

## HGSA MEETING MINUTES

November 10, 2003

### **PRESENT:**

Jeffrey A. Johnson (Faculty Rep.), Mathias D. Bergmann (Grad. Studies Rep.), Amy Harrington (GPSA Rep.), Robin Payne (GPSA Rep.), Michael Evans (At-Large Rep.), Vicki Dehlbom (Non-Funded Rep.), Summer Hahn, Cindy Kaag, Heidi Kyle, Brian Pentilla

### **OFFICERS ABSENT:**

Jason Blazevic (Ph.D. Rep.)  
Amanda Van Lanen (M.A. Rep.)

### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

#### 1) Faculty Committee Report:

- A) Department praised for its past recruitment efforts (undergraduates) and urged to continue efforts
- B) Raised concern regarding the number of graduate students teaching summer courses instead of faculty
- C) Public History Search:
  - The dean has decided to allow the department to conduct a Public History search, despite previous freeze on all searches
  - The chair has not yet appointed a committee
  - Johnson noted that the chair should include a graduate student in that committee and will pursue the matter

#### 2) Graduate Studies Committee Report:

- A) The proposal to create a field in the American West will be re-discussed in the spring semester
- B) Proposal to Adjust the Language Exam Process:
  - Steve Kale proposed that the department hand over the examination and assessment of Ph.D. language exams to the Foreign Language Department
  - The structure of the exam would remain the same as before, but there is a \$30 fee for the services of the Language Dept.
  - The GSC is divided 2-2 over the proposal
- Arguments For:
  - Let the professionals examine the foreign language skills of students
  - This will bring professionalism to the requirement
  - Most history departments and many WSU departments use this system
- Arguments Against:
  - Concern that the \$30 fee may dissuade students from taking the exam, postponing its completion and possibly delaying their program of study
  - The History Department loses control over the standards
  - Modern language not necessarily reflective of the language skills needed for historical researching in a foreign language—history professors best know the language requirements for specific periods of study