**HGSA Meeting Agenda**

**December 8, 2016**

**Wilson-Short 333**

Brian Stack called the meeting to order 1:00 PM.

**Members Present**

Brian Stack, Melanie Reimann, , Karl Krotke-Crandall, David Bolingbroke, Sarah Beth Gumm, Matthias Baudinet, Laura Briere, Carey McCormack, Taylor Hermsen, Nicholas Martin, Megan Ockerman, Taylor Smith, Amanda Svehla, Katrina Cassiere, Amy Johnson

1. Officer’s Reports
	1. Chair/Graduate Studies Rep.
		1. Thanks to all who registered for classes.
		2. Do your evaluations from Dr. Sutton before the due date. This came in 2 emails, ignore the first.
		3. Changes in money/funding. Pettyjohn funds may be coming, Pay attention to details. Possibility of breaking down fund in other ways. HGSA Agenda Committee asked for 1/3 to be given to Grad Students (an increase), which is likely not to happen, but research funding should not be going down (and will likely go up) with these changes. Dr. Sutton will be speaking on our behalf.
		4. Changes to Pullman teaching opportunities possibly forthcoming. Department asked to make more online classes. Dr. Kale would like to see TA teach these classes. ABD students first before other PhD Students. Pros and cons discussed.
		5. What we do for RCI students (re: evals), the college wants the department to do for grad students.
		6. Language exam non-sense. Concerns have been relayed. Dr. Sutton working on this since several students are not receiving confirmation documentation from FLD. Department currently accepting emails from FLD as verification of passing exam.
		7. Be honest and truthful in graduate course reviews. These are taken seriously. Concerns can also be brought to the graduate studies rep.
	2. Faculty Rep
		1. David discussed some of the potential changes to some department funds, including the Pettyjohn. Also discussed the new advisory committee.
	3. GPSA Rep
		1. pushing hard for Dec. 16th winter social at Banyons. Want this less like a prom…6-9pm. Any grad student is encouraged to attend with a guest (partner or child). Currently only expecting 150. No cost/pre-registration. Said this is a dinner event.
		2. Jan 6th, travel grant application period closes. Any travel related for the Fall Semester can be reimbursed. Pay attention to the deadline.
		3. Library no new funding expected at all. Administration says no new funding. Journals will be cut. Asking University of Idaho to share the cost.
		4. Health Insurance: no new updates until March. In December, will be shopping for new plans. Looking for best deal, not interested in needs. This will be a stop-gap plan. A final forum will be held in early February. Telling us to use what ever you can now. Assumption is that benefits will be going down.
		5. Graduate Student union was brought up by executive member that has been relatively absent. President/VP were hands off on the topic. WSU is one of the few units in the country that doesn’t function as a union. Carrie offered examples of other regional unions that do use their collective power to receive gains. WSU is only institution in the state without a union. Taylor asked for a brief history of why this conversation has not been taking place. Nick/Brian explained the GPSA executive committee power struggle.
		6. Coug day at the Capitol. Applications are due tomorrow. Travel Feb,19/20th
	4. RCI Rep.
		1. Not present.
	5. Vancouver Rep.
		1. Brian asked about how to afford living in Vancouver for those considering moving there. There are more housing options in the area which helps to find more affordable housing. Campus is fairly small, students very different. Student make up is different which helps to improve teaching experience. Also more opportunities for teaching. Small graduate community. Carrie will be your friend. Health center coming to campus soon. Not full out health center, but like a walk-in clinic.
	6. Colloquium Rep.
		1. Fall Semester Colloquiums have come to an end. New spring schedule is available and posted. Please check email for notification this week.

Schedule is as follows:

1/13/2017 – Applying to PhD Programs (targeting MA students thinking about the process)

 -TA led by Nick, Melanie, Randy, Brianna, and Karl (12-1pm)

1/27/2016 – Turning Your Research in to a Book w/Dr. Hatter (11:30-12:30pm)

Upcoming Colloquiums:

Norming Part 2 w/ Dr. Jordan

Presenting Your Research

Job Market with Dr. Stratton

We will also have informal colloquiums on teaching serious subjects/problems.

* 1. PhD Rep.
		1. Not present.
	2. MA Rep
		1. Not present.
1. Old Business
	1. None
2. New Business
	1. HGSA elections being held in April. Speak to people in position if you are interested. Brian must be replaced as chair- termed out. Need PhD students to volunteer.
	2. GPSA Rep. Elections, not held with the rest of the HGSA elections. Look for an email soon if interested in being a senator for department. At-large senate positions also being posted now. We all need to vote in the GPSA elections. Nick will host an informational meeting about up coming policies and candidates.
	3. Brian asked for a feeling of the environment for new students. Asked what HGSA can do for students.
		1. Sarah-Beth, colloquiums helpful, but mandatory requirement is sometimes questionable. Others expressed agreement and ideas for how to address this.
		2. Taylor S. expressed that at the beginning of the semester it felt as though some of the second years were trying to “scare” students. First and second year students voiced their thoughts on whether this was or was not a justified mentality and their experiences. We should all pay attention how we discuss our first-year experiences with incoming students.
3. Meeting adjourned 2:00PM.