

EGSA meeting minutes October 23, 2003

Graduate students present:

Kumari Beck

Hartley Banack

Sarah Hickenbottom

Tracy Roberts

Rob McTavish

Mark Weiler

Cher Hill

Marianna Bogomolny

Kristi Lauridsen

Marcia McKenzie

1) Graduate student space

Cher Hill reported that Kumari Beck and Tracy Roberts, have volunteered to be rotating representatives on the Faculty of Education space committee. In this capacity they will work to bring forward issues regarding the needs of graduate students for office and lounge space. No students were on the past committee, and this may have contributed to the recent loss of graduate student office space. These three will also be in charge of keeping current graduate student common spaces clean (e.g., EGSA Lounge) - this may be done through sign-up sheets for cleaning duties, checking into cleaning services provided by the university, as well as by putting up a sign in common spaces to ask users to clean up their garbage, help keep the place clean, etc. To contact space committee representatives, please contact Kumari at Kumari_Beck@telus.net or Tracy at troberts@sfu.ca

There were also some concerns voiced that graduate students do not know what space is currently available. Suggestions were made for a quiz on the website and for including the common spaces (and the EGSA web addresses) on the list of resources available through the EGSA in the Graduate Programs Newsletter. Some suggestions were also made that space be allocated to graduate students more generally, rather than to specific faculty members who then allocate it to small numbers of graduate students.

2) Buddy program

Kumari Beck reported that instead of a one-on-one mentoring program, the buddy program is now being conceived of as including one or two graduate student contacts for each program area (e.g., psychology of education, mathematics education, technology, arts education, diversity, general curriculum theory and implementation, etc.). These contacts would be willing to have their names and contact info made available to other students in case they have questions about their area. In addition, there would also be a list of contacts who have volunteered to assist international students with any questions they may have, if they are needing further help. Neither of these buddy roles would entail being responsible for providing extensive help, but only in directing students to other appropriate resources or people, etc. If you are interested in helping with either the general student or international student buddy programs, please contact Kumari Beck (kumari_beck@telus.net) or Isabelle Eaton (crazypooch@shaw.ca)

3) Social

A number of issues around a possible fall social were discussed, with a final decision made that a social would be planned for January instead. Ideas discussed included holding a social at the pub (Hartley Banack is looking into the cost of this) or having a pizza night in the Faculty of Education. The details of the January social will be discussed further at a future meeting.

It was also discussed that the EGSA would encourage graduate students to attend the Faculty of Education Christmas party, as those that went last year really enjoyed it.

4) Concerns regarding right of first refusal for sessional work

Cher Hill reported that if you've taught a course three or more times in five semesters as a sessional instructor, you have the right of first refusal. Concerns have been raised about this, as it limits graduate students from getting work, with positions often being held by past graduate students or others. It was discussed that, on the other hand, this policy also offers more job security to graduate students and recent graduates seeking more stable work. This is a TSSU issue (university-wide) and not a Faculty of Education only issue. Cher made TSSU survey's available to those present, on which they could include comments on this issue if they wished. To follow-up on this issue, please contact Cher Hill at chill@sfu.ca.

5) Fund raising

Hartley Banack reported that he'd had the idea of doing some fund raising to provide further support to graduate students wishing to attend conferences. Ideas including asking SFSS for a loan/funding in order to organize a fund raising event. Ideas for fund raising initiatives including a games night at the pub, and selling popcorn at the Faculty of Education mock award ceremony in the spring, the Ivans:) T-shirts and other clothing with a Faculty of Education logo were suggested later in the meeting as another possible source of funds. If you have ideas for conference funding fund raising, please contact Hartley at hbanack@sfu.ca.

6) Academic women's conference

Cher Hill reported that she has been talking with Camilla Sears about the possibility of a university-wide conference on topics related to women's issues in the academy. There seems to be quite a bit of interest from female faculty and students in the Faculty of Education, and a tentative date of end of February/beginning of March is being considered. Possible funding sources include SFSS, TSSU, Faculty Association, CAUT. Faculty, students, or staff interested in this initiative should contact Cher at chill@sfu.ca.

7) EGSA logo

Cher Hill reported that Mahboubeh Asgari has been working on a logo for the EGSA for use on the website, t-shirts, etc.

8) Business cards

Cher Hill reported that business cards for graduate students are available at a cost. For more information on this, please contact Cher Hill at chill@sfu.ca. 9) Committee reports

- Hartley Banack, representative on the Graduate Issues Committee, spoke about the recent SFSS AGM. Hartley reported that the dinner provided at this meeting cost \$16,000 and that they ended up being 90 people short of the 500 person quorum needed to vote on proposed changes to the SFSS Constitution. Some of the proposed changes included changing quorum from 500 to 200 people and mandatory diversity in student representation. Quorum has not been achieved at an SFSS AGM in 20 years. The SFSS has an operating budget of four million dollars.

Hartley also reported from the GIC that the boycott of tuition payments is still ongoing. A march on this issue is planned for February 4th. There is also some talk of forming a working group regarding the centre for disabilities. For more information on GIC issues,

please contact Hartley at hbanack@sfu.ca. - Rob McTavish, co-representative on the Graduate Programs Committee, reported that both he and co-representative Isabelle Eaton attended an extra meeting to discuss the new possible field programs masters degree in Educational Practice. Field programs is hoping to add another year onto the graduate diploma to make it into a masters degree. If you have any concerns that you would like Isabelle and Rob to bring forward to the GPC, please contact them at crazypooch@shaw.ca, or mctavish@sfu.ca.

Here are some additional GPC meeting minutes from Isabelle Eaton who was not able to attend the EGSA meeting:

- There are 522 grad. students (120 newly admitted for the Fall 2003 term) in the Faculty of Education this year. Of these, 60 are international students (21 of the new admissions).
- At the Master's level, 9 different programs are currently being offered/run (these include everything that is described in the faculty graduate program booklet, though the French/Second Language master's program is not currently offered; independent programs are also not included in this tally).
- At the Ph.D. level, 5 different programs are currently being offered.
- Six off-campus graduate programs serving 98 students are currently being run, including a new cohort operating out of Surrey.
- A new Ed.D. program is scheduled for launch in Kamloops. KelleenToohey, Kau Kelli'ipo and Peter Grimmett are overseeing implementation.
- Mention was made that a rebate will be offered to Ed.D. students, in light of recent changes to fee structures for Ed.D. program.
- On Sept. 26, the Faculty organized a special reception for international students.
- Suzanne de Castell is currently conducting a review of Ph.D. programs and curricula, under commission from the Director of Graduate Programs (Kelleen Toohey).
- An additional 8 graduate fellowships have been awarded to the faculty of education for the Spring and Summer 2004 terms (4 per term). This increase is due to the high number of applicants from the Faculty of Education this year.
- On Nov. 1, 2003 a convocation ceremony will be held for the Whitehorse cohort.

- Mark Weiler, representative on the Simon Fraser Student Society Forum, did not have anything further to report on the SFSS. For information on any SFSS related issues, please contact Mark at Mark Weiler mweiler@sfu.ca.

10) New business

- There is now a Centre for Writing Intensive Learning. This centre is assisting faculty on 30-40 different courses that have a writing component. Unfortunately, there is nowhere right now to send undergraduate students who may be struggling with their writing - an issue related to academic integrity (e.g., feeling forced to copy papers to pass).