French Program Student Association

April 27, 2015
2:30 p.m.
4202 French Thesis Room
Minutes

Members present: Chris Brandon (CB), Allison Faris (AF), Phillip Griffith (PG), Amy Martin (AM), Thomas Muzart-Colas (TMC)

TMC calls the meeting to order at 2:36pm

I. Approval of Agenda
TMC motions to approve the agenda; PG seconds. Passes unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes from March 5, 2015
TMC motions to approve the minutes from March 5, 2015; CB seconds. Passes unanimously.

III. Old Business
a. Graduate Student Experience Survey Award
AM notes that the only item that we had talked about other than books are French journal subscriptions, but no one decided on which titles to purchase.
TMC asks if any students submitted receipts for conference travel.
AM notes that Stephanie Petinos and Dana Radu submitted receipts for a total of 5 conferences, so that is $500 from this award money, which brings our total down to about $700.
b. Internal Review: Professional Development
TMC reports on the results of the internal review.
AM notes that there is an ongoing discussion about creating a table that outlines the steps in the process to degree, just to pull out the pertinent information from the Handbook.
TMC notes that the handbook doesn't spell out best practices guidelines surrounding tuition for international and out-of-state students.
AF notes that other programs' students have faculty advisers from the first year. This is something we should ask for.
AM notes that the issue seems to be that we only have two central line faculty, and one is a member of two other programs.
AF suggests that we could reach out to faculty at other campuses (where we teach perhaps) for advising.
PG suggests that we ask to include abstract writing as part of the first-year course.
CB suggests that we ask faculty to send CFPs of interest through Carole to students. AM notes that an English program professor once remarked that her paper might be worth trying to publish, but more importantly, she also offered to help with revisions and submission. PG remarks that having an assigned adviser could help with all of these issues. TMC notes that one day of help is not enough to work on grants, etc., and ongoing help from an adviser would be more beneficial. AF suggests that we have meetings with an adviser/professor after students have decided on an area of concentration, figuring out the professional organizations we should be part of, which journals we should consider publishing in, etc. CB notes that this sort of advice should be shared around the time of the Specialization Review. PG suggests that this could be part of the actual specialization review discussion. AM suggests that we share the survey results on the Listserv and in the shared Google Drive.

c. French Program Governance Document
AM reports that she spoke to the Executive Officer about the proposed revisions to the governance document. She notes that she received pushback from the EO on the subject of student participation in the Executive Committee meetings when there was discussion of specific students. She also notes that this is an ongoing discussion at the Graduate Council level, and that the DSC is trying to fight for full student participation. She submitted the revised document to Executive Committee for review, leaving out the part that would allow students to discuss other students, awaiting a decision on this issue by the Graduate Council.

IV. New Business
a. FPSA Book List
AM notes that we need to send this list to Carole asap so that she can submit it before the purchasing department deadline for this semester. CB motions to approve purchase of the revised list of books found here: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15N9nDqtH7Xth24ic4rMZEpjF82LciP_qw614J3FCjo/edit?usp=sharing; PG seconds. Passes unanimously.
b. Doctoral Student Experience Survey Data
AF notes that we discussed this survey data last semester in FPSA.

V. Reports
a. Executive Committee
AF notes that no agenda has been sent around yet, but the next meeting is May 8th.
b. Doctoral Students’ Council
AF notes that she had a proxy for this meeting.
AM reports that there were no big issues at the most recent DSC meeting, but there was a presentation of a chartered org by Fred Baintinger about religion and the sacred in art.
c. Elections Committee
AM reports that all ties have been settled and elections have been posted to Le Hub.
AF suggests that we rethink the elections process to be sure that the same students aren't serving on multiple committees. She noted that the method of breaking ties could also be revised to be more democratic.
AM responds that this time around, we followed the DSC procedure for nominations and ties, but next year’s Election Committee members could certainly make some changes.
CB asks that we discuss this at a later time, closer to next year’s election process.
d. Ad-hoc Alumni Relations Committee
AM reports that we sent out a call to alumni for donations to travel and research funds.
This letter was sent out via FPSA@gc.cuny.edu. The letter requested that donations be made to the DSC so that students would have control over the funds, and so that the money could be spent on travel and research for any student in the program. At some time in the future, when there are enough funds to be useful, the FSPA will need to determine how to choose the recipient(s).
AF suggests that the FSPA form a student committee.
e. Student Workshop Committee (aka Writing Group)
AM reports that the group ebbs and flows, but that there is a chart in Google Drive, created by Dana, to help us keep track of our Accountabilibuddy. As we head into the end of the semester, we should reassess our group writing sessions, which have not been utilized recently. All students at the Proposal or Dissertation stage of writing are welcome!
f. Graduate Council
PG reports that the CUNY contract still hasn't had any movement. The new housing is moving forward after they cleaned up the site.
AM notes that a member of the Executive Committee of Grad Council may suggest that we have a PSC (union) rep give reports at Grad Council going forward.
VI. Announcements
CB reminds all students to please delete the CV that was sent out.
VII. Adjournment
TMC motions to adjourn; AF seconds. Passes unanimously.

Meeting ends at 3:53pm.

Minutes submitted by Amy Martin