

HGSA MEETING MINUTES

March 8, 2004

PRESENT:

Jeffrey A. Johnson (Faculty Rep.), Mathias D. Bergmann (Grad. Studies Rep.), Amy Harrington (GPSA Rep.), Robin Payne (GPSA Rep.), Amanda Van Lanen (M.A. Rep.), Michael Evans (At-Large Rep.), Summer Hahn, Michelle Tabit, Aubrey Lafferty, Heidi Kyle, Laurie Whitcomb-Norden, Jon Flashnick

OFFICERS ABSENT:

Jason Blazevec (Ph.D. Rep.)
Vicki Dehlbom (Non-Funded Rep.)—pre-arranged

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

1) Faculty Committee Report:

- Feb. 27th meeting:
 - Chair election next year; Schlesinger is not running for it
 - New courses on the books: HIST 464/564 Comparative Genocide (Sun) and HIST 319 America Takes Shape (Coon)
 - Public search committee has narrowed the search to six candidates, top three received interviews
- Mar. 5th meeting:
 - Alumni news
 - John W.W. Mann (Ph.D., 2001) received a \$1 million grant to develop a public history program at the University of Wisconsin-St-Claire
 - Michael Egan (Ph.D. 2004) received a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the Chemical Heritage Foundation (Philadelphia) and John Hausdoerffer (Ph.D. 2004) received a tenure-track position at Eckerd College (St. Petersburg, FL)
 - The top three public history candidates accepted interviews, will visit the department after Spring Break
 - Hiring priorities :
 1. Asia
 2. American West
 3. Africanist

2) Graduate Studies Committee Report (Jan. 28th):

- Chair has \$1000 from dean to allocate towards a department-sponsored forum
 - Increase the visibility of the department at WSU
 - Connect modern issue with history
 - Decided to use to sponsor a forum for Black History month
- Discussed making HIST 595 more rigorous and effective
 - Make pedagogy part of graduate studies
 - Expand and broaden the course—return to original purpose
 - Have students deliver a lecture in mentor's class
 - Asked for HGSA input on revamping the course
- Recruitment:
 - Discussed various methods of improving recruitment to compete for better students: flyers to departments but also alumni in them specifically
- Some preliminary discussion of making the graduate programs more interdisciplinary by requiring a non-history minor
- Some outside discussion of altering the department colloquium series

- **HGSA responses:**

- Positive response for re-envisioning HIST 595
- Concern regarding requiring outside field for graduate programs—many see little value in them in regard to their course of study—only detract from their historical studies and program
- HGSA members aired several concerns regarding the departmental colloquium
 - Most had no problem with its required status, but wanted supervision
 - Several instances of students with poor attendance records receiving the same grade as those who diligently attend
 - Provided accountability, responsibility
 - Perhaps lower the number of required sessions
 - Perhaps reduce the number of session—less of a burden, better topics (not scrambling to fill all ten session)

3) GPSA Report:

- GPSA voted for having representative in Olympia request that WSU graduate students (on appointments) receive collective bargaining rights
- Committee is still working on choosing a health insurance provider, received four bids
- Some sort of a parking tirade was delivered

4) Miscellaneous:

- A member proposed the HGSA petition the graduate faculty to create a standard for minimum procedures in resolving cases of plagiarism
- Current policy is individual and inconsistent
- The Faculty Rep. Will address the chair and pursue action from there.

Called to order at 2:10 pm
Adjourned at 2:50 pm

MDB