



EGSA meeting
May 17, 2004

In attendance:

Kristi Lauridsen
Hisako Hayashi
Cathi Shaw
Soheila Gholamazad
Thomas Falkenberg
Mark Weiler
Kumari Beck
Cher Hill
Sarah Hickinbottom (missing anyone?)

Recorders: Kristi Lauridsen and Cher Hill

1. Reflections on the past year

Kumari and Cher wished to thank everyone for a most successful year and wanted to reflect on the achievements of the EGSA in the past 12 months:

July

- Pizza party for off and on-campus students
- Elahe opposed the loss of the graduate office and while we lost the space, we secured a representative on the space committee.

September

- EGSA presented at orientation for new students – we received that feedback that this was very useful; we addressed questions that new students might have, highlighted up and coming EGSA events, provided contact names, establish a friendly face. 2 students were on the panel, which provided a greater diversity of presenters. The EGSA should ask Kieran Egan when the next orientation is being organized and offer someone to speak on the panel.
- Welcome barbecue at Cher and Rob's – they are willing to host again in the fall. Kumari suggested it should be a priority for other graduate students to offer this event even when Cher and Rob are not available to host it.

October

- Education With/Out Borders symposium – this year we are trying to move

outside just EGSA for involvement and invite faculty, PDP, etc. to participate actively

- Isabelle Eaton created a website for the EGSA – it should be continued to be promoted as it is an excellent resource for students
- Mahboubeh created an EGSA logo which we can continue to use on posters, etc to promote the EGSA

November

- EGSA representatives were present at Dr. Shaker's welcome symposium
- Hartley organized a community pub night

February

- Kumari developed a letter to send to the dean re: tuition increases – he suggested that grad students need to write letters to their MLA's; he tabled the letter and his response to it at the faculty meeting so it's on record
- Hartley organized another pub night

April

- We renovated the lounge and had an opening celebration

May

- EGSA supported WitA symposium
- Developed a set of RA guidelines for negotiating the faculty/grad student relationship, to give a sense of standard rate of pay, benefits, expectations, etc. Thomas asked what the faculty response has been – it will be brought up at next GPC meeting; RA's don't belong to a union, but the guidelines creates awareness for professors and grad student
- Event to honour excellence in teaching on Wed. May 19 organized by Thomas – this is an occasion to talk about teaching and learning at the university and should be considered as an annual event

2. Upcoming events

Thomas has met with the dean and some faculty to discuss combining grad student interest-driven colloquium series with the traditional colloquium format. It has been decided to have 2 per month = 6 per term; there would be 1 right after faculty meetings and 1 on a Friday. Allowing a variety of options is important; allowing grad students to use

this as an opportunity to practice is one of the goals of this event. It was suggested that we could have paper and respondent sessions, or a guest speaker where a grad student does the introduction. We could recruit people who have presented at conferences to present here to our own faculty and students. Education has sufficient funds to support the event. Aldona is not able to attend the colloquium meeting on Friday May 21 at 12:30; Kumari will attend instead.

3. Elections

The following people were nominated for the various positions:

Kristi Lauridsen and Hisako Hayashi – Co-chairs Cathi Shaw - Secretary and Communication Officer Soheila Gholamazad– Treasurer Thomas Falkenberg and Mark Weiler – GPC Mark Weiler - SFSS Kumari Beck-GIC Kumari Beck - Space Committee TSSU - currently unfilled

Cher spoke of the importance of having a representative from Education for TSSU as there are issues specific to our faculty that are not as important for other faculties, for example, the limitation of sessional positions for graduate students. Kumari thought that this was an issue that should be raised with the executive. Cathi said that in the Communications department they reserve sessional positions for graduate students and don't accept external applications. We will put a call out to the maillist for union representatives.

Executive was voted in as a slate. Motion passed.

Cathi will set up an email/phone list of the new executive and circulate. Kristi extended a thank you to Cher and Kumari for their excellent leadership over the past year.

4. Funding decisions

We already approved funding from the summer budget for the Excellence in Teaching Event May 19th. We will spend up to \$150 on event – Education has also allocated \$300 for the event. We re-voted just in case there is a problem approving funding from last semester for this semester. Motion passed.

New co-chairs will devise a way to best allocate conference funding to ensure that it is equitably distributed and that no one gets funding for conference expenses that have already been covered by other sources. It was suggested that we should have an application form that asks specific questions such as where applicants are going and how much funding they have, as well as ask people who receive the funding to report back to



the EGSA These reports can be a good source of information for students and we can provide conference links on our website.

Since few people will be around in June we will likely not meet so we approved funding for the July pizza party at this meeting. Motion to spend up to \$200 for on/off-campus student pizza party in July passed.

5. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting date to be discussed via email.