

## **SAGE Minutes**

**Monday, September 14, 2010**

**Wescoe 4040**

**Attending: Jana Tigchelaar, Callista Buchen, Stefanie Torres, Lauren Kiehna, Ali Brox, Eric Hood, Ann Martinez, Colin Christopher, Rob Topinka, Gaywyn Moore, Jennifer Brussow, Nate Barbarick, Caitlin Thronbrugh, Jordan Von Cannon, Benjamin Cartwright, Pat Flor, Jason Robberson, Amy Ash, Kristen Lillvis, Jen Colatosti, Kenton Rambsy**

**Call to Order**, Minutes approved; Topinka moved, Christopher seconded.

Martinez opens by welcoming new students and familiar faces; reiterates the purpose of SAGE as a representative body of graduate students and the chief way for students to officially communicate with the English department. SAGE executive committee introduces themselves.

### **Officer Reports.**

a. Presidents' Report. 1. Removal of office phones in GTA offices; Martinez outlines the details, including the information that the removal of phones from the offices could result in the donation of funds (\$150 per GTA office) to the SAGE Graduate Student Travel Fund. All students in each office must agree to remove the phone; if not, the phone will remain. Martinez emphasizes that "no one is being forced" to relinquish their office phone. Barbarick asks whether it might be more effective to circulate the forms of approval via the listserv; Tigchelaar states she'll send it out after the meeting. Barbarick also asks if the offer for the money for the phones is just a one-time deal; Martinez concurs. Forms should be left in Topinka's or Martinez's mailbox. Flor encourages that SAGE asks Caminero-Santangelo whether the budget line can't be extended. Tigchelaar mentions that even if we can't extend it, we could use some of it in subsequent years. 2. External review of the English Department in March and April; Martinez explains that this happens every ten years, outlines the types of things the department will be doing to prepare. The committee will want to meet with graduate students; how do we want to arrange the groups (division by degree program or track/emphasis)? Lillvis asks whether we need to split it up at all; Martinez says we can suggest that as an option. Brox asks whether we know how they're evaluating the group and whether that should shape our own division. Additional discussion ensues over to split or not to split. Martinez adds that SAGE has been asked to write a two-page letter on behalf of graduate students; additional questions will be asked about the purpose of this letter, etc. 3. Homecoming: English Department will have a table on Wescoe Beach for promoting the department (readathon? Scene acting? Other ideas?) Moore (a member of the Homecoming Committee) says they are still working on ideas.

b. Secretary's Report. No report.

c. Treasurer's Report. Our account currently holds \$587.89 in the treasury.

d. FY Liaison Report. Thornbrugh expresses concern that many first-year students don't know about the meetings because they aren't on the listserv. Tigchelaar states that she would be working on adding new students (at their request) to the listserv over the next week. Flor asks why the introductory course to graduate studies, English 800, is offered during the spring semester. Lillvis states that the graduate committee would be talking more about that later in the meeting.

## **Committee Reports**

a. Academics Anonymous. Nish: no report

b. Advisory Committee. Lillvis: The committee met August 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss a number of issues. 1. External reviewers list (highly ranked professors); they are trying to split into the three areas, although they don't have to be split that way. 2. Enrollment caps: is it worth lowering caps for courses (especially creative writing)? 3. Eliminating 800? Lillvis mentions wanting to gather data from SAGE about what our needs are, what 800 should be. Lillvis explains in response to Flor's earlier question that 800 is not scheduled in the fall so students could take a seminar in addition to 801 their first semester. Next meeting will be September 27<sup>th</sup>; students should send specific comments or feedback regarding 800 to [lillvis@ku.edu](mailto:lillvis@ku.edu). Brussow and Ash discuss some of the options for changing 800 (options to make it more relevant for the individual students). Cartwright mentions having taken a Graduate Studies course that offered some of the more useful information typically taught (among other things) during 800. More discussion follows about the benefits or drawbacks of eliminating 800, what 800 could/should look like etc. The discussion is tabled after extensive debate.

c. Events Committee: Brox mentions the possibility of a "first paycheck" gathering at Red Lyon on Friday, September 17. In addition, there is the possibility of a football or basketball game group outing. Halloween party details will be forthcoming.

d. FSE Committee. Nish: no report

e. Graduate Assembly: Topinka: "The committee no longer exists. When it was still alive, its purpose was twofold: to pass legislation and to provide grad students with information of various goings-on. The legislation-passing part was mostly a waste of time—Student Senate gave GPA the bills they weren't interested in (office supplies for The Rock Climbing Group, stuff like that). Now Student Senate has created a permanent position for a graduate student on the Student Senate executive board. This is good news, because it means a grad voice where things actually happen in Senate (the exec board really runs the show). The problem is that the forum for grad students to discuss important news is gone for now. But one of the first tasks of the grad student member of the exec board will be to organize some sort of graduate advisory committee, which will basically just be GPA without the legislation. The reason this is news, though, is that GPA used to

distribute \$200 to each graduate student organization (SAGE included) based on attendance at GPA meetings. Now GSO's will have to write legislation (with the help of a senator) and bring it before the Senate for a vote.”

f. Graduate Committee: Ash: The recent discussion has centered around changing the MA requirements and cutting back the number of credit hours to make it possible for people to finish in two years. Brussow: There is the possibility of 24-hour requirement; thesis counts for six hours; comps won't count; abolishing the area divisions. Robberson asks if this will take effect for current students, Brussow says no. Ash mentions that there is also discussion about making 801 a practicum, which seems to draw immediate positive response from those gathered.

g. GTAL Committee. Christopher: no report

h. Lecturers/Readers Committee: Kiehna: no report

i. Library Committee: E. Williams emailed: no report

j. MFA Committee. Barbarick: 1. Joshua Cohen, a visiting writer in Spring 2011, will sit on committees and teach workshop and literature course. 2. Cottonwood's money will be (temporarily) given to graduate students to create a student-run journal; two visiting professionals will be visiting to help it get off the ground. 3. Possible direct-hire from these visiting professionals for a creative writing professionals. Quite a bit of conversation and questions about details ensues (particularly about what this means for Cottonwood; about who is involved in this venture and why many people hadn't heard about it before; about how decisions are being made regarding the new journal); Barbarick mentions that he will be circulating more information soon.

k. Professionalization Workshops Committee: Lillvis mentions an event in the works to get recent grads and new people on the market to talk about their experiences on the job market and in new academic positions.

l. Public Face/Alumni Relations: N. Williams emailed: “Alumni/PR has not met formally, but we're already planning our first major event. We'll be hosting an informational table on Homecoming at Wescoe Beach from 11:30 to 2:00 on Oct 22nd and a departmental open house that afternoon. If you're interested in helping set up or work the Wescoe table, contact one of the committee members from SAGE or Dr. Sousa. Also, we welcome any suggestions--What kind of display do you think might attract the most visitors (alumni, current students, other departments)?? Displays of current faculty publications? Flyers? Free food? Goodie bags with donated items, like pencils? Send ideas to Nate Williams, Sarah Fettke, or Stephanie Scurto.”

m. SAGE Advice: Cartwright: no report

n. Summer Institutes Committee: Hume: no report

- o. Supplemental Funds Committee: Turner emailed: They will be meeting on the 23rd
- p. Sustainability Committee: Brox: no report
- q. Webmaster's Report: Brussow: Pat Flor will be joining the website committee. No additional report.

**Old Business. none**

**New Business.**

**Motion to adjourn:** Tigchelaar moved, Lillvis seconded, approved.

Meeting Adjourned.