HGSO General Membership Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2015

Presiding Officers: Kyler Williamsen – President, Claire Herhold – Vice President, Joseph Helzer – Treasurer, Michael Kuethe – Secretary

I. Call to Order – 6:16 PM

II. Approval of the Agenda
   • Motioned by Claire Herhold, Seconded by Joseph Helzer

III. General Announcements
   a. Set Date for Next Meeting
      • date for the next meeting set as November 13th

IV. Representative and Committee Reports
   a. Faculty Representatives and Other Organizations
      i. Graduate Studies Representatives – Thomas Maurer, Michael Kuethe
         • The first meetings of the Graduate Studies Committees have not been scheduled yet
      ii. Faculty Committee Representatives – Kyler Williamsen, Emily Potts
         • Faculty Committee has met twice since the last meeting of the HGSO membership
         • Committee discussed limited funds of the Department
         • university administration is attempting to influence the faculty’s ratio of teaching to research hours, wishes to implement a system for tracking professional service and to rebalance the allotment of teaching dispensation for professional service
         • History Department is hoping for minimal changes to their current practice
         • faculty is also concerned about the long-term sustainability and declining enrollment of the program
      iii. Undergraduate Studies Committee – Ruth Aardsma-Benton
         • university administration is assessing the education goals of the Department
         • Undergraduate Studies Committee will be examining the four program options and creating more concrete guidelines for each
      iv. Research Committee – Joseph Helzer
         • two Breisach Brown Bag Colloquiums have been held since the last meeting of the HGSO
         • fairly high graduate student turn-out at each; membership was encouraged to continue attending these events throughout the semester
         • the presentations have a strong emphasis on public history this year
• the committee representative also mentioned the Burnham Macmillan speaker scheduled for October 22\textsuperscript{nd}

v. Teaching Assistant’s Union – Kyler Williamsen, Claire Herhold
• TAU convention held on September 26th; turn-out was relatively low
• issues with TA stipends and TAU dues should have been resolved in the previous week
• health care stipend also should have been distributed in the previous week
• representatives mentioned the meetings of the TAU Organizing Committee and encouraged the HGSO membership to attend
• TAU recently achieved 60.5% enrollment of the university’s teaching and research assistants; however, there is still a $13,000 deficit in the TAU budget
• TAU will be participating in the “Million Student March” – a national protest against student debt; more details forthcoming
• HGSO membership suggested a TAU bulletin board be placed in the department’s graduate student common office

vi. Phi Alpha Theta – Joseph Helzer
• meetings of the Phi Alpha Theta membership will be held every Thursday at 5:00; HGSO membership is encouraged to attend
• a walking tour of Kalamazoo has tentatively been scheduled by Phi Alpha Theta for October 29\textsuperscript{th} around 5:00 PM

vii. GSAC – Kyler Williamsen, Jeremy Killion, Patrick Hargis, Alexander Milnikel
• next meeting of the GSAC scheduled for October 23\textsuperscript{rd}
• our representatives will email the GSAC coordinators to ensure all of our representatives are on the pertinent mailing list
• at the first meeting of the GSAC for the year, a tentative budget for the organization was drafted, and the GSAC implemented a new stamp-card system to ensure attendance by organization representatives
• HGSO membership suggested creating a mailbox to store our stamp-card

viii. Faculty Committee – Kyler Williamsen
• TGIF (Thank God It’s Fall) party scheduled for the 16\textsuperscript{th}; RSVP by the 14th

b. HGSO Committees

i. Fundraising – Lindsey Schmidt, Alexander Milnikel, Joseph Helzer, Spencer Hunt
• the committee has not met since the last meeting of the HGSO

ii. Social Affairs – Lindsey Schmidt, Rachel Hekman, Jeremy Killion, Patrick Hargis, Alexander Milnikel, Savannah
• the HGSO membership brainstormed for the Halloween party
  1) location TBD; possibly at the clubhouse of a member’s apartment complex
  2) tentatively scheduled for Halloween Day
3) considered buying a murder mystery party kit
4) significant others and guests welcome
5) potluck
6) voted on theme for murder mystery kit – Prohibition theme selected

iii. Workshop Committee – Ruth Aardsma-Benton, Michael Kuethe, Spencer Hunt
   • PHD workshop held on October 8th; very successful, with a high turnout
   • material from the PhD workshop will be made available for those who could not attend
   • next workshop tentatively planned for October 19th; theme will be professional networking and development

iv. Spring Speaker Committee
   • election for Spring Speaker lecturer resulted in a tie between Dr. LaDale Winling of Virginia Tech and Dr. Maeve Callan of Simpson College
   • run-off election will be conducted over the following week

V. Treasurer’s Report – Joseph Helzer
   • current account balance: 1,173.65
   • cash total: 111.05
   • total funds: 1,284.70
   • recent revenue: $10.90 from bottle/can deposit; estimated $200 from annual dues

VI. Miscellaneous Business
   a. Claire Herhold encouraged the HGSO membership to Like the Facebook page of Saint Joseph Heritage Museum
   b. Michael Kuethe explained how to access the HGSO Google Drive material with Western Michigan University emails and passwords; the secretary will make Committee folders available to committee members in the following days

Meeting Adjourned; motioned by Lindsey Schmidt, seconded by Joseph Helzer – passed 14-0