

SAGE Minutes

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

5:00 pm, 1016 Wescoe

Attending: Rob Topinka, Katie Egging, Heather Bastian, Alicia Sutliff-Benusis, Ann Martinez, Shelley Stonebrook, Amy Ash, Jana Tigchelaar, Kari Jackson, Eric Hood, Keri Behre, Kristen Lillvis, Nate Williams, Jessica Isaac.

Call to Order, Minutes approved,

Officer Reports.

a. Presidents' Report:

1) 1) Change of officers: Stephanie Scurto is taking a leave of absence as of today, and the line of succession (stipulated in the SAGE constitution) indicates that our Treasurer is next in line. Kristen Lillvis has agreed to serve as co-president for the remainder of the semester; we're grateful for her willingness to step up to this role. Our new treasurer, appointed as outlined in the SAGE constitution, will be Rob Topinka. Please thank them for their willingness to take on considerably more responsibility well into a busy semester.

2) We need a volunteer to take over Stephanie's place on the FSE committee. Stonebrook volunteers. Thanks Shelley!

3) Huge thanks to Susan Thomas, who has already made large strides to getting our SAGE website updated and functional again!

4) It seems that the department decided not to make the reduced load courses available as a research semester paired with a regular semester. I don't have information about the reasons for this yet (though we do know the college approved this distribution). I hope to have more information by the next meeting. The room really would like to know how it is decided who gets a reduced load line.

5) We're having somewhat of a paper crisis in Watson library. Are any volunteers willing to fill up the department's dolly with boxes of paper to take to Watson? It would also be good for everyone who is housed there to habitually carry one or two reams of paper whenever we walk between Wescoe and Watson, at least until we're stocked for the semester. Thoughts? Ideas?

6) We need a committee of three (two plus treasurer) to run our fundraiser for the year, Rent-A-Grad-Student. Volunteers? Ann Martinez and Jessica Isaac, along with Rob Topinka, treasurer.

7) Graduate Student Union: The GTA contracts come up for negotiation next year, so the Graduate Student Union is swinging into action again. They are looking for new members, and really need people to join to ensure bargaining power when the GTA contract comes up for negotiation next year. It costs \$10.23 a paycheck to be a member, but, to put it into perspective, the union is responsible for raising GTA minimum salaries from \$7,000 to \$11,250 in 2002.

Likewise, the merit raises the department gives us pale in comparison to the raises that the union earns for us. It is imperative that it expand its ranks, so please, think carefully about joining (honestly, one of the best things you can do to support the union is simply to join). If you would like to join, grab one of the blue brochures that we have placed near the printers in Wescoe 4023 and 4025 and in the printing room up on Watson 5th floor. It contains a white card that you will need to fill out in order to sign up. Also, if you are interested in getting active in the union, SAGE is looking for a union representative (or two). Let us know if you are interested in that position. You can also volunteer in a way that involves less of a time commitment. Let us know if you would like to get involved. One last thing: the union representative are not allowed to come on campus to talk to us, so if you have the opportunity, spread the word to other GTAs in our department or in other departments, or ask Keri Behre, and she will give you brochures to distribute.

8) Kristen, representative on the committee to choose a new chair, reports that at the Voting Dept. meeting, Feb. 17, 4-5, 4019 Wescoe, the two chair candidates will present their arguments. We are hoping for a strong graduate student presence, and asking at least one graduate student question to encourage discussion of graduate student interests. You can go if you're not a member. If you have a question, but can't make it, send it to Kristen.

b. Secretary's Report. Please let me know if you were at the meeting in November so I can put you on the minutes.

c. Treasurer's Report. Travel award apps are due this Thursday, Feb. 5. Application forms are on the SAGE website and were attached to an email that was sent over the listserv. If you have any questions send them to Kristen. Put them in her mailbox to turn them in. Balance: \$686.96.

