AGSU Executive Meeting Minutes

Monday January 9, 2012

AP 318, Time: 11:00am

Cadell Last, Rastko Cveki, Amber Walker-Bolton, Matt Hilder, Matthew Pettit, Bess Doyle, Karyne Rabey, Guy Duke, Catherine Merritt, Steven Dorland, Sandy Oh, Tori Sheldon, Alvina Tam, Dylan Gordon, Emma Yasui

Call meeting to order 11:06

1. Update from Graduate Policy and Board Meetings (Catherine and Guy)

* Graduate Policy – new courses for 2012-13, restructuring of medical anthropology program, review of marking schemes and readings for courses
  + Meeting took place on December 2.
  + New courses that will be offered next year will be the socio-cultural courses: “Magic, Science, and Religion”, “Political Anthropology: State Power and Sovereignty”, “Evolutionary Theory”, “Contemporary Archaeology”, “Genealogies of Anthropological Thought”
  + Medical anthropology program. Dan Sellen will lead the restructuring of the program. There is potential consideration to hire another medical anthropology professor.
  + Ivan requested course syllabi from all courses. There is not that much discrepancy regarding amount of readings. There is discrepancy regarding the weight of essays and participation marks. The new plan is that final essays cannot be worth more than 50%. Participation cannot be worth more than 20% (this is an SGS requirement).
  + SGS is considering mandatory graduate course evaluations.
* Graduate Board – discussion of “core courses” for all subdisciplines, restructuring of role of Graduate Coordinator
  + Meeting took place on December 9.
  + “Core course” will mean “strongly recommended”
  + Core course for socio-cultural anthropology: “Genealogies of Anthropological Thought”
  + Partially recommended core course for archaeology: “Archaeology and Contemporary Society”; “Archaeological Theory” will remain as the core cores
  + Core course for biological anthropology: “Evolutionary Theory”
  + Many faculty opposed a course in professionalization, but support the idea of workshops, such as “CV writing”; there are lots of “professional” courses offered by SGS, but students feel these courses are too general
  + The graduate coordinator position may be reorganized. Ivan feels it’s a problem to advocate for students and to also distribute the TA positions. Potential plan to have one person for TA positions, and the graduate coordinator will be in charge of admissions and fellowships.
  + There are new policies for publishing your PhD. Now when you submit your PhD, it goes to T-Space (publically accessed). If you Google your name, your thesis will immediately appear. Implication involves copyright issues and issues of intellectual property
  + The person in charge of E-thesis may come to talk to the department

1. CUPE (Matt)

* CUPE bargaining update
  + Potential preparing for a strike
* CUPE meeting updates
  + There will be a meeting this Thursday. Last meeting was in December.
* Grievance update
  + Update should be forthcoming soon
* Email to department regarding current TAships – have we heard anything yet?
  + We will send another email

1. Vis-à-Vis Updates (Bess)
   * We have had no submissions for the upcoming Traces issue.
2. Social Events for 2012 (Sandy)

* Coffee breaks (dates for St. George, UTM)
  + St. George, 1st week of march. March 6th Tuesday 12-2.
  + UTM, potentially better to outsource it to someone who is there. Thursday March 8, 12-2.
* Pub Nights (same as last term?)
  + Keeping it on last Thursday of the month
* Mentorship Event
  + Potentially scheduling a casual lunch at Mother’s Dumplings, toward end of the month.
* Other events?
  + Potentially have an open mic night and potluck in the department. For March.
* Spring Wine and Cheese (date)
  + Still determining timing.
  + Potential date: Thursday April 5th. 4-6; must check with faculty first
  + UPDATE: April 5th not good for faculty; reconsidering date

1. Winter Wine and Cheese Update (Sandy)
   * + Run down of how things went
       - * Success! Things went smoothly. Cost is still an issue, still waiting for invoice. Invoice will likely be around $1200.
         * Plan is to potentially find new venues off campus to lower cost
         * JCR location was problematic in terms of confirming the rental and the sound system.
         * The baseline to hold an event with Beverage Services is $500, which does not include the price of alcohol.
2. Computer and communications (Matthew)
   * Printer and ink update
     + - * Ink is all good
         * We have a backup ink, and enough money for buying more.
   * Website update
     + - * New website is being organized. Will potentially include a blog.
   * Graduate Student News – Newsletter update (with Tori) – the faculty are very keen to see this up and running ASAP
     + - * Will include profiles of what people are doing. Graduate news of who got awards.
3. GSU (Alvina and Jacob)
   * Meeting update
     + - * The next meeting is in 2 weeks. Jacob went to the meeting in December, but he is not here to provide an update
4. Medusa (Cadell and Amber)
   * Medusa dates for second term
     + - * Still determining a date.
         * Will likely have Medusa in late March to prepare for April conferences, and maybe another in April to prepare for May conferences, though April may be too late.
         * Will either have two smaller seminars, or one larger seminar
5. Departmental Review (Catherine and Guy)
   * This Thursday and Friday.
   * The point of the lunch meetings is to talk about the strength and weaknesses of the department.
   * The graduate policy committee is on January 12 – Guy will attend with a medical anthropology student because Catherine will be away on fieldwork until March 2nd
6. Treasurer (Steve)

* Budget update from Winter Wine and Cheese: still determining final numbers because still getting money reimbursement and haven’t received Beverage Services Invoice.
* In process of switching from old bank account

1. Other business

* Next meeting: February 6 at 11 am.

Meeting adjourned at 12:02