

HGSA General Meeting -- 4/10/13

Present: Laura Arata, Alex Marris, Michelle Winmill-Munoz, Greg Atkins, Sikang Song, Dulce Kersting, Brett Bell

Called to order by Laura Arata at 11:05am

Faculty Committee News: The newest hire, Ashley Wright, has been confirmed.

HIST 305, the transfer equivalent of Roots of Contemporary Issues, is in the process of being approved by the university. This will likely become a new opportunity for ABDs to teach.

Graduate Studies Committee: There has been a discussion of the idea of reformatting TA evaluations to look more like the new Graduate Student Evaluations completed this year. This would create more transparency for TAs to understand their strengths and weaknesses. There is some concern that those evaluations, because they will be more formal, might be detrimental if the relationship between a TA and an instructor is strained.

There has been some discussion among graduate students that they would like to receive more feedback regarding why their departmental scholarship applications were or were not selected. The thought is that it would be beneficial to receive constructive criticism that might help guide future scholarship or grant applications. Laura will bring this up to the Graduate Studies Committee. *Please share your thoughts with an HGSA representative.*

Conflict Resolution Subcommittee: The subcommittee is working on a resolution to create better channels of communication and conflict management for TAs and instructors. The resolution has been submitted to the Ombudsmen, and after review, is back with the subcommittee for final revisions. The Ombudsmen remarked that the new resolution would bring the History Department's policies in line with other departments on campus. After the resolution has been polished, it will be submitted to the Director of Graduate Studies and the department Chair.

The subcommittee is also attempting to create a more well-defined list of TA responsibilities and a statement of expectations, which will also minimize conflict.

There are still concerns about the workload of TAs for RCI. TA employment contracts specify that the work should not exceed 20 hours per week, but the course structure forces many TAs to work more hours than that. *Please share your thoughts with an HGSA representative.*

Elections: A subcommittee was formed to begin the nomination process. Nominations will begin today (4/10) and candidates will be notified Friday. The formal election will begin next Monday (4/15) and will close on Friday (4/19). Winners will be announced on Monday, April 22nd. *If you have questions about a position, please contact a member of HGSA.*

Colloquium Report: There are two more planned colloquia this semester. One will be a professional development event for students interested in public history and one will be a happy hour Q&A with Dr. Choi regarding the job search.

Called to a close by Laura Arata at

-- DLK