French Program Student Association
March 5, 2015
2:30 p.m.
4202 French Thesis Room
Minutes

Members present: Allison Faris (AF) by proxy, Phillip Griffith (PG), Amy Martin (AM), Iziar de Miguel (IM) by proxy, Thomas Muzart-Colas (TMC), Saiful Saleem (SS), Antoinette Williams-Tutt (AWT) by proxy

TM calls the meeting to order at 2:34 pm

I. Approval of Agenda
TM motions to approve the agenda, PG seconds; passes unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes from Dec. 8, 2014
PG motions to approve the minutes of Dec. 8, 2014, TMC seconds; passes unanimously.

III. Old Business
   a. Graduate Student Experience Survey Award
      TMC reports that after spending some of this money on the conference, we have a large sum of money left and we need to spend it by March 23rd.
      AF supports the idea that we buy new lockers. Everyone in the program wants a locker, and we don’t have enough. It would be nice to get more and have a different system for assigning them.
      PG notes that lockers are expensive and that we could only get about 4-6 lockers for our $1200. They come in groups of 4 lockers.
      AM asks if we had spoken to the GC facilities office about the price of lockers, or if they have some extras.
      TMC asks how many we have now.
      PG counts 18. Some of the lockers are held by students who aren’t in NYC or don’t seem to be working here right now.
AM volunteers to contact these people and ask if they can give up their lockers. The DSC has a locker lottery each year, and checks for vacancies mid-semester and mid-year.

TMC suggests that we could have something similar so that students don’t get a locker indefinitely while others go without.

TMC: back to the question at hand.

AM reports that IM suggests buying a few year-long subscriptions to French journals. They cost about $100 each for a year. They could be in the office and borrowed by students like books.

TMC suggests that this could be done after buying lockers with whatever money is left over.

PG notes that our first step will be to contact facilities to see what they might have, then if nothing, to buy some ourselves.

PG motions to investigate the procurement of more lockers; TMC seconds; motions passes unanimously.

AM motions to investigate the procurement of French literary journals; TMC seconds; passes unanimously.

IV. New Business
   a. French Program Governance Document

AM reports that the program governance documents should be reviewed at the end of each three-year term of the Executive Officer. She created an updated version for the French Program last year (since the current version is from 1994), but was told by the that it should be done in 2014-2015, the third year of her term. In the mean time the Structure Committee of Graduate Council, who would approve this document after the French Program’s Executive Committee, put out a template, including some items that must be included in revised governance documents. AM will review and be sure all things in the template are present in the revised French document, and submit the document to the Executive Committee via student EC reps.

V. Reports
   a. Executive Committee
TMC reports that there was a meeting on Feb. 6 to discuss Colin Dayan’s visit. During the EC meeting, they talked about teaching training, but nothing new was said. The professors on the EC suggested a student-led workshop. AF and Chris Brandon created a shared Google document to share teaching materials for French classes that could turn into a Wiki project.

PG clarifies that this would use the same online format as Wikipedia.

TMC reports that Domna Stanton suggested that the EC discuss the possibility of students teaching literature classes, not just language classes. She also had suggestions about the proposal process (incorporating informal in-person meetings for professors to be on the same page) and summer grants opportunities (a list put together by the program).

AM notes that the handbook already allows for a meeting of the entire committee.

TMC reports that Evelyne Ender noted that there is a turn in NYC public schools toward bilingual education. She suggested that this opens up the job market to GC students. This was controversial for some, since they said that the Program is not trying to create elementary teachers. Some thought that these opportunities would be good for those who are interested in staying in the NY area.

PG reports that during the Colin Dayan talk, she didn’t talk about French or French literature, she didn’t cite French authors, her talk wasn’t well received. If appointed, she would be appointed to French, but also teach in English and Comp. Lit. and would only teach in the French program once every three years. But, we need someone who would be dedicated to French literature and the needs of the French program students. It’s possible that she couldn’t teach a course in French.

AM: suggests that all students give feedback to both Przybos and President Robinson.

SS entered at 3:25 pm

AM adds that we should demand a meeting of the Faculty membership committee.

TMC reports for AF, who noted that we need to be wary of interdisciplinarity that gets in the way of French literary studies.

TMC reports that we sent out the survey about professional development. We got 4 surveys in one day!

b. DSC Representative
AM reports (on behalf of AF) that the big item at the last DSC meeting was a resolution against police brutality in the NYPD. There was heated debate, including students from John Jay, the CUNY school with the strongest ties to the NYPD, and the motion was tabled until the next Plenary meeting.

c. Admissions Committee Representative
PG reports that two students have said yes, and two others who have been extended an offer haven’t responded. They are waiting to hear from NYU, which seems to be taking its time deciding on students.

d. Elections Committee
AM reports that the Elections Committee sent out the nominations ballot, which will close at midnight on March 8th. The elections will then be held March 16th-29th.

e. Ad-hoc Alumni Relations Committee
AM reports that the DSC’s Alumni-Relations and Fundraising Commission is working with us to send out an email appeal for donations for the express purpose of student travel expenses. The email will go out before the end of March. Money will go to the DSC, so that students (through the DSC rep) will have access to this money without any issues. If money is raised for next year, we will have to decide how to distribute (let the Program take applications from students, form an ad-hoc committee of students, or some other option).

f. Student Workshop Committee (aka Writing Group)
AM reports that the group met Feb. 10th to discuss writing support. We decided to create Accountabilibuddies, groups of 2 or 3 who keep in touch frequently to help encourage writing. We will also set up writing times, when people will meet either in the same space at the GC or virtually, to check in, write at the same time, and generally encourage one another to get research and writing done. We are welcoming other students at the Proposal or Dissertation writing stage.

g. Graduate Council Representative
PG reports that there was an argument.
AM adds that it was about student participation on Executive Committee in Programs.
PG notes that there was also a discussion about language requirements in Computer Science, since the program wants to count computer coding languages as a language requirement.

VI. Announcements
AM announces the DSC Party, March 20th at 8:30.

VII. Adjournment
TMC motions to adjourn; PG seconds; motion passes unanimously.

The meeting ends at 4 p.m.
Minutes respectfully submitted by Amy Martin