History Graduate Student Organization
General Meeting
3 October 2006
6:30pm
Roadhouse Restaurant

Minutes

Officers Present: Cristina Moody, Joshua Schier, Jonathan Thurn, David Zwart.

I. Committee Representative Reports

A. Faculty. David Z. reported that faculty discussed their contract and teaching loads: little was of interest to graduate students.

B. Graduate Studies. Joshua S. noted that the Graduate Studies Committee will be meeting later.

C. Undergraduate Studies. Elise B. reported that they discussed the honors qualification for undergraduate history majors. It will not entail a thesis, but some other written work. The working definition will encapsulate teaching and public history majors as well as the more traditional history student.

D. Events. Keena G. mentioned that the Events Committee has not met, but she had a proposal for HGSO: that we emphasize to the current administration the need to preserve West Hall. Joshua K. moved, David D. seconded, that HGSO write a letter to Interim President Haenicke emphasizing the importance of historical preservation of WMU’s East Campus buildings. The motion passed. Joshua K. volunteered to pen the letter and submit it to the Executive Committee for signatures.

E. Research. Andrew Peim was not present to report.

F. GSAC. David S. reported that GSAC has approved spending some of the large surplus available this year ($20,000 unspent from last year plus an additional $20,000 diverted to GSAC from CAB by Acting President Haenicke). $10,000 will go toward two professional development days; one in spring, the other in fall; one geared for academics, the other for professionals. $2,500 has been set aside for a student research symposium. There have been proposals to spend $10,000 on a big-name speaker and $7,500 to supplement the Graduate College Research and Travel Grant program, but neither has been approved yet. David S. mentioned that the proposed grant supplement would provide grants to additional people, not increase the amount of grants.
G. David S. would like suggestions for the remaining funds from the members. He noted that the next meeting of GSAC is 13 October and that he would welcome suggestions as early as possible, preferably by 10 October. David D. suggested that GSAC could establish a research award, perhaps $1,000, for the best paper submitted to the *Hilltop Review*, the newly-established campus graduate student research journal. He also suggested that GSAC publish and distribute the journal.

H. David Z. noted that HGSO will have an operating funds proposal for the next GFAC meeting on 13 October.

II. Spring Speaker.

A. David Z. asked for spring speaker nomination statements. Keena G. proposed that we bring in Dr. Lawrence Clayton (U. of Alabama), a scholar of Spanish-colonial history. She noted that Dr. Clayton is a dynamic speaker and flies his own plane and that he would probably speak on Las Casas and the Mound Builders.

B. The secretary proposed that we bring in Dr. David Nirenberg (U. of Chicago), a scholar of medieval-European history. The secretary noted that Dr. Nirenberg is a very widely-recognized name in medieval circles, the author of the multi-award-winning *Communities of Violence: Persecution of Minorities in the Middle Ages*, and anticipated that he would probably speak on inter-religious violence.

C. After a break for announcements, related below, Joshua K. moved, Criss M. seconded, that we table the vote for spring speaker until the next meeting. The motion passed. A motion by David Z., seconded by the secretary, to close nominations failed. Joshua K. moved, Joshua S. seconded to open nominations until Friday, 6 October, at noon. Those nominations then received would be forwarded to the members by Monday, 9 October. The motion passed.

III. Announcements

A. David Z. reminded the members that the department is sponsoring a Workshop for Applying to Doctoral Programs on Wednesday, 1 November, from 2pm to 3:15pm in Friedmann 4413.

B. David Z. announced that the Hamner Lecture featuring Kenneth Mills, will take place Thursday, 26 October, at 7pm in the Fetzer Center.

C. David Z. reminded the members that the HGSO Research Colloquium featuring Prof. Judith Stone will take place on Friday, 6 October, from noon to 2pm in the Dean’s Conference Room (Friedmann 2302). Prof. Stone will present her paper “Gender and the ‘Culture Wars’ of Fin de Siècle France” which is available for reading in the common room. Lunch will be provided.
IV. Other

A. Joshua K. moved that HGSO purchase a gift for Prof. Stone to thank her for her talk. The motion was tabled for the next meeting.

B. David Z. reminded the members that dues ($10 per year) are still payable to the Treasurer, Cristina M.

C. The Head TA, Joshua K., asked that graduate assistants keep extra people out of their offices. As the GA offices are small and shared, only students and Western Michigan employees should be using them.

D. The next HGSO meeting was set for Tuesday, 17 October, at 6:30pm at the Roadhouse Restaurant.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Thurn
Secretary