French Program Student Association
Minutes
December 11, 2013

Members present: Chris Brandon, Mariana Goycochea, Phillip Griffith (by proxy), Amy Martin, Thomas Muzart, Antoinette Williams-Tutt, Tim Wilson (by proxy)

Mariana Goycochea (MG) calls the meeting to order at 12:14pm.

I. Approval of Agenda
   ● MG motions to approve; Amy Martin (AM) seconds with the addition of Dissertation Writing Group Report as V. e.; passes unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes from Oct. 25, 2013
   ● Chris Brandon (CB) motions to approve; MG seconds; passes unanimously.

III. Old Business
   a. Course Evaluation Forms (should we revise?)
      ● AM reports on previous discussion. Thomas Muzart (TM) notes that it’s important that students have a way to evaluate; AM responds that the old forms are still used.
      ● MG brings up the question of professor’s “approach”; is this methodology or pedagogy? MG notes that a change for the sake of clarity is necessary.
      ● TM wonders about the ‘process’ after the evaluations are submitted. AM notes that there is likely not any processing of data. TM says that some method of processing the data on the form should be necessary to help understand if there is an issue to address in any given course.
      ● MG suggests we make changes; AM asks how we should do that: by ad-hoc committee? by shared Google doc? CB suggests we open a Google doc. AM motions to create a Google doc, share that with all students, and propose a revised version of evaluation form at our Feb. meeting; CB seconds; passes unanimously.

IV. New Business
   a. Reclaiming Space in 4202 (should we have an ad-hoc committee? or a general student meeting to brainstorm?)
      ● MG reports that Prof. Przybos (EO) approached the EO of Urban Education about the space of the shared lounge, but that it felt to her that she was walking on eggshells, and experienced resistance. The result of that conversation was that the Executive Committee student reps from each program would have to discuss and decide on any changes of the use of space, along with the APOs’ help.
      ● AM motions to create an ad-hoc committee for Reclaiming Space in 4202 that would be convened by Phillip Griffith; CB seconds with a name change to Ad-hoc Committee for French Students’ Lounge Beautification; passes unanimously.

   b. Revising Century Structure (should we have an ad-hoc committee? or a general student meeting to brainstorm?)
      ● CB mentions that there will be a Curriculum & Examinations (C&E) Committee next week. He notes that there was a student discussion of a problem-based format of the
century exams and lists, which follows the oral exams that are problem-based.

- MG reports that Przybos raised the issue of the changing trends in any ‘problems’ that would be posed as the subject of the second examinations. The EO also very much supports updated reading lists.

- AM reports on Tim Wilson (TW)’s email. TW hopes to use Le Hub and an open student meeting to discuss ideas and take them to the Curriculum & Exams Committee.

- CB mentions that we need to think about not only being innovative, but that we also consider that our program needs to be accredited; MG notes that we also need to consider the job market and how professors are still hired on the basis of centuries.

- MG notes the EO implied that our second exam structure as it stands may lead to lazy students who don’t try to cover the reading lists, and instead review the materials for a single class that relates to the exam.

- CB suggests that any decision about holding a meeting with students should be contingent on the C&E meeting next week.

Antoinette Williams-Tutt (AWT) enters at 12:55pm.

c. New Faculty Search (should we have a round-table event for students to discuss the best criteria for the search?)

- MG notes that the EO said that the search for a new faculty member will be a long process, so we aren’t hiring anyone “right now.”

- What the faculty want according to Przybos (another Sautman):
  - perfectly bilingual
  - must be able to teach interdisciplinary courses, even teaching in another Program
  - well-versed in another specialty, preferably pre-modern, due to current need in the job market
  - ideally francophone (while also pre-modern), specifically Africanist
  - previous experience at the graduate level, and has directed a thesis
  - willing to do administrative work
  - willing to work with students
  - willing to relocate

- Example: Colin Deyan, at Vanderbilt

- TW suggests (via email) that there be a student meeting to come up with a document to present to Przybos; MG suggests that students come up with individual names and qualifications to suggest to Przybos.

- AWT asks if the job has been advertised; MG notes that it hasn’t, since we aren’t actually hiring just yet.

V. Reports

a. Student Conference Committee

- TM reports that the key-note speaker will be Shannon Winnubst from Ohio University--women’s studies, philosophy, edited a book on Bataille.

- The Call for Papers has been sent out via various lists and emails.

- The poster will be ready in January.

- So far there are five proposals.

- MG asks about funding; TM notes that Frédéric Baitinger is working with Sautman to
find funding.

b. DSC Representative
   ● AM reports that the DSC safer sex initiative seems to be going well. List of safer sex materials locations on Health and Wellness blog (http://opencuny.org/healthdsc/safer-sex-materials/).
   ● Comfort Stations should be in the library next week (look out for dates and times)
   ● Please sign the Chartered Org Rosters to support the various groups that host events here at the GC (look out for the email)
   ● Library Concourse Space Advisory Committee will be discussing what to do with the C-level of the library. I nominated TW to be a non-DSC student rep but he’s third down the list, so may not be asked if others accept.

c. DSC Recognition Process
   ● AM reports that the Election Survey now has enough signatures, so the FPSA can be presented to the DSC Plenary in Feb. and then it can be voted on in March.

d. Executive Committee update (5 Dec mtg with JP)
   ● MG reports on various funding opportunities for students (look out for email)

e. Dissertation Writing Group Report
   ● CB reports that the Writing Group wants to invite anyone working on a dissertation or proposal to come and give a short 8-10 minute talk on what each student is working on. He notes that this would be useful practice for students to clearly state the work that they’re doing on their projects, while showcasing the work that our Program is doing.
   ● Writing Group wants to open up to all students as a goal setting mechanism, not just dissertation level students.
   ● Writing Group also would like to add a frequent social event that would allow students to discuss professional experience and share knowledge, as well as getting to know other students in the Program.

VI. Announcements
   ● MG will convene the Unofficial Handbook Ad-hoc Committee in Feb.

VII. Adjournment
   ● AM motions to adjourn; AWT seconds; passes unanimously.

The meeting is adjourned at 1:33pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Amy Martin