

EGSA meeting minutes September 16, 2003

Present:

Isabelle Eaton
Hartley Banack
Hisako Hayashi
Kristi Lauridsen
Mark Weiler
Tracy Roberts
Rob McTavish
Mahboubah Asgari
Kumari Beck

Meeting chaired and recorded by Kumari Beck, Notes, Kumari

1. The Agenda was approved as presented.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

3. Orientation

Kumari and Rob reported back on the new Grad student orientation. It had gone well. Kumari and Rob were on the panel, Cher, Rob and Kumari presented EGSA items, and promoted the Symposium. We got some good feedback, and hopefully new interest in EGSA.

4. Welcome Barbeque

The barbecue was a huge success with over 60 people showing up to eat, drink, play games, and be social. Many thanks to Cher and Rob for putting on a great event.

5. Loss of Room

The background to the room loss was explained to those who did not know the details. The TA/TM space above the gym was available for our use. There has been an invitation to be on the space committee. Volunteers from Tracy and Kumari.

6. Buddy Program

After some discussion it was agreed that we have two different orientations for international students who need more one-on-one help, and for other graduate students. Marela's idea for having one or two experienced students from each program was accepted as a workable plan for all grad students. We need to identify people who are willing to be the contacts for each program area. Isabelle expressed interest in this for the ed. tech. specialisation.

For international students, Randa Mahasneh had volunteered to be the liaison, and we have also had offers from Amrit Mundy. We should perhaps think about having a small team (2 -3) to avoid burnout and isolation ? A suggestion was made to introduce this at the special orientation/meeting for international students being organized by Grad Programs.

7. Symposium

Brief updates on the planning of the symposium were given by committee members present. As there were only 28 registrants so far, it was agreed that by far, promotion was the most important action item at this point. Those present divided up the classes for the week to take care of announcements and promos in those classes.

8. Finances

Hartley did not have any past business related to finances to report.

NEW BUSINESS

9. Hartley

Through interaction with a student who was having difficulty with a supervision issue, Hartley inquired whether there was any process for evaluating or reporting such difficulties, and how we should approach this.

The idea for suggesting evaluation of supervision was considered by those present as a good idea, and perhaps this should be brought up at an appropriate venue for discussion. (no decision)

10. Business Cards for Grad Students

Marela had approached Karen Kirkland with the suggestion of business cards for students when students represent the faculty at conferences. Karen would bring this up at the next GPC meeting. Grads present thought this was a very good idea. Who would be responsible for the printing etc, and what would the process be?

To be pursued with Grad Programs.

11. November Social

This should avoid the Shaker conference in early November. A date was not arranged - but mid to late November sounded best.

12. Budget

Through our dealings with SFSS and funding of the Symposium, Hartley discovered that our core funding has increased from \$200 to \$500 a semester! We are the largest group of grad students on campus (17% of the total).