried. Kristi will investigate the cost and where others in the Faculty get their water. Kristi made a motion to spend up to \$75 on lounge beautification. Michael 2nded. Carried. Cher suggested that we ask Hisako to look into the picture framing.

4. Report on Spring Social. Soheila indicated we spent ~\$350 on social. There was an excellent turn out to this event (although it was noted that there were no games played). People enjoyed the opportunity to mix and mingle. All the pizza was eaten <!!>. -
5. Elections for April. Kristi indicated that she would be stepping down next year. She will stay on as past chair. We need to confirm with Hisako what her plans are for next year. We need to advertise for the positions on the website. Cathi will look for the descriptions on website. Cathi indicated she would be willing to host the welcome barbecue in September in Cher's absence.
6. Report from PhD Review Response Team. 3 meetings have been scheduled. Monday the 7th is the 3rd meeting in the evening. Kristi suggested that Mark mail out his notes to educ-grads.
7. Update on 9501 Office Space. A couple of students pointed out to Hisako that updates have been done in past years as well. We want to acknowledge in the minutes students past and present who have advocated for that space. Mary Catherine asked for clarification that the space is available for all graduate students to work in. Cher indicated that that was the case.
8. Planning for spring semester events
 - i. "Evening at the Dean's house -> Feb 12th -> interaction between faculty and students. Door prizes -> Kristi moved that we spend up to \$75 on door prizes; Michael seconded; carried. 50 rsvps from faculty and students (1/3 is faculty).

- ii. “comps workshop” (Cher/Kristi) Tom O’Shea has agreed Grad Programs will cohost the event financially. Thomas indicated that the Dean might be amenable to donate funds as well. Soheila will see how much we have left in the budget. We will votes on funds for this event at the next meeting. Program coordinators will be at the workshop. GPC faculty members will also be there. Tom will personally invite and encourage those people to be there. Shirley and Karen will also be invited -> they will speak to the bottom line (Faculty policy) on comprehensives. Student only opportunity was defined. Faculty may want to talk amongst themselves about these issues. A 3-part format was suggested with the opening session being the factual component, followed by break out sessions for faculty and students (separately). This will be followed by the large group coming back together. 3 issues were identified -> 1) Substance of exams; 2) Consistency in administration of comps; 3) Purpose of them. Tom indicated that currently there are no specific plans to change the comps but there is a general plan to review and perhaps update them. Cher suggested it would useful to have grad students speak to their own experiences with comps. People will be asked to RSVP so that we would have an idea of numbers. 2-4:30 Wednesday March the 9th was identified as time and date. Kristi asked that people forward names to her of students who have had experiences writing comps who may be willing to act as group leaders. Cher, Thomas, and Soheila indicated a willingness to help with this too.
9. Committee Reports
- i. GIC – Michael -> Grad health plan with an opt out clause is being explored. There are significant changes to grad stipends-> professional programs that don’t require a thesis (M Ed and Ed D.) will not be able to get fellowships. Rational is that they don’t do a research-based degree and tend to have higher employment income. Graduate Issues officers and Grad at Large reps positions are available for application now. \$750/month for At Large Rep, GI officers are paid \$700/biweekly. Michael will find out who to contact to apply for one of these positions.
 - ii. GPC – Mark – In September there will be a cohort of 22 Chinese students doing Masters work. Six students had their application for doctoral fellowship forwarded from

- iii. SFU to SSHRC – the biggest group ever. Those students are: Karen Audet, Kumari Beck, Kymberley Stewart, Irina Tzoneva, Mark Weiler, and Harry Yang. Congratulations!
 - iii. SFSS – There is a film being shown in the Images Theatre every Thursday at 3. It is free but they are collecting donations. There will be information coming out on upcoming workshops for Roberts Rules.
 - iv. TSSU – Cher was unable to attend meeting
 - v. Education Commons (Epress) – Johanne & Mark met with Peter Grimmett and Dan Laitch. They talked about acquiring another online journal and to see what that journal is doing and see if they could work together. Johanne & Mark drafted a formal response to the discussion which Johanne has forwarded to all of us and wants feedback on.
10. Other business: Kumari attended the Budget Consultation Meeting at the Halpern Centre on January 9th. A report will follow in near future.
11. Next meeting date: Monday, Feb 28th, 3:30