

HGSA
General Meeting Minutes
Friday, March 28th, 2008

Members Present: Laura Arata, Lesley Moerschel, Amanda Van Lanen, Katy Fry, Paul Fisher, Lee Ann Hall, Cherri Wemlinger, Jackie Dumin, Jackie Parkinson, Marc Entze, Jennifer Reynolds, Mark Moreno, Cynthia Wiecko, Barbara Travers.

Guests Present: Filip Wiecko, Xyanthe Neider- WSU Ph.D., Higher Education Administration, Steven Davis- WSU MBA, Business Administration

Meeting called to order, 12:10 pm.

Women's Candidate Search—

- Jennifer Thigpen recently presented her research on mission women and native queens in the pre-colonial Hawaiian Islands. The general feeling is that this candidate is serious about considering WSU and will be a useful bridge for rebuilding relations between the History and American Studies departments. She will be recommended by the HGSA Faculty Representative.

Unionization—

- Several guests were in attendance at the meeting today to discuss unionization issues and the upcoming Under the Big Tent Debate.
- Debate on the best date for this event—April 1st, or the week of the 14th—18th
- In the Union Reps decide not to participate, what can we do?
 - o Focus on the representation of student workers.
 - o Oppose the secrecy—develop a strategy.
 - o Advertise in the Evergreen.
 - o Show accommodation to appear more inclusive, within reason.
 - o Registered student organizations are allowed free radio time and up to \$500 from GPSA—this will be looked into.
- For these reasons, it was decided that if no response was received from Union Reps by 3:00 pm., Friday, March 28th, 2008, the debate will be moved back two weeks in order to allow more time for invited participants to make a decision.
- It was noted that the variability between offered assistantships and student positions varies greatly between departments—it makes little sense to try to put a one-size-fits-all organizational contract on all of them.
- It was also noted that some schools, including UC Santa Barbara have chosen to de-certify their unions.
 - o Information on this is available on the web at unionfacts.com, which posts references for all stories.
 - o Laura Arata will write a newspaper article for the Evergreen discussing the reasons for decertification at other schools and of the

staff at WSU—when this occurred at WSU, all departments had to do it individually, and currently only Libraries and Maintenance are still unionized.

- Letters to the Editor of the Evergreen: 250 words or less.
- Guest Commentaries in the Evergreen: 550 words or less + picture.
 - No Rants.
- It was suggested that a good strategy would be to outline our steps to date—misrepresentation by union people should be noted
- Actual benefits are not stated, and while the UAW website lists benefits for several sectors, academic sectors are not included.
- Our benefits appear to be better than what is offered by UAW
- There is a lack of interest in a union at WSU's Vancouver branch campus at this time.
- It was noted that we already have collective bargaining for WSU via the collective representation through GPSA—we can currently negotiate anytime, as opposed to every 3 years if unionized.
- It was noted that the emergency clause allowing immediate unionization has been stricken from the contract, therefore a vote is required.
 - This vote only requires 1/6th of students to vote—a majority of 1/3rd of all graduate students
- Cynthia will send out an informational email to all graduate students in the history department.

Bylaws—

- Laura Arata motioned for a vote on the HGSA revised bylaws.
- The motion was seconded by Amanda Van Lanen.
- The motion was unanimously passed in favor of sending the bylaw revisions to a general vote of the HGSA body.

Meeting adjourned, 1:10 pm.

LJA