French Program Student Association  
Monday, March 3rd, 2014  
12:00-1:30pm  
Room 4202  
Minutes

Members Present: Parfait Kouacou, Phillip Griffith, Allison Faris, Amy Martin, Chris Brandon (by proxy)

I. Approval of Agenda  
   ● Allison Faris (AF) motions to approve the agenda, Parfait Kouacou (PK) seconds; passes unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes from Dec. 11, 2013  
   ● AF motions to approve the minutes from Dec. 11, 2013, PK seconds; passes unanimously.

III. Old Business  
   a. Course Evaluation Form  
      ● Phillip Griffith (PG) asks if there is still interest in this.  
      ● Amy Martin (AM) responds that after this question was asked previously, there still seemed to be interest.  
      ● AF suggests that we get rid of the percentage questions and change these to short answer form.  
      ● PG suggests that we make sure the metrics of everything make sense, plus change percentage questions to short answer.  
   b. Revising Century Structure  
      ● AM shares Chris Brandon’s report via email:
        ○ “Honestly, it’s a complicated process that we will need volunteers for. The most pressing change is the reading lists. The exams will take a long time to consider and students just wanting a different format isn’t exactly intelligent or viable. There is a pedagogical frame to it and that is something that has to be carefully worked on to make sure the right things are being assessed. So exam change CAN happen, and it’s not happening right now. Most pressing is: get the lists in order, so we’ll need volunteers for lists, if they have an interest or whatