

Association of English Graduate Students Executive Board Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2009

1. General Business

- a. Spring end-of-semester party: Wednesday, April 29th, at 4:00 p.m. (awards at 4:30) in the English Department Conference Room (Mary McCabe will attend)
- b. Spring book sale: LPs in ASF lounge are for sale; solicit donations from faculty and fellow students
- c. Good luck to 2nd year MAs: coffee gift cards delivered by Emily Blanchard February 23rd
- d. Informal feedback to the Michigan State Graduate Student Guide (suggested by Lauren Mason) was positive; a link will be added through the AEGS website
- e. The Dept of Foreign Languages & Literatures is considering adding a second graduate reading course. This course would be more intensive than current offerings but would ideally produce a broader understanding of the language and perhaps better preparation for scholarly translation. If PhD students are interested in such a course, please let John Malloy or Dr. Gillespie know.

Individual updates

- f. Eric Dunnum, Vice President
 - i. GSO meeting notes:
 1. A \$15,000 health insurance policy is coming to graduate student employees in the fall at no cost. Half-time employees receive half of the benefit. Students have the option of buying up to \$50,000 or \$250,000 of coverage. Also, spouses and children can be added to the policy (annual cost is \$1600 for a spouse and \$1100 for a child).
 2. Graduate student bill of rights to be voted on and set into law.
 3. GSO considering imposing a fee on graduate students to help fund GSO-sponsored speakers, panels, travel awards, etc.
 4. Graduate school polo shirts are for sale and all money from the fundraiser goes to GSO. The cost is \$15, and you can place an order with Eric or the graduate school. The shirts are currently on display in the ASF kitchen.
- g. Maggie McKinley, Liaison to GSC
 - i. No GSC meeting minutes or news to report.
- h. Kelsey Squire, Liaison to FYE
 - i. Next meeting is in April.
- i. Colleen Fenno, Liaison to PFF (and ASF maintenance liaison)
 - i. Dr. Ratcliffe will speak at 2pm on Thursday, March 19th on how an English department functions within a university's administrative structure, faculty governance, curriculum, and hiring practices. A question and answer session will follow.

- ii. On Thursday, April 16th at 5:30, AEGS will also be sponsoring a panel of former MU graduate students currently working in academia. Please save the date. More information to follow.
- j. Daniel Burke, Liaison to Faculty
 - i. No faculty meeting minutes or news to report.
- k. Emily Blaser, Liaison to PhDs
 - i. Dissertation writing/discussion group forming; contact Emily if you are interested in attending the first meeting in the week after break
- l. Tom Massnick, Liaison to Second-Year MAs
 - i. Meeting Tuesdays and Thursdays until the MA exam.
- m. Kathleen Burt, Liaison to First-Year MAs
 - i. Students should hear soon about TA/RA assignments for the next academic year
- n. Buddy Storm, Public Relations and Treasurer
 - i. Subcommittee on AEGS travel funding
 1. Considering a maximum of up to five travel awards of \$100 per semester, totaling ten per academic year.
 2. Developing a list of criteria to determine how to prioritize award applications (national vs. international, relationship between conference and area of study, how far along in the program the applicant is, etc.).
 3. Should the subcommittee become part of an AEGS job position? (Treasurer and one other person? One PhD and one MA?)
 - ii. Book sale update