

October 2006 Minutes

GESA General Meeting Minutes

Date: October 4, 2006

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Dawson's Row

Attendance: 22

I. Welcome

II. Graduate Picnic

- A. The graduate picnic this past Saturday was successful and well-attended.
- B. Thank you to Sarah Bishop and Eric Rettberg for hosting this event.

III. Bookfair Announcements

- A. The bookfair will be held in the amphitheatre on Friday, 20 October; hours of operation will likely be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. We have reserved the amphitheatre for a sufficient number of hours to allow for set-up and clean-up.
- B. We will need volunteers to man the booth and transport books; those interested in volunteering should contact Ryan Cordell (email: rcc8j@virginia.edu).
- C. We have not officially reserved a rain location, but Dawson's Row would be one possibility.

IV. First-year Series

- A. The first panel pertaining to this year's First-Year Series will be held on 10 November. The topic will be Professionalization, and panel members will discuss how to become a successful member of academia. Panel members include Professors Mrinalini Chakravorty and Elizabeth Fowler, Shannon Fellow Kate Nash, and one other graduate student.
- B. Future panels: After Professionalization, the next panel will address Conferences, and the panel thereafter will address Publications.
- C. Anyone is welcome to attend these panels, and first-years are especially encouraged to attend.

V. MA Teaching Initiative

- A. The MA Teaching Initiative has both short-term goals (including arranging teaching opportunities with Madison House) and long-term goals (including working more closely with the Department to explore possibilities for teaching opportunities within the Department).
- B. Those who are interested in working on these initiatives should contact Ania Wieckowski (email: aw6k@Virginia.EDU).

VI. Vice President's Report

- A. News from the Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Council Meeting
 - 1. Happy Hour has been moved to Jabberwocky; it is no longer at the Satellite Ballroom. Students who attend happy hour may enjoy two slices of pizza, crusties, and drink specials. There is also a dance party.
 - 2. The Graduate Council is sponsoring a Halloween Party at Starr Hill. More details to come.

3. Free Yoga Sundays (at Ashtanga) are being reinstated.
- B. Childcare and Healthcare Issues
1. The Graduate Council would like students' feedback on childcare and healthcare; those with problems or suggestions should contact Sarah Bishop (email: srb9w@virginia.edu), who will then convey concerns to the appropriate authorities.
 2. One graduate student at the GESA meeting suggested that dental insurance would be desirable.
- VII. Graduate Conference
- A. The chair of the graduate conference committee is Steph Brown.
 - B. The committee is currently soliciting suggestions for speakers and themes.
- VIII. Area Rep Announcements
- A. Theory
 1. The Theory Reading Group will meet Thursday to discuss three articles. Email notices with details have been sent out.
 2. Upcoming lectures of interest: Spivak will be speaking October 17, 18, and 19 at 5:30 p.m. in Clark Hall, Room 107.
 3. In November, the Theory Group will organize an event with Professor Bruce Holsinger.
 - B. American
 1. The main initiative is to establish a colloquium that would meet monthly throughout the year. This colloquium would serve as a forum to discuss current trends in American literature. Ideally, the colloquium would involve faculty; the colloquium could also give students an opportunity to workshop their writing and to enter into discussions with each other.
 2. An organizational meeting will be held next Thursday, 5 p.m. at Michael's.
 3. The American reps received many good responses regarding course requests. These requests will be shared with Professor Eric Lott, who is very interested in student input.
 4. An American-area gathering is also in the works.
 - C. Twentieth Century
 1. The reps would like to organize a movie date; *All the King's Men* is one possibility for a movie to see. More info to come.
 2. The reps would also like to begin a general twentieth-century reading group that would discuss recent articles and twentieth-century issues; for instance, the group might choose an article to discuss from *Modernism/Modernity* (perhaps examining the recent debates surrounding T.S. Eliot's anti-Semitism).
 3. The Twentieth-Century Poetry Reading Group will hold its first meeting in November.
 - D. Nineteenth Century
 1. The reps are organizing a Thursday event—possible dates include 26 October, 2 November, or 9 November. The event would be held from 8:00-9:30 p.m. on one of these Thursdays.
 2. Speakers would address various aspects of the nineteenth century and include Eric Lott, Steve Arata, and one other faculty member (who would address Romanticism).
 - E. Eighteenth Century
 1. These reps will likely send out an email soon regarding upcoming events.

F. Renaissance

1. The reps will send out an email soon. They would like to organize a lunch meeting at Michael's Bistro.
2. The reps would like to submit course requests in writing to the relevant faculty area committees.
3. They would like to begin a Renaissance Reading Group.
4. They may also organize, in the Spring, a forum that addresses issues related to teaching Renaissance literature. Faculty would be invited to speak at this event.

G. Medieval

1. The Medieval Colloquium meets biweekly.
2. The next meeting will be in two weeks, on a Thursday (19 October), at 3:30 p.m. John Bugbee will present a dissertation chapter. There will be time for questions and answers following his presentation.

H. Area reps are encouraged to keep in close contact with the chairs of their corresponding faculty committees.