# HGSA Meeting Minutes January 19, 2016

Member Present: Jason Hogstad, Brian Stack, Greg Atkins, Renee Torres, Melanie Reimann, Nick Martin, Calen Rau, Sean Gilleran

# Brian Stack-Chair Report

Brian requested that those who have not yet done so should sign up for the student fee deduction. Also that those who have not should make sure they join their respective academic organizations, such as the Western Historical Association.

There has also been some talk with Dr. Sutton about clarification of wording on contracts, largely due to an undisclosed conflict between a TA and faculty member about workload and time commitments. Present in this discussion the issue of power dynamics in which accusations of “not working hard enough” have been used as a justification for overwork.

# Carey McCormack-Vancouver Rep. Report

Carey was not present at today’s meeting

# Jason Hogstad-GPSA Rep. Report

Jason reported on the availability of Mental Health “First Aid” training, which specifically covered how to deal with emotionally distraught students and personal stressed. Possible 8 Hour trainings are available should HGSA want them through the Health and Wellness Center

Jason also reported that travel grants are now available for the Spring and that in the last GPSA meeting there was a review of by-laws because they have not been consistently updated. This also led to a further discussion of apportionment for GPSA seats (current 1/29 students, talk to move to 1/69).

# Renee Torres-Colloquium Rep. Report

Renee reported that topic picks for colloquiums included mental health, funding, job search, and CV writing, but that a new Doodle poll was needed to create a hard “Top 3.”

# Fred Hardyway-Faculty Rep. Report

Fred was not present at today’s meeting.

# Daniel Fogt-PhD Rep. Report

Daniel was not present at today’s meeting.

# Calen Rau-RCI Rep. Report

Calen reported on the RCI Data from the recent RCI Steering Committee Meeting held at the end of December. Evidence strongly shows that classes with TAs produce high scores in learning goals, especially in regards to source analysis and understanding.

# Conference Discussion

The first bit of business discussed was the Conference Website, which is **rci.history.wsu.edu/conference**. Students whose paper were chosen have been emailed and a hard due date for applications has been set on February 5th. However, several members of HGSA (Jason Hogstad, Calen Rau, Renee Torres, and Brian Stack) will be History 300/400 classes to invite upper division history students to apply as well.

There was some concern put forward about the ability of freshman to produce a CV, but that it could be framed as a “learning experience.” As such, these CVs would not be judged too harshly.

There is also a need to contact faculty members as panel commentators ASAP. To discuss this further, there will be an additional conference meeting this Friday at 10:30.

# Meeting concluded by Brian Stack at 11:05am.