Minutes


I. Address and Announcements by Director of Graduate Studies.

A. The meeting began with a short address by Prof. Palmitessa, the new director of graduate studies. Prof. Palmitessa mentioned that he was pleased and honored to be invited to speak to the organization. He further reported that teaching assistant and instructor assignments will be distributed shortly. Prof. Palmitessa explained their proximity to the beginning of the fall semester as necessary to reduce changes to the assignments.

B. Concerning the orientation sessions, Prof. Palmitessa mentioned that there are two sessions planned for the History Department. The first, which will take place on Monday, 28 August 2006 from 1-3pm in Dunbar 2208, is a required orientation for all entering graduate students. The second, on Wednesday, 30 August 2006 from 1-4pm in Bernhard 212, is a required orientation for all teaching assistants and instructors of record. Prof. Palmitessa explained that the second orientation session has been expanded from the past to include both new and continuing TAs and IORs, but research assistants are not required to attend.

C. David suggested taking the new students on a tour of campus after the new student orientation on the 28th before the welcome barbecue, which will take place at 6pm at Lakeview Park in Portage. It was resolved that David and Cristina will arrive at the new student orientation at 2:30pm to introduce themselves and HGSO and then to conduct the campus tour. They will also provide rides to those new students who need them or are unfamiliar with the area. Prof. Palmitessa verified that he will not need logistical support from HGSO for the welcome barbecue, but mentioned that he will ask for RSVPs by 21 August in a future missive. It was mentioned that there are about twelve entering graduate students, seven of which are funded. In his closing comments, Prof. Palmitessa stated that any concerns from graduate students may be directed to him.

II. Old Business. There was no old business. It was resolved to use mass emails instead of a recently rediscovered listserv to communicate.
III. Welcome Party.

A. After discussion about the need for HGSO to be a unifying presence among graduate students, David moved, Cristina seconded, to have a welcome party of our own. It was decided to have our own welcome party two weeks into the semester so as not to compete with the already booked opening weeks and not too far to compete with academic work. David volunteered his house—3411 Knox—for the gathering, tentatively set for 15 September 2006 beginning at 5:30pm. It was agreed to use HGSO funds for the gathering but participants would be expected to provide their own alcohol.

IV. Department Committee Assignments and GSAC Representative.

A. Joshua volunteered to sit on the graduate studies committee. David volunteered to sit on the general faculty committee. The secretary will temporarily sit on GSAC. For other committee assignments, including undergraduate studies, et al., it was resolved to solicit interest from the graduate student body.

V. Fundraising and Dues.

A. Cristina has investigated obtaining financial support from GFAC and reported that doing so will be relatively easy for our large events. For other financial support, Cristina suggested starting an HGSO store at CafePress.com for selling history themed tee-shirts and mugs. After discussion, Cristina will investigate this opportunity further and report at the next meeting.

B. The secretary suggested co-opting the Public History soda program in the common room fridge. Cristina will investigate whether HGSO can do so. The secretary will inquire whether HGSO can claim the cans and bottles from the common room recycling receptacle. David mentioned that GFAC likes to see that applying organizations have extra funding sources.

C. Dues were set at $10.00 per graduate student. This is the same amount as last year’s dues. It was resolved to increase the number of dues-paying members rather than raise the rate.

VI. Speakers and Calendar of Events.

A. The proposal of a student research symposium met with much resistance. It was resolved to not hold a symposium but rather have speakers. David proposed soliciting book talks from our department faculty for a small honorarium possibly in September-October and November. He will speak with Prof. Gray and the faculty research committee. It was resolved to still look further abroad for spring speakers. David suggested Bob Bain, a speaker on teaching history, and Leslie Page Bock, who speaks on migration in Europe. David suggested another possibility, finding a speaker on world history, a very contentious topic at present. It was resolved to solicit speaker
requests from the membership at large and to table further discussion on the calendar until the next meeting.

IV. Announcements

A. The next general meeting of HGSO will be held Wednesday evening, 15 September 2006, at 5:30pm at David Zwart’s house, 3411 Knox. The HGSO party will immediately follow the meeting.

The HGSO Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 5:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan M. Thurn
Secretary