HGSQ General Membership Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2016

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

I. Call to Order – 6:13 PM

II. Approval of the Agenda
    • Thomas Maurer requested that the agenda be amended to accurately list Savanah Shipman as the HGSO representative to the Graduate Studies Committee
    • Approval of the agenda motioned by Claire Herhold, seconded by Patrick Hargis, approved 12-0

III. General Announcements

   a. Set Date for Next Meeting
      • date for the next meeting set as Thursday, March 24th at 6:00 PM

IV. Representative and Committee Reports

   a. Faculty Representatives and Other Organizations

      i. Graduate Studies Representatives – Savannah Shipman
         • Representative was not in attendance at the February meeting of the HGSO

      ii. Faculty Committee Representatives – Derek Benson
         • Committee convened on February 3rd to discuss portfolios of PhD students; the confidential nature of the meeting’s discussion prevented our representative from attending
         • Committee meeting originally schedule for February 17th was cancelled

      iii. Undergraduate Studies Committee – Ruth Aardsma-Benton
         • Representative was not in attendance at the February meeting of the HGSO

      iv. Research Committee – Joseph Helzer
         • Encouraged members to attend the Burnham-Macmillan lecture on February 29th at 4:00 PM in 3508 Knauss Hall; Dr. James Young will be presenting a lecture entitled “The Stages of Memory: New York’s Ground Zero, Berlin, and Beyond”
         • Representative Joe Helzer invited volunteers to eat lunch with Dr. Young the day of the lecture; any members interested should contact Joe directly
         • HGSO members are also encouraged to attend the Breisach colloquium presentation on February 22nd given by Dr. McElhone of the Kalamazoo Valley Museum

   v. Teaching Assistant’s Union – Kyler Williamsen, Claire Herhold
Representatives attended a TAU event on the afternoon of February 19th.

TAU is currently reassessing its operations procedure to account for declining registrations and funds following the enactment of Michigan’s Right-to-Work Law.

To encourage participation in TAU through department stewardship, TAU plans to create a certification process for department stewards.

In order to highlight the success of the Union over the past seven years and encourage continuing support from the HGSo membership, President Kyler Williamsen compared the Graduate Assistant contract in effect in 2009 when the Union first became involved in contract negotiations with the current Graduate Assistant contract.

vi. Phi Alpha Theta – Joseph Helzer

PAT is organizing a fieldtrip to the Museum of Industry in Chicago on Saturday, March 19th; entrance fee to the museum will be covered for members of Phi Alpha Theta; those interested in attending should contact Kaitlin McGrath, secretary of PAT.

vii. GSAC – Kyler Williamsen, Jeremy Killion, Patrick Hargis, Alexander Milnikel

Representatives have been attending GSAC meetings regularly in order to guarantee a smooth funding process for the Spring Speaker Committee.

GSAC has put out the call for members wishing to serve as officers for the 2016/2017 academic year.

viii. Faculty Committee – Kyler Williamsen

Committee has not met since the January meeting of the HGSO.

b. HGSO Committees

i. Fundraising – Lindsey Schmidt, Alexander Milnikel, Joseph Helzer, Spencer Hunt

Committee is organizing a bake sale to be held prior to Spring Break in March; requested that members participate by purchasing ingredients, baking cookies, and staffing the bake sale table.

Committee is also planning to host a coffee sale in partnership with Water Street Coffee.

Proposed Rent-a-Pup fundraiser will not be held this semester due to scheduling conflicts with the local animal shelter.

ii. Social Affairs – Lindsey Schmidt, Rachel Hekman, Jeremy Killion, Patrick Hargis, Alexander Milnikel, Savannah

Minor events are being organized throughout the semester, but no major events that require funding or oversight from the organization.

iii. Workshop Committee – Ruth Aardsma-Benton, Michael Kueth, Spencer Hunt

HGSO membership considered four ideas for potential workshops: archival resources at the Zhang Legacy Collections Center, introduction to the holdings of the Waldo Library Rare Book Room, speed reading and note taking, and presentation by WMU Career Services.
• Present membership took a vote and chose archival resources at the Zhang Legacy Collections Center and speed reading and note taking as the remaining two workshops of the semester
• Committee proposed transferring $15 from recent fundraising revenue into the Workshop Committee funds; discussion of the issue tabled until the Treasurer’s report

iv. Spring Speaker Committee
• Committee attended a meeting of GSAC on the afternoon of February 19th to present their funding proposal; attending committee members were optimistic about the outcome but have not received an official response on the status of the proposal
• Committee will discuss a location for the planned dinner with the speaker and distribute the pertinent information to the HGSO membership

v. Nora Faires Committee – Claire Herhold, Kyler Williamsen, Mike Kueth
• Discussed the application process and deadline for the Nora Faires Research and Travel Award
• Thomas Muarer and Laurel Thompson volunteered to serve on the committee

V. Treasurer’s Report – Joseph Helzer
• Treasurer Joseph Helzer discussed the current account balance and recent fundraising
• Mentioned the sale of books from the graduate student common office as a fundraising opportunity for HGSO
• Motion to transfer $15 to the Workshop Committee budget – motioned by Kyler, seconded by Laurel, no discussion, passed 8-0,
• Discussed transferring funds from the budget reserves to the General Meeting budget, motion to table to discussion without transfer of funds – motioned by Laurel, seconded by Patrick, passed 8-0

VI. Executive Committee Anouncements

a. New Officer Election
• Encouraged members to consider serving on the Executive Committee for the 2016/2017 Academic year
• Explained the process and timeline for officer election with nominations taken between the march meeting of the HGSO membership and April 1st; election to be conducted the first week of April

b. Auditing Committee
• Explained the purpose of the Auditing Committee and encouraged members to consider serving on the committee after its formation in April

VII. Miscellaneous items
a. Michigan State History Day

- Although not reflected in the agenda, the meeting began with a information about the upcoming State History Day on April 30th; members are encouraged to participate as judges; potential for carpooling to the event at Bay City Central High School; members interested in participating should register at: www.hsmichigan.org/mhd/judges

b. Members raised the concern that the Executive Committee does not present business at the general meetings in a clear and concise manner; the Executive Committee acknowledged the concern and will attempt to conduct business more clearly in the future

Meeting Adjourned; motioned by Kyler Williamsen, seconded by Joseph Helzer – passed 8-0