

HGSA Newsletter

HISTORY GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

VOLUME I No. 1 AUGUST 1994

The Beginning . . .

During the Spring semester of 1993, a number of graduate students met to discuss the proposed university-wide budget cuts that threatened several existing teaching assistant positions for the upcoming academic year. The possible budget cuts not only threatened existing TA positions, but affected all graduate students in the department since no new positions would be offered for new or continuing students.

What became evident at the first, and subsequent meetings, was the need to sort out the facts from the rumors and to present our concerns and questions to the department as a body.

In April 1993, the graduate students established the "Executive Committee" to disperse information to all graduate students, to improve the system of graduate student representation at the faculty meetings and to the Graduate Studies Committee, as well as to simplify the decision making process by organizing the meetings, the agendas, and to initiate various proposals and recommendations for discussion among the graduate students at-large.

The E.C. consisted of five elected positions, representing these constituencies: M.A. students, Ph.D. students, students without T.A. or R.A. appointment, students at large, and the highest ranking graduate officer of Phi Alpha Theta to serve as an ex officio member.

By the end of summer, 1993, the budget cuts did not take effect as feared and, in fact, several new T.A. positions were added as a result of the continued growth of the World Civilization Program.

The graduate students continued to meet throughout the Fall semester; at the top of the agenda were the by-laws, first proposed during the spring semester and feverishly worked on by the By-Laws Committee.

Throughout most of the 1994 spring semester, the graduate students continued to meet, often on a weekly basis, with emphasis on finalizing and passing the By-Laws. During this semester, the "Executive Committee" was formally changed to the "Agenda Committee."

On April 13, 1994, after long debates and amendments, the graduates students unanimously passed the By-Laws. The inaugural meeting of the History Graduate Student Association (HGSA) was held on April 22, 1994.

By-Laws and HGSA

The HGSA is open to all graduate students officially connected with the History Department. Its purpose and goal is to serve as a vehicle for graduate students to address problems and issues related to their academic careers.

There are no "officers" in the traditional sense. Instead, the "Agenda Committee," made up of six elected members is responsible for

organizing, collecting, and presenting information to the HGSA. These six members consist of one non-funded student, one M.A. student, one Ph.D. student, one student elected at-large, one GPSA representative, and the Graduate Studies Committee Student Representative. The term of office for all positions are for one year.

Current Agenda Committee Members are:

Mee-Ae Kim
Ted Nitz (ex officio)
Liza Rognas
Susan Vetter
Laura Woodworth-Nye*

Remember to Vote !

Elections . . .

*Nominations for the Agenda Committee begins on Friday, September 2.

*Nominations end on Wednesday, September 7.

*All interested students can meet the candidates on Friday, September 9.
(Watch for notices).

*Elections begin on Monday, September 12 and close on Wednesday, September 14.

*The newly elected members of the Agenda Committee will be introduced during the first general meeting of the HGSA on September 16.

-M. A. Kim