

Meeting Minutes – 21/03/17

Attendance: Natasha Osing, Steffan Gordon, Michelle Hak Hepburn, Heather Robertson, Ale Diaz, Hilary Argo, Emily Leischner and Vicki Sear

Chair: Heather Robertson

Secretary: Natasha Osing

Meeting came to order – 11:34am.

1. Reading of last two meeting's minutes
 - MOTION: to approve last two meeting's minutes
 - PROPOSED BY: Michelle; SECONDED: Steffan; All in favour = *MOTION CARRIED*

2. Updates from reps
 - a. **Department** – Michelle:
 - i. No update other than the job talks are currently going on
 - b. **LOA** – Heather:
 - i. Talk about the ethnographic field school. Registration information is currently online.
 - c. **GSS** – Maia (not here)
 - i. AGSA is supposed to annually renew membership with GSS. Need to sign a form stating who the reps are for next year.
 - ii. Next meeting when the assignment of the executives occurs, the form will be brought to fill, sign and submit it.
 1. **ACTION ITEM:** Print and bring form (available on GSS website) (Natasha)
 - d. **Social Coordinator** – Hilary
 - i. Closer to the poster session (this Friday March 24th). No update whether there will be alcohol brought but currently have a budget for food and ANTH 506 students will be bringing food for a potluck.
 - ii. Most likely to bring your own alcohol if want to consume. Still looking into permits.
 - e. **AGSC** – Not here
 - f. **CUPE** – Hannah (not here)
 - g. **Treasurer** – Steffan
 - i. Nothing changed since last time. Just need to update the funds obtained through the colloquia.
 - ii. Operation net is approximately \$200
 - iii. Travel fund net is approximately \$150

3. On the Horizon Conference (March 24)
 - a. Fast approaching. Tim is currently printing posters.
 - b. Costco budget and cohort is providing food, no liquor.
 - c. Event will occur in the main hallway of ANSO from 5:30-approx. 7:30

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- d. It will include two poster sessions, divided by themes (45 minutes each)
 - e. Undergrads are presenting as well as some students from SFU
 - f. Informal gathering at the pub afterwards (not official part of event)
4. Discuss annual graduate student letter to the department
- a. Grad students write an annual letter to the department about what's working and not working
 - b. Generally refers to 500/506 classes and suggestions to improve them
 - c. Letter will go in either a google doc or be sent in word form to make comments and collectively agree on it. Next meeting there will be a review of the comments. Not just AGSA committee, but all students, will review and give feedback.
 - d. Due at the end of April
 - e. Ideas:
 - 506:
 - Appreciate more guidance through the program
 - MA students find it difficult to work on affiliated proposal while the PhD students work on the SSHRCs. Deadline are different and there is no designated class time at the end/opportunity for the MA students to receive feedback on theirs. Beneficial to understand and see a standardized proposal
 - Better to be more active and do and learn "things" – get feedback on work and learn what processes go into situations and work
 - Make funding opportunities more available and well known, as well as their deadlines so the students know what to look forward to. Currently, they are researching on their own and may not get a full understanding.
 - Beginning of 506 should be a focus on how to change and choose what to include on applications. To know what works and what doesn't.
 - Need a standardization of 506 for every year
 - 500
 - Make the class more cross-disciplinary and readings more relevant, or at least applicable, to own research. See how other disciplines apply and use theory to get better perspectives and ideas.
 - Unites the students and sub-field by having material and focuses that speak to these subfields. That way everyone feels represented and tools are provided to see how they can think in new ways.
 - Possibly pitch whether co-teaching 500 is plausible. Having different people from the sub-disciplines to teach it (split by semester?)
 - Create more readings to contribute to the ultimate goal of PhD students being able to complete the program in 4 years. Classes have to support the completion of when the department wants the programs to be complete.
 - Would be beneficial for the professor to get a sense in the beginning of where everyone in the class is starting. Some have little theoretical background and others have more. Engage with the class on different levels. Possibly teaching for portion of the class then discussing ideas so everyone is at the same understanding.

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- In terms of engaging: good to have a student pick an article that is theoretically relevant to their research and look at it in class. Proactive in what they are studying by bringing in relevant material.
- Both MA and PhD students find it hard to have a 3 hour class that is purely a seminar. Hard to get engaged because they are unsure of certain aspects. Have a quarter taught by the professor so they can become grounded in the discussion and determine what is right/wrong.
- Survey answers from the summer
 - Courses: comments about lack of archaeology and linguistic graduate courses
 - Should be represented to the fields.
 - Linguistic track: only stream that doesn't have their own methods class. It is very different from ethnography and the qualitative methods course is not serving them. Good to know these things but for the research they are doing it is not fully beneficial. Trying to advocate for new linguistic undergraduate course but this will not benefit graduate level students.
 - Could be an opportunity to coordinate with other departments where similar interests may be.
 - Comps exam – reconsider format. Doing it in this format is useful but it isn't applicable to everyone. More geared towards socio-cultural anthropology students. Formalized template for the exam and template for annotations would be beneficial.
 - Some students advocate for a take home exam rather than being locked in for 8 hours. Possibility of making a choice between the two?
 - Value to education but then it is necessary to identify what the value is and construct something to go with that
 - System is not going to be applicable to everyone but it can be built for flexibility and having a clear goal for the process.
 - Defending MA
 - Difficult to know when others have finished their masters.
 - Larger response was no that it was not useful and did not want to defend it.
 - Possibility is to have a colloquia at the end of the masters, or some similar format
 - Having a defense can help find out if there are any issues with their thesis and where to continue from there
- 5. Discuss possibilities for next year's representatives
 - a. Think ahead as to what you may or may not want to be as a rep for next year. Whether you want to continue or take up a new position.
- 6. Form a review committee for May Grad Student travel and research funds
 - a. Travel fund – need committee to review applications
 - i. ASGA and AGSC is providing \$150 for a conference and \$500 for research
 - ii. Still need to circulate this and the deadline (May 31st?). Need committee to judge these but if you are on the committee you cannot apply for it.

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- iii. Depends on how many apply and the funding but there will be approximately 4 students receiving the research funds and 10 for the conference.
 - iv. If received a research award you must give an AGSA talk.
 - v. You will become reimbursed after you make the expenses. Keep the receipts, documentation and copy of the program (conference) and give to Joyce.
7. Upcoming job talks and grad student meetings with next bioarch candidates:
- a. Thursday March 23, Dr. Deanna Grimstead
1:00 – 2:30 Job talk (snacks and conversation to follow)
Friday March 24
10:30-11:30 meeting with graduate students (ANSO room 208)
 - b. Monday March 27, Dr. Camilla Speller
1:00 – 2:30 Job talk (snacks and conversation to follow)
Tuesday March 28
10:30-11:30 meeting with graduate students (ANSO room 208)
- It has been proposed that we will meet after these talks to discuss and tell Ale who we want as a professor. March 28th at Koerners @ 4:00pm.
 - If people cannot make the meetings and/or the discussion pub night, they can email Ale their thoughts and concerns and we can bring these up at the discussion.

Summary of Action Items:

- Natasha: print and bring form for GSS.

Meeting ended at 12:30 pm.

MOTION: to end the meeting

PROPOSED BY: Heather; SECONDED: Emily; All in favour = *MOTION CARRIED*

Next Meeting: April 18th @ 10:00 am, ANSO Room 208 (Grad Lounge)