

HGSA
Colloquium Meeting Minutes
Friday, October 26th, 2007

Present: Cherri Wemlinger, Lesley Moerschel, Laura Arata, Dr. Kale, Dr. Sun, Dr. Pietz, Dr. Kicza

Dr. Sun opened the meeting by raising the issue of the necessity of colloquium as a requirement for graduate students and faculty.

- Noted weak broad faculty interest—need to revisit the purpose of colloquium and what it is for.
- Should the faculty have a form of colloquium of their own?
- How can we best include Vancouver?

Dr. Kale noted that in the beginning, colloquium was established as a convergence of excitement and a wish to create something similar to what had existed before.

- All problems stem from the making of colloquium a requirement.
- Became a class in the eyes of the University, which required including the branch campuses—this raised issues of participation, scope and quantity.
- Feeling that if colloquium failed because of lack of interest/participation it would give those who were hostile to colloquium the power to destroy it.
- If the department can't generate the interest, making people behave as if it is a class harms it as well.
- Proposed eliminating colloquium as a requirement to solve many existing issues.
- Colloquium should not conflict with other lectures, special events, etc. that may be beneficial or interesting.

Cherri noted her objection to having separate colloquiums for faculty and staff, as colloquium is intended to be a forum where the exchange of ideas can take place—this is a valuable part of the program.

- Noted issues with the sign-in sheet—a faculty member should be present to monitor the sheet and turn it in afterwards, and to monitor attendance issues.
- Colloquium is a department requirement, but somehow HGSA is almost entirely responsible for running it.

Dr. Kale noted that the administrative apparatus currently required to sustain colloquium kills the spirit it.

Dr. Kicza noted that there was a faculty colloquium in place in 1980 when he came here, but lack of interest and limited ability to participate killed it.

Dr. Pietz noted that the department does not have the numbers needed to require the participation of faculty in presentations for a separate faculty colloquium.

Maryanne proposed getting rid of the requirement and/or cutting back on the number to once a month would lessen the burden on the organizer.

Cherri pointed out that if a student wants to make a presentation, HGSA can make that opportunity available.

- Colloquium as an opportunity to talk about ones own research.

Maryanne proposed keeping a colloquium committee within HGSA, and perhaps making it a shared burden.

Dr. Sun noted that if we do away with the requirement, HGSA and the chair can work to foster interest.

Dr. Kale noted that there does not necessarily have to be an imposed format—it could vary.

Dr. Sun noted that to do that would make it possible to integrate things, such as the discussion session Dr. Wendt is organizing.

Dr. Kale pointed out that a proposal would have to be drafted to present to the department to eliminate the requirement and change the credit limit for Masters from 34 to 32 and PhD from 74 to 72.

Dr. Sun noted that if the requirement was eliminated there would be no problems holding colloquiums in Wilson hall, and powerpoint presentations could still be scheduled in Murrow.

- the experience does not appear to be quantitatively different—as of now, with a requirement, colloquiums must be held in a WETZ room.

Maryanne pointed out that Wilson colloquiums feel much more relaxed, and that fosters discussion much more than do colloquiums held in a more class-like setting.

It was noted that in Murrow, the only person Vancouver students can see is the presenter.

Dr. Kale noted that the Graduate Studies committee can take up the procedures to amend the quidelines, effective next fall. Those who still have colloquiums to attend would be able to either finish out their requirements or receive a waiver.

Maryanne proposed having an HGSA rep from Vancouver.

- This will be submitted to the HGSA executive committee at the next meeting, and Vancouver was encouraged to hold a formal election.

HGSA will meet to discuss these issues and report back to Dr. Kale.

It was noted that removing the two credits requires going through central administration, but it might be possible to replace them with 700/800 credits, and this way it can stay within the graduate studies committee.

Meeting adjourned 2:50 pm.

LJA