

GSAC Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 07, 2008

Presiding: Alina Yekelchik

Present:

Larry Dome, Mathematics; Dr. Sandra Holley, Dean of Graduate Studies; Lois Lake Church, English; Eli Levy, Research, Measurement, & Statistics; Mrs. Arlene Lucibello, GSAC Coordinator; Bruno Nader, Computer Science; Ryan Newton, Psychology; Dr. Rhea Paul, Communication Disorders; El Mohammed Sheriff, Public Health; Jacqueline Stevens, Education; Alina Yekelchik, Sociology

Meeting called to order by Alina Yekelchik at 3:08 pm.

Call confirmed those present.

Old Business:

Approval of March minutes:

No questions were raised regarding the minutes from the last meeting, nor were any corrections made. Lois Lake Church made a motion for approval of the minutes, and Larry Dome seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Announcements:

Graduate Research Fellowship Symposium

Alina Yekelchik reported the GRF Symposium will be held on May 8, from 1:00-4:00pm in Engleman C112. Ms. Yekelchik asked members for any suggestions about promoting the event and encouraged all to attend. GSAC's vice-chair, Ryan Newton, will be one of the fellows presenting his research.

GSAC End-of-Year Luncheon

Alina Yekelchik reported the GSAC end-of-year luncheon will be held May 12 from 12:00-2:00 pm at the Playwright in Hamden. All members are encouraged to R.S.V.P. to Mrs. Lucibello or Alina Yekelchik.

GSAC Workshop:

Alina Yekelchik reported on the success of the previous GSAC workshop on March 7. Over 40 people attended and several stayed afterward to speak with the panel. Dr. Misty Ginicola led the presentation, Dr. Kenneth Florey also presented, and Scott Talpey, Alina Yekelchik, and Ryan Newton contributed remarks. Feedback was largely positive, and as a result, another GSAC workshop will be held for Professor Boos' Public Health class on April 15 at 5:30pm in Jennings 227.

2008-2009 GSAC Membership & Executive Committee

Alina Yekelchik reported that the current executive committee is graduating in May 2008, and GSAC will be looking for new leadership. Any interested members are encouraged to return next year and assume a leadership position.

9th Annual SCSU Graduate English Student Conference

Lois Lake Church reported the 9th Annual SCSU Graduate English Student Conference will be held Saturday, April 19 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm in the Adanti Student Center Ballroom. All are encouraged to attend.

Reports:

Web Committee:

Bruno Nader reported that the GSAC website is ready to be published and is awaiting approval from the Dean's Office. Lois Lake Church raised the suggestion of including links on the GSAC calendar to graduate events, such as the Graduate English Student Conference.

Dean's Report:

Graduate Council:

Dean Holley reported to the Graduate Council on the mission and involvement of GSAC. Alina Yekelchik represented GSAC and informed the Graduate Council of this year's accomplishments and role as an informative networking body of graduate students. The Graduate Council also increased the minimum G.P.A. (grade point average) requirement for admittance to the Graduate School to 2.7.

Graduate Open House:

Dean Holley reported the next Graduate Open House will be Thursday April 17 from 3:00 – 7:00 pm in the Adanti Student Center Ballroom.

10th Annual Graduate Commencement

Dean Holley reported the 10th Annual Graduate Commencement will be held on May 24th and encouraged all who had filed degree applications with the Registrar's office and who wished to participate in the Graduate Commencement ceremonies to submit an Application to Participate form to the Graduate School office immediately. Graduate students who are not graduating in May should consider volunteering at the Commencement as an usher. Anyone interested should contact Mr. McNamara at McNamarak2@southernct.edu and reference GSAC.

Application Procedures

Dr. Holley reported that the Graduate School is moving toward having the entire application process online.

Budget:

Mrs. Lucibello reported no current activity for the budget.

New Business:**Hilton C. Buley Library:**

Ms. Winnie Shyam, Head of Reference, Information Services, Hilton C. Buley Library, presented information detailing services offered to graduate students. Ms. Shyam provided an overview of the comprehensive library website and covered research tips for graduate students. The library instruction course is recommended for any incoming or current graduate student conducting research.

Research and Conference Committees

GSAC's Research and Conference Committee will meet April 23 at 2:00pm in Mrs. Lucibello's office to review funding applications. Dr. Misty Ginicola, Larry Dome, Lois Lake Church, Ryan Newton, and Alina Yekelchik volunteered to serve on the committee.

Funding for Women's Studies Conference

Starsheemar Byrum, from the Women's Studies department, petitioned GSAC for funding for the Fifth Annual Women's Studies Graduate Conference. The conference theme for this year is "Feminist Art: Create Resistance" and will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2008. The Women's Studies department asked GSAC to cover \$760.00 for food costs for SCSU graduate students. An additional \$150.00 was requested from the Graduate Student Speaker's fund to arrange for a keynote speaker. Ryan Newton moved to grant the amount of \$760.00, Lois Lake Church seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

End of Year Departmental Graduate Celebration for Students

Alina Yekelchik reported that, in the past, funds were available to each department for an end of year graduate celebration. Graduate departments could apply for up to \$150.00 for a celebration by sending a letter to Mrs. Lucibello requesting funding. Larry Dome made a motion to approve the funding to departments, Jacqueline Stevens seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Tutorial Center

Larry Dome raised a concern that online tutorials from the Tutorial Center were not available to graduate students. He petitioned GSAC and the Graduate School to investigate.

Meeting adjourned at 4:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Newton, GSAC Vice Chair