AGSU Executive Meeting Minutes

Monday November 28th, 2011

AP 318, Time: 10:00am

Catherine Merritt, Guy Duke, Sandy Oh, Matt Hilder, Jennifer Hider, Bess Doyle, Steven Dorland, Karyne Rabey, Alyson Stone, Jacob Nerenberg, Stephanie Creighton

Meeting called to order at 10:09am

1. CUPE (Matt)

-780 votes as of Thursday

-think we are going to pass the 1200 votes from last year

-University is not trying to withdraw guaranteed funding anymore

-gender reassignment leave was given

-University doesn’t want to talk about: capping tutorial sizes at 50, giving TAs more support for tutorials, tying wage to inflation

-if no agreement is reached after the next round of bargaining we will move to conciliation/mediation

-if there is a strike it is far away (February)

-total cost of proposal is $14million

-grievances-letter has been sent to Chair of Department, (November 24th) and we should hear back in 10 business days

2. Vis-à-Vis (Bess)

-current submission policy allows submissions from Canadian universities

-want to allow more papers from other countries to be submitted so we have a higher standard as well as publish more than once/year

-students at international universities that we are missing out on

Motion to vote to change AGSU constitution to allow for international submissions is brought forward by Catherine, seconded by Jacob:

-motion to change the AGSU constitution is unanimous

Motion to vote to change wording of AGSU constitution from “including all notes in the 25 pages” to “excluding all notes” and “long articles” to “research articles” brought forward by Catherine, seconded by Guy:

- motion to change the AGSU constitution is unanimous

3. Wine and Cheese (Sandy)

-room booked, alcohol order has been made

-we will keep the ticket cost at $3 but there will be no free drink included; this is to account for Departmental budget cuts (budget has been reduced from $2250 to $1950 this year for the wine and cheeses)

-Fall Wine and Cheese the cost of alcohol and servers was $1100, when working with a $850 budget (which we went over)

-to assist with funding we are doing a raffle

-sending hand written invitations to professors

Day of Wine and Cheese

-members at large helping in the afternoon to prepare and move stuff over

-AGSU members will work the door for half hour periods

4. Upcoming Social Events (Sandy)

-Movember judging starts at 6pm on Wed Nov 30

5. Computer and communications (Matthew – NOT PRESENT)

-working on ink, on budget for it presently

Anthropology Newsletter

-external funding awards received by students in our department to be posted in newsletter

6. GSU update (Jacob)

-incorrect advertisement led to a de-funding of OPIRG (Ontario public interest research group) action from GSU exec

-OPIRG changes mis-worded advertisement and we hope that their funding is not removed

-issues with the GSU being a political unit

7. Medusa (Amber)

-to apply for GSU funding for Medusa it needs to be a conference instead of a lecture series

-the constitution would need to be changed to state that it is a conference

-a conference for next year would be a really great event for the department

-next term-want to have Medusa before any major conferences

-last Medusa was successful-sent hand written initiations to specific faculty

-new initiative this year: all the presenters receive anonymous feedback

-suggestion to have Medusa wrap up posted in the anthropology newsletter

8. Faculty of Arts and Science Council (FAS)-Alyson

-online course and TA evaluations for certain courses to test the online system; anthropology involved in pilot project

-concern raised: can the department use the TA evaluation in hiring?

-graduate expansion is still occurring up until 2015

-the new Academic Plan states that FAS is dedicated to improving undergraduate student experiences; however, there is little mention of graduate students. Also, many inconsistencies in the Academic Plan (i.e. commitment to increasing undergad enrolment, which would be helpful in increasing the number of TA jobs available for graduate students; however, they are not willing to cap tutorial sizes, so would this really increase TAships available? Also, with graduate expansion continuing, this is simply flooding the market with more and more Master and PhD graduates, but there is no plan for hiring more tenure track positions.)

9. DCA (Guy and Catherine)

-the DCA is changing again; the new plan is for each department to distribute awards to students

-each departments funding depends on historic ability to produce funding for students

-no official statement has been given; we will wait to see how this unfolds

10. Departmental Review (Guy and Catherine)

-Jan 13-graduate lunch to chat with committee members at the graduate level

-want to put together a two page document of our issues as graduate students

-one major issue was TA hiring process

-section on funding is essential for the reviewers

11. Treasurer (Steve)

-switched to BMO from Alterna (no more bank fees)

-please ensure that everyone gives their receipts to Steve, including for wine and cheese

-budget on track except for first wine and cheese

12. Other business

Date for Next Meeting

-from the 5th to the 6th of December at noon

-Monday January 9 at 11am

Meeting adjourned at 12:09pm