

HGSA
General Meeting Minutes
Friday, March 21st, 2008

Members Present: Laura Arata, Lesley Moerschel, Amanda Van Lanen, Amy Canfield, Katy Fry, Paul Fisher, Lee Ann Hall, Cherri Wemlinger, Nathan Roberts, Jackie Dumin, Jackie Parkinson, Marc Entze, Torsten Homberger, Lindsey Bell, Lynette Sriver, Maryanne Rhett.

Meeting called to order, 12:12 pm.

Address from Professor Sun—

- Professor Sun wished to address the HGSA graduate students to reiterate the message that he wished to meet with all graduate students to learn more about their experiences within the department and their concerns
- Wishes to improve communication between graduate students and faculty and between faculty and leadership within the department
- Faculty perspective can sometimes be “blinkered” and feedback is helpful to better understanding all perspectives
- Wishes to institute this as a regular part of graduate student culture at WSU

Bylaws—

- Amy proposed reducing the number of allowed absences for impeachment proceedings to begin from 5 to 3. No objections were raised, so this amendment will be written into the draft in progress.
- It was decided that the information letter should be taken to the Graduate Studies Committee by the Graduate Studies Representative to see about the possibilities of including this letter in the acceptance packets each year.
- Maryanne proposed that the letter take on a general format and be about a page long, including information about the programs and subfields.
- The Newsletter will contain more detailed information.
- It was decided that the Executive Committee, rather than the Election Committee, will be responsible for conducting meetings relating to bylaws amendments, and that a quorum vote shall be required for such amendments to pass.
- The bylaws will be sent back to the committee for revisions and distributed next week to mailboxes.
- Final vote on the bylaws will take place next Friday, the 28th.

New Business

Unionization—

- All union representatives on the WSU campus are paid by UAW.

- Union reps have gotten themselves elected to GPSA committees and have blocked the formation of an investigative committee and are misrepresenting and withholding facts.
- The GPSA website dealing with the union is up, but limited access because it is not publicized. Union reps claim it is biased.
- 70% of union dues collected on campus will go to UAW and 30% to pay reps here on campus.
- It was proposed to draft an official letter to the Evergreen, in addition to letters to the editor, stating the HGSA and history department positions.
- Cherri volunteered to contact the Center for Civic Engagement to see about holding an Under the Big Tent Debate about the union.
- Nathan will find out about voting procedures, opt-out options.
- The HGSA wishes to inquire about the possibility of Departmental opt-out options, and coalitions with other departments who oppose unionization. It was decided that these departments should be invited to debates, etc.
- It was stated that there is a lawyer on campus who provides free legal advice to students—he will be contacted for advice if possible.
- HGSA wishes to inquire about the possibility of getting advice from a labor law lawyer.
- Next meeting will be held on Friday the 28th, and all relevant information sent to Vancouver prior to that time.

Meeting adjourned, 12:55 pm.

LJA