

EGSA meeting minutes January 14, 2004

Present:

- Cher Hill
- Kumari Beck,
- Shoaleh Bigdeli,
- Al Fleischmann,
- Mahboubeh Asgari
- Cathi Shaw
- Isabelle Eaton
- Mark Weiler
- Johanne Provencal
- Li Sha
- Hisako Hayashi
- Hartley Bannack
- Kristi Lauridsen
- Paul
- Marianna Bogomolny
- Amrit Mundy

1. TSSU organizer (Al Fleischmann)

- Discussion regarding issues for women in TSSU.
- 80% of TSSU are grad students.
- Committees have approx. 50/50 representation but not enough women's issues on agenda, although founded on feminist principles, decentralized ethic. - Safety on campus: dist. Ed. TA's required to supervise exams alone in evenings; should be mandatory to have someone else there.
- International Women's Day should be in the TA logbook.
- 1/3 of space lost for ed. grad students – reimbursement for expenses incurred from working at home like internet services, special ph. services would be helpful.
- Equity for distance ed and online courses (*i.e.* online course instructors have to print themselves if they want hard copies of assignments).
- Dental plan needs revision (this is not a TSSU-SFU bargaining issue).
- Cher asked how many of 1400 TSSU members are female; this would require physically going through the contracts.
- Sexual harassment info should be included with welcome packages.
- Issue of people external to SFU occupying sessional instructors positions that TA's and TM's would like to have (concerns about right of first refusal language) – can TSSU represent the best interests of both sessionals and TA's?
- Anyone who has suggestions should email organizer@tssu.ca and/or attend sessional instructors' bargaining meeting on Fri. Jan. 16 at 2:00 in AQ5135.

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2. Proposed tuition increases (Mark/Hartley)

- 20, 25, 30% increases are the options put forward by SFU.
- SFSS has put forward alternative suggestion to have specific cuts to the budget to make up \$15m deficit (ie. cut \$3m in new projects, carry forward monies of \$12m).
- Motion to present this budget to the faculty for consideration (carried).
- Kumari would like to have EGSA put together a position paper on the impact of these tuition increases on grad students.
- If increase goes ahead SFU would have 2nd highest tuition fees in Canada-Isabelle noted last increase of 35% was justified on basis of \$9m shortfall; how has deficit doubled? Pressure to raise rates for M. Ed. programs? Grad programs has operating budget of only \$38,000.
- Call to go out on listserve tomorrow asking for statements to be forwarded to Kumari within a week and she will compile for Isabelle to discuss with Kelleen on Jan. 29
- First week in Feb. EGSA social – could circulate petition at that time.
- Budget forums are being held Jan. 15, 22, 29.

3. Logo (Mahboubbeh)

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- Need something that shows role of EGSA.
- Helps if logo is consistent (i.e. website, paperwork, etc.).
- Mahboubbeh and Isabelle will coordinate changes to logo/website.

4. Education Social (Hartley)

- First week of Feb. is student solidarity week on campus. - Hartley has been trying to coordinate with undergraduates.
- Thurs. Feb. 5 decided as date for Ed. Social night; faculty/support staff welcome but grad students subsidized; undergrads may choose to join us.

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5. Women in the Academy symposium May 1 (Cher)

- Funding from VP's office and Faculty Association turned down.
- meeting Thurs. Jan. 15 if anyone is able to attend.
- Motion to use \$200 of EGSA funds toward the symposium (carried).

6. Thesis workshops (Cher)

- Penny Simpson has asked for input about timing; it was suggested that beginning of term is best and probably evenings after 4:30 (Thursday?).
- Cher will suggest that Penny approach individual instructors regarding attaching the seminars to a course schedule (i.e. research methods course).

7. Committee reports

- Hartley reported that the grad student/supervisor relationship report is in progress
- Mark reported that the GIC is very focused on tuition increases and distribution of funding.
- Isabelle reported that Kelleen's 3-year plan has been submitted for review by the faculty

Adjourned

| Next meeting: Tues. Feb. 10 3:30 (promotion for new people to take on EGSA positions in May to be on agenda).

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