

HGSA Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

Call to Order: 10:06 am by Greg Atkins

Members Present

Greg Atkins, Jacki Hedlund-Tyler, April Grube, Katie Patterson, Robert Franklin, Daniel Vickoren

-OFFICER REPORTS-

Chair's Report:

The Chair spoke with the DGS about teaching opportunities for ABDs—the department intends to award teaching opportunities based on merit to those students who meet deadlines and are making positive progress in their program. There is no plan as of now for these opportunities to become a standard part of the PhD program

HGSA advises ABDs interested in teaching to follow the summer guidelines and submit their information to Dr. Sun along with a cover letter expressing your interest in teaching a course during the fall or spring semesters

DGS also suggested graduate students consider their stance on hiring adjuncts for the department; HGSA could approach Dr. Sun and inform him we would like ABDs to be favored for positions over adjuncts, but we need to seriously consider the human face of the issue and how such a stance would impact adjuncts and their families who rely on that income

Suggested HGSA support a “phasing out” of some adjuncts by using graduate students to replace positions that open as adjuncts leave for other employment in the future; more discussion on HGSA’s position needed

GPSA Representatives' Report:

Several GPSA Reps from science-oriented disciplines have openly attacked the Wiley Research Expo and are seeking to defund the event for subsequent years

Discussion instructed GPSA Reps to support Wiley as a valuable outlet for sharing research in a conference format

GPSA only communicates via orgsync—all graduate students in the department need to register for GPSA’s orgsync page to stay connected to GPSA events, football ticket giveaways, and important notices

-NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION-

TA Responsibilities and Conflict Resolution:

Concern rose that the issue of having a clearly delineated TA contact and improved conflict resolution procedure is falling aside

Current RCI conflict resolution procedure is for the graduate student to discuss the issue with the professor in the presence of the RCI Director; HGSA is concerned the power dynamic of having two faculty and one graduate student allows for the student's concerns to be shut out

HGSA wants to see language included that allows the student to have the DGS involved throughout the process (last year the DGS was only aware of an issue long after it was resolved) and that allows for the use of an external mediator such as the Ombudsman

HGSA still seeks clarification on RCI and Graduate School TA expectations and how discrepancies between the two are to be negotiated by TAs

Adjournment: 11:12 am by Greg Atkins