d. FY Liaison Report. Follow up on the training for new GTAs with research resources. Eric has spoken to Bayliss Harsh, Julianne Buchsbaum, and Tammy Albin. They are interested in helping us fill this need, both for the short-term and the long-term. If you are looking for workshops, there are workshops listed on the library website. Go to the library website, and go to Instructional Services, and then the link for Workshops. There is an Endnote workshop this week, Feb. 5. Hood reports that Endnote is awesome (if you aren't familiar with it); it keeps track of your sources, keeps your PDF sources, it will insert a citation for you and it will change citation format, and you can search your research notes. Workshop this Thursday, 2:30, and you can sign up on the library's website, 90 minute workshop. It's the last one for February. If you have more questions about Endnote or workshops, ask Eric.

Committee Reports

a. Academics Anonymous. Martinez reports that they plan to have Dr. Tidwell present on Apr. 2 at 4, and Andrew Kuhn on Mar. 4. They will send out more info and post fliers in a couple of weeks.

b. Advisory Committee. No report.

c. FSE Committee. Bastian put out surveys for the textbooks, so please fill them out because they will very likely affect you. She especially needs responses from people who have

taught *Writing in the Works* and the *Norton Field Guide*. Also, there will be three new textbooks to review later this semester, so please do look at those when the time comes.

d. Graduate Assembly. 1. There are plenty of spots open for graduate senators if any one is interested. There is also an opening now on the Grad Ex committee (folks can email me if they have questions--it seems pretty low commitment and is something of a CV builder). And there will be an opening in the fall for the GPA director, which is actually a paid position (about \$10,000 a year for roughly 20 hrs. a week of work) open to any graduate student. The current GPA director said that the position might be of particular interest to folks who have run out of their 5 years of funding. Questions about this might best be direct to the current director, Ryan McCabe (mccabe@ku.edu). 2. February 19th is the last day to submit our purchase orders in order to spend our money. 3. Dr. Rossen (Dean of Graduate Studies) will be at the GPA meeting on Feb. 11 to answer any questions that graduate students may have. Anyone is welcome to attend, and Dr. Rossen will be bringing pizza.

e. Graduate Committee. No report.

f. GTAL Committee. No report.

g. Lecturers/Readers Committee. Lecture coming up: the Annual American and British Lecture, given by Luis Alberto Urrea, titled: *The Devil's Highway: Stories from the Border and Beyond*; April 15, 7:00 pm, Kansas Union, Alderson Auditorium. Prof. Sharistianian also mentioned to Williams that calls for nominations will occur near the end of February. Everyone should start thinking about who they'd like to see come to KU.

h. Library Committee. No report.

i. MFA Committee. Still working on updating the MFA website, even more updates have occurred, pictures and things. Jackson is trying to get everyone's profiles up there and links to websites with students' work so people can see what we're writing here.

j. Professionalization Workshops Committee. No report.

k. Public Face/Alumni Relations. No report.

l. SAGE Advice. No report.

m. Social Committee. No report.

n. Summer Institutes Committee. Sydonie Smith. July 20-31. Human rights and life writing.

o. Travel Funds Committee. Submit if you're interested in travel funds from the department. The deadline is ongoing.

p. Webmaster. No report.

q. Sustainability Report. Stonebrook is trying out something new in 4025 with waste paper. She set up a double tray with paper that has been used on one side, one with color and one

with white. She filled it with fliers we get in our mailboxes and other half blank paper from the recycle box. Feel free to stick your half blank paper in the tray, or to use the paper for printing!

Old Business: Student Senate is trying to cut the funding that the graduate school gives us for travel. On Feb. 28 and Mar. 1, they're planning to cut it in half, and are going to allocate it elsewhere. We have to go to the next 2 meetings to get voting rights. They're the finance committee meetings. Contact Rob Topinka to get involved.

New Business: none.

Meeting Adjourned. Tigchelaar moves, Stonebrook seconds.