Association of English Graduate Students Executive Board Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2008

1. General Business
   a. See most recent MUGS News for UPASS update
   b. Provost ASF visit Nov. 11 at 3:30 pm (Eric Dunnum participating)
   c. ASF wish list
      i. Update some computers in offices, add PrintWise location, improve aesthetics
         (carpet, paint), make handicap accessible, improve bathrooms
   d. Benefits of moving TA offices to Coughlin
      i. Close to faculty advisors
      ii. Easier access to building (some swipe card problems at ASF) and more convenient, central location
      iii. Coughlin looks more professional
      iv. Improve retention of FYE students and TAs
   e. Buddy Storm will coordinate Spring Book Sale
   f. Next meeting: December 9, 5:30

2. Individual updates
   a. Eric Dunnum, Vice President
      i. AEGS website updated
         1. Add past editions of English News
         2. Wording for ASF liaison position (to be added to PFF liaison); Colleen
            Fenno will draft for approval at upcoming meeting
         3. Check for mistakes and dead links
      ii. GSO notes: John and Eric are now voting members
   b. Maggie McKinley, Liaison to GSC
      i. The GSC does not meet again this semester
      ii. Graduate School travel funds are running out quickly, so students should apply
          as soon as possible for these matching funds; applications can be found online
          at the graduate school website.
      iii. Notify Maggie of any graduate student accomplishments (conference, paper
           published) to be included in Graduate School newsletter
   c. Kelsey Squire, Liaison to FYE
      i. Upcoming meeting called to discuss changes to FYE assistant director position
      ii. Tom Broekelmann interested in more graduate student social events and
          suggested a movie night
   d. Colleen Fenno, Liaison to PFF (and ASF maintenance liaison)
      i. Computer upgrade for ASF lounge forthcoming
      ii. PFF informational meeting in spring with Carly Anger, PFF coordinator
      iii. Gauge interest in information meetings with MU administrator to discuss
           university funding and with recent MU grad to discuss current job market
   e. Daniel Burke, Liaison to Faculty
      i. Availability and amount of funds awarded to grad students changes yearly
      ii. Graduate School proposed allowing only 1/3 of one’s grad credits to be taken in
          undergrad classes; the current policy allows half of one’s graduate credits to be
          taken in undergrad classes
      iii. FYE recognized with CCCC award
iv. January 23rd faculty retreat at AMU
   1. Discuss scholarly moves for 330, DQE, and dissertation
   2. Brainstorm GSC web page layouts for expected scholarly moves
f. Emily Blaser, Liaison to PhDs
   i. Compiling list of FAQs at dissertation defense

g. Tom Massnick, Liaison to Second-Year MAs
   i. Currently working individually or in pairs on MA exam preparation until winter break; practice in larger groups next semester
h. Kathleen Burt, Liaison to First-Year MAs
   i. First Years preparing to register for second semester
i. Buddy Storm, Public Relations and Treasurer
   i. $1927.11 in conference funds; $189.68 in petty cash
   ii. Winter party is December 13th; email invites to come
   iii. Consider making spring party more faculty friendly (earlier, location near or on campus)
   1. Outdoor patio at Caffrey’s?
3. Informational Q&A with Dr. Gillespie regarding recent changes to graduate program
   a. Thanks to Dr. Gillespie and Dr. Ratcliffe for updating department Web site
   b. Health of graduate program reflects strength, ambition, success, and quality of students
   c. MU English PhDs have 60% placement rate in tenure-track positions, most in small, liberal arts colleges; tenure-track and permanent academic positions has 86% placement rate (both stats higher than national average)
   d. Recent changes in PhD program aimed to expedite progress toward degree
      i. 24 credits of coursework (previously 30)
      ii. Able to take foreign language reading course and receive satisfactory “pass” to fulfill foreign language requirement
      iii. ENGL 330 goals: prepare annotated primary and secondary bibliographies of dissertation topic and contextual field surrounding topic; draft dissertation proposal; advance overall progress toward degree
      iv. ENGL 399: 12 dissertation credits beyond coursework should be taken as soon as can be scheduled (in 3-credit segments); can be scheduled concurrently with ENGL 330