

**HGSA**  
General Meeting Minutes  
Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Members Present: Cynthia Wiecko, Lesley Moerschel, Cherri Wemlinger, Paul Fisher, Lee Ann Hall, Lynette Sriver, Jackie Dumin, Birgit Schneider, Amanda Van Lanen, Katy Fry, Loreli Sterling, Nick Conrad, Pat King, Laura Arata, Torsten Homberger, Nathan Roberts, Sky Wilson (Union Representative).

Vancouver: 3 members present via wireless connect.

Meeting called to order, 1:15 pm.

**Vancouver Rep Position for HGSA—**

- Vancouver instructed to create a temporary position
- Will be added to bylaws next year
- Motion unanimously approved
- Vancouver will nominate a representative—will be approved after hearing from Vancouver students
- Maryanne Rhett nominated for the position

**Union for Graduate Students—**

- Sky, representative of the Union from the American Studies Program present to speak about the pros of unionization for Grad students
- Signing up is not membership at this point, just to count numbers
- Not working with other student reps or GPSA
- Collective bargaining, not representative of the entire campus
- Why not working with GPSA and other student organizations, or with the administration to address concerns?
- Claims not competing with other organizations—which raises the question again—why not work together?
- Claims 85% support among grad students in other departments, but can't give numbers on how many have been talked to, or how many don't support the movement
- General feeling among history grad students is that working as an independent organization is not going to work—the few that go along with plans to strike, withhold grades, etc will likely just get fired
- Question raised regarding what the problems are in other departments that are prompting this kind of action
- General feeling is that a union will not affect our complaints, which are with out own department, not the administration in general
- Claims “pay and workload are problems in some departments” but can't give specifics, numbers, or say which departments
- GPSA already has a committee for healthcare and insurance—general feeling is that forming a union like this will only weaken our negotiating power by dividing our constituency

- University can just slam the door and sat to come back when willing to unify with GPSA
- This will vary by department and will not be uniform across the board
- It will not benefit all departments equally, and in our case might actually harm our department/student relations and benefits
- General feeling is that it would be better to try to strengthen the power of GPSA
- General feeling is that our position is as students first and then as employees—not just one or the other, but one is over the other
- Why are unsatisfied groups not addressing GPSA directly?

### **Colloquium**

- Issues have been discussed with the department
- Elimination being considered by the Graduate Studies Committee
- No formal response has been issued by the Committee or the Department as of yet

Meeting adjourned 2:00 pm.

LJA