HGSO General Membership Meeting Minutes

March 25, 2016

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

I. Call to Order – 6:00 PM

II. Approval of the Agenda
   • Approval of the agenda motioned by Claire Herhold, seconded by Joseph Helzer, approved 11-0

III. General Announcements
   a. Set Date for Next Meeting
      • Date for the next meeting set as April 29th
      • April meeting will take place at Bell’s Brewery in downtown Kalamazoo

IV. Representative and Committee Reports
   a. Faculty Representatives and Other Organizations
      i. Graduate Studies Representatives – Savannah Shipman
         • Representative has not been contacted since the February meeting of the HGSO
         • Recently the Graduate Students Committee has been discussing admissions for the 2016/2017 academic year and awarding reimbursement for research and travel
      ii. Faculty Committee Representatives – Derek Benson
          • Committee met on March 2nd to discuss academic requirements for undergraduate History majors
          • Faculty also discussed merging Research Committee with Ex-com Committee
          • Committee discussed incoming masters and PhD students for the 2016/2017 academic year
      iii. Undergraduate Studies Committee – Ruth Aardsma-Benton
           • The HGSO representative to the Undergraduate Studies Committee was not able to attend the meeting, although she did inform the executive officers of recent committee business by email
      iv. Research Committee – Joseph Helzer
          • Dr. Coryell will be presenting at the last Breisach colloquium brown bag lecture of the year on April 11th
          • Dr. Martha Norkunas will be presenting at the Burnham Macmillan on Thursday April 7th
          • HGSO members are invited to join Dr. Norkunas for lunch on April 7th
- HGSO members are also invited to join Dr. Norkunas and Dr. Benac for lunch and a visit to the Fountain of the Pioneers in downtown Kalamazoo on April 8th

v. Teaching Assistant’s Union – Kyler Williamsen, Claire Herhold
- Kevin Wordleman has finished his term as TAU staff organizer
- In the future, the position of staff organizer will be filled by two part-time employees of the TAU
- In the next few weeks, the TAU will be sending out its call for executive officers for the 2016/2017 academic year
- The TAU will soon be taking applications for its annual professional development grant
- The TAU officers are considering raising dues for the 2016/2017

vi. Phi Alpha Theta – Joseph Helzer and Patrick Hargis
- Last weekend Phi Alpha Theta organized a daytrip to the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry

vii. GSA – Kyler Williamsen, Jeremy Killion, Patrick Hargis, Alexander Milnikel
- The last general meeting of the Graduate Student Organization for the 2015/2016 academic year was held on the afternoon of March 25th
- At today's meeting, the GSA held its installation of next year's officers and ambassadors
- The GSA has split the Office of Outreach and Professional Development into two officer positions with an accompanying increase in budget

viii. Faculty Committee – Kyler Williamsen
- Mentioned the History Department's end of year retreat at Dr. Anise Strong's home on April 29th
- Despite no RSVP being mentioned in the email announcing the end of year retreat, HGSO members are encouraged to send an RSVP to Dr. Strong

b. HGSO Committees

i. Fundraising – Lindsey Schmidt, Alexander Milnikel, Joseph Helzer, Spencer Hunt
- Committee is laying the groundwork for holding a coffee sale in partnership with Water Street Coffee in the spring semester
- Discussing organizing a cider and cookie sale using donated materials
- HGSO membership also discussed the sale of green books to students at exam time with the profits going to HGSO

ii. Social Affairs – Lindsey Schmidt, Rachel Hekman, Jeremy Killion, Patrick Hargis, Alexander Milnikel, Savannah Shipman
- Order forms and information concerning the coffee sale have been distributed to the
• Joie Helzer stated that the price was incorrectly listed on the original order form as $10; the HGSO will honor the original price for any sale conducted before a corrected form, which lists the price as $12, were distributed
• Coffee sale checks should be made out to the History Graduate Student Organization

iii. Workshop Committee – Ruth Aardsma-Benton, Michael Kuethe
• A workshop on efficient speed reading and note taking skills was held on March 16; the workshop was well attended
• The workshop committee is organizing a trip to the Zhang Legacy Collections Center to take place in the next few weeks

iv. Spring Speaker Committee
• The general membership discussed the allocation of extra funds following the speaker's request to fly to Kalamazoo rather than driving
• $149.20 will need to be provided for Dr. Callan's flight
• the Spring Speaker Committee is considering hosting a coffee hour in addition to lunch with the speaker on the day of the lecture
• The general membership decided to invite Dr. Callan to dinner Monday, March 28th at 7:00 PM at University Road House
• HGSO will be providing sandwiches for lunch with the speaker on Tuesday, March 29th at 11:30
• The General Membership has decided to invite Dr. Callan and members of the History Department faculty to breakfast on Tuesday, March 29th at Food Dance
• Dinner with the speaker on Tuesday, March 29th will be held at Zazios at 8:15
• Motion to transfer funds for Dr. Callan's increased travel expenses
  ▪ Motioned by Michael Kuethe, seconded by Kyler Williamsen: passed 10-1

v. Nora Faires Committee
• The Committee met on to discuss this year's applicants to the Nora Faires Travel and Research Award
• The faculty's Graduate Studies Committee has received the recommendation of the Nora Faires Committee and will announce their decision in the next few weeks

V. Treasurer’s Report – Joseph Helzer
• Joseph Helzer reviewed the organizations current funds and total fundraising for the year
• Motion to donate $200 to the Nora Faires Travel and Research Award Endowment
  ▪ Motioned by Lindsey Schmidt, seconded by Jeremy Killion: passed 11-0

VI. Call for Officer Nominations
• The following members were nominated for officer positions for the 2016/2017 Academic year: Derek Benson, Emily Potts, Laurel Thompson, and Thomas Maurer

VII. Miscellaneous Business
a. Audition Committee Discussion
   - The executive officer recommended that next year's president and treasurer, who will be chosen by election in the first week of April, should consider serving on the Audition Committee
   - Lindsey Schmidt volunteered to serve on the committee

b. Academic Integrity Committee
   - The general membership discussed the responsibilities of committee members and asked for volunteers to serve on next year's committee
   - Thomas Maurer, Laurel Thompson, and Derek Benson expressed interest in serving on the committee; their names will be sent to Dr. Brando for consideration

c. Claire Herhold mentioned volunteer opportunities as docents at the St. Joseph Heritage Museum; those interested should contact Claire

d. Jeremy Killion discussed working with Study Abroad office in producing testimonials of students who have traveled, either for research or as part of a study abroad program; others interested in participating should contact Jeremy

Meeting Adjourned; motioned by Kyler Williamsen, seconded by Claire Herhold – passed 11-0