Members Present: Allison Faris, Phillip Griffith, Amy Martin, Thomas Muzart, Saiful Saleem, Marguerite Van Cook, Antoinette Williams-Tutt, Ashley Williard

Thomas Muzart (TM) calls the meeting to order at 2:05pm.

I. Approval of Agenda
TM motions to approve the agenda with one emendation
1. Add item IV. New Business a. FPSA logo
Allison Faris (AF) seconds; passes unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes from Oct. 27, 2014
Marguerite Van Cook (MVC) motions to approve the minutes of Oct. 27, 2014; Phillip Griffith (PG) seconds; Antoinette Williams-Tutt (AWT) abstains; motion passes.

III. Old Business
a. Graduate Student Experience Survey Award
Amy Martin (AM) updates the group that the money from this award is not transferable to the FPSA’s DSC account, and that it is accessed through the CUNYFirst system, making it difficult but not impossible to use for various types of purchases.
TM suggests that we could use this money to fund conference or research travel from students in the program.
Ashley Williard (AW) suggests we talk to the Henri Peyre French Institute to see how/how much they fund French Program students.
AM suggests that we try to fund students who don’t qualify for other types of funding (e.g. attending a conference vs. presenting at a conference), or who applied but weren’t granted money.

MVC suggests we think about buying books for the Second Exam reading lists.
TM notes that he office where the library is kept isn’t always open and that it isn’t really a communal space. Also suggests that the Program should be buying books for that collection.
AWT suggests that we could pay a student someone (preferably a student) to create and maintain a site that lists the books that are available from the Program’s library.

AW asks if there are more space/lounge-related things we could buy.
PG notes that we will discuss this during the report on the Lounge Beautification
committee.
AW asks if we could spend this on a speaker.
MVC notes that she would rather spend the money on student travel.
Saiful Saleem (SS) suggests that we look into Antidote, proofreading software for French.
AM suggests that we talk to IT about this software.

b. Program Internal Evaluation Form
TM reminds the group that a draft of this was presented at the previous FPSA meeting, and notes that it will be presented at the Executive Committee meeting later in the week. He requests a quick review and any suggested revisions.
General discussion about the evaluation form.

IV. New Business
a. FPSA logo
AF nominates MVC to work on a new logo (that is more inclusive of all the types of people and literatures represented by the GC French Program).
AW asks if there is a way to solicit ideas about the FPSA logo and if we could pay MVC out of the $2000.
AF suggests we ask MVC to create two or three ideas and then ask for a vote of the students.

V. Reports
a. Executive Committee
TM reports that the Executive Committee is courting a new candidate (Colin Diane [sp?]). They will also be conducting an internal program review, based on the evaluation form we drafted on professional development. And that they will be updating the program description on our website.
MVC notes that the MA en route should be removed from the site because it is discouraged or doesn’t exist.
AW notes that she is a member of the Faculty Membership Committee, but the committee hasn’t met yet this year. She would like to be part of the discussion on faculty recruitment, as a member of this committee.
AM asks the EC reps to bring this up at the meeting.
AF reports that one faculty member of the EC said, pertaining to the internal program review on professional development, that it shouldn’t be the GC’s job to train teachers.
AM noted that the GC is convening a hiring committee for a new director of its future Teaching Center, showing recognition that they should be responsible for this very thing.
MVC notes that we should be pushing to get access to teaching courses other than language courses.
b. Conference Committee
TM reports that they received proposals, that they invited 15 people, 10 of whom have accepted, including a couple of students from the GC French Program. Half of the students who sent proposals were from French-speaking universities. They have divided presentations into 4 panels, and they have 2 panel facilitators already lined up.

c. Ad-hoc Committee for French Students’ Lounge Beautification
TM thanks MVC for all her work on the new lounge banner and posters. PG notes that we still have more wall space for more artwork. MVC suggests that we hang previous conference posters. She also would like to see a newspaper rack and some French-language newspapers. AWT suggests that we solicit suggestions for which papers students would like to read. SS notes that there is a database that shares international papers.

d. Graduate Council Representative
PG notes that the next meeting will take place in two days.

e. DSC Representative
AF reports that the DSC discussed a resolution in solidarity with the students of Mexico, but it was pulled from the agenda because of a lack of quorum. It will be presented again at the next DSC Plenary.

VI. Announcements
SS announces that members of the French Cultural Services of the French Embassy may be attending our end of semester party.

VII. Adjournment
AM motions to adjourn; PG seconds; passes unanimously. The meeting ends at 3:30pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Amy Martin.