

Procès-verbal de la réunion mensuel de l'AÉDH
Minutes of the HGSA Monthly Meeting

Jeudi le 7 décembre 2006
Thursday December 7, 2006
Grad Loft

En attendance / In attendance: Melanie Morin, Takuya Tazawa, Amy Larin (Secretary-Archivist), Adam Gough, Rob Talbot, Steve Gooch, Rob Englebert, Marilyn Sweet (VP Finance), Shawn Anctil (VP External), Jan Raska (VP Internal)

Katie Rollwagen (President) absent.

Affaires anciennes / Old Business:

1. Professor Davis's book for sale (Shawn) update:

- Detroit Public Library: Shawn sent them a complete list (via e-mail) of the 280 books inventoried
- They are currently going through the their own collection to see what they would like
 - a. They have two special collections related to Dr. Davis's books: Urban History and Detroit History
- The price of the books would be \$3.00 for paperback, \$ 5.00 for hardcover (plus shipping and handling)

2. Potluck (Melanie) – update:

- HGSA executive had approved a budget of \$125 for the potluck on November 28, 2006.
- The committee met a few weeks ago
- 15 people have confirmed that they're coming
- Most people have agreed to bring desserts and appetizers (3 bottles of wine, so far)
- Melanie, Shawn and Amy offered to show up early to set up for the party
- Jan offered to make some appetizers; he would decide later about reimbursement (as he would make the final decision after buying the food)
- For the food HGSA will buy, Shawn checked and Costco was much cheaper.
 - a. 2 veggie plates and 2 cheese plates
- Rob E. suggested we offer student doggie bags, so they can take some food home
- Marilyn checked: we had plates, cutlery and napkins

Affaires nouvelles / New Business:

1. Colloquium (Shawn) updates:

- Thursday April 12th (before Easter weekend) and after classes end
- SMD 129 & 125 are reserved; SMD 123 was booked, but Francine reserved ARTS 509. Shawn hopes to exchange rooms to get SMD 123
- We could hold the colloquium using only two rooms
- Shawn spoke to Dr. Ben Rejeb, Conference Chair, to see if he had anything planned, but he didn't. Dr. Ben-Rejeb said if we came up with someone, he would get involved (and we could use some of the department's money for the speakers)
 - a. Should we try for a keynote in French?
 - b. Should we try for two keynotes? One in the morning and one in the evening or one in English and one in French
 - c. Maybe we should have a bilingual roundtable

2. Workshops

- a) Applying and presenting at Conferences (January 2007):
 - Marilyn asked Dr. Lessard and she will help out
- b) Beyond the Ivory Tower: Careers in History (February 2007 with AEHSA)
 - a. We're looking for ideas on speakers
 - i. DFAIT, Chief Archivist of uOttawa, journalist with the Ottawa Citizen, MAXSYS, INAC
 - b. We want representation from all sectors,
 - c. Because it's for us as well as undergraduates, we need to have a balance (for those seeking jobs with B.A. degrees as well as M.A. and PhD); we need to represent all areas

2. Downloading Limits at the Library

- There were concerns of abuse of *Historical Abstracts* and other online databases, but they recently increased the limit from 5MB to 15MB
- Apparently, it's related to off-site users. The way the library configures its remote-access server creates problems with JSTOR and other databases.
- HGSA promotes "healthy usage" among its members
- Katie drafted a letter. Following translation, it will be sent off.

- Rob E. submitted a motion: we write a letter of protest and send it ASAP. If we don't get a response, we'll send a petition later.
- *Motion: For the general letter of protest to be drafted and sent in regards to this issue (Up to the discretion of the HGSA executive)*
- Rob E. moved, Shawn seconded; accepted unanimously

3. Secretaries' Gifts:

- \$25 limit each
- It was decided that Body Shop gift sets would work
- Rob T. volunteered, but Marilyn said she would do it (because it is easier)
- Rob E. questioned whether we should spend HGSA funds on gifts for the administrative staff, because they are doing their jobs.
 - a. Marilyn and Shawn felt that it's good business to give them a small gift at Christmas
- Jan moved that we approve a budget of \$75 (\$25 each) and it was accepted unanimously.

Mise à jour des comités / Committee Updates:

1. GSAED (Adam)

- Orientation will be January 10
- Rumours of a coffee bar in the Library
- Entire campus will be going wireless
- Nobody at GSAED brought up the download limit at the library
- GSAED conference is looking for volunteers
- Grad housing is a non-core project, but GSAED continues to push for housing for grad students

2. CUPE (Shawn)

- AGA took place in November
- Collective agreement expires at the end of next year
 - a. Bargaining begins next September
 - i. They are looking for suggestions: what do we want in the next agreement?
 - ii. Shawn mentioned that he wants a time limit imposed when notifying students of Teaching Assistantships
 - iii. If you're interested, you're encouraged to get involved

3. Departmental Assembly (Rob Talbot & Melanie Morin):

- The selection committee is going well, but there haven't been any candidates for the history of China position
- Dr. Perrier has the OCGS report; we can have a look at it
- Dr. Behiels welcomed the HGSA's request for a bulletin board over the Grad Student mailboxes, and he mentioned that we might be interested in using the department's new online calendar (through the website).
 - a. Rob E. suggested that an HGSA committee be formed to create an HGSA website
- Library Annex might be now located at Lees station (the former downtown campus of Algonquin College), which will greatly improve turnover time getting books
- A new sub-committee was created: Dr. Vourkoutiotis is heading the initiative called "Information Commons". This committee will push for a Research Library in the National Capital Region
- The university wants to double grad student enrolment over the next few years, increasing the number of students that each professor has—the department wants to cap the number of students, but the university continues to pressure them to expand

4. Graduate Studies Committee (Steve Gooch & Melanie Morin)

- OCGS: the committee intends to meet with students before the evaluators arrive
- New seminar class added on the Fur Trade
- There are concerns about the current language test. Most Canadian universities require language test, and it's useful for us. Does the test really evaluate our ability to read the second language?
 - a. McGill, for instance, requires students translate a page of text into their first language
 - b. Should we limit the number of times students can take the test?
 - c. At the University of Alberta, if you fail it twice, you have to take second-language training. Should the department have students take a second-language course?
- Teaching Assistantships do go until the end of the term, so Teaching Assistants should be prepared to work until the end of the term (even if they want to go home for Christmas)

5. CHA (Amy):

- The CHA graduate student committee has received several complaints about the new arrangements at the Library and Archives Canada (they have amalgamated the two reading rooms and expanded the Canadian Genealogy Center).

- CHA wants input from all graduate students who have been using the LAC recently
- If anyone has found it noisy or crowded at the LAC, please notify us and we'll pass it along to the Committee.

Adjournement / Closing:

Amy moved to adjourn, Rob T. seconded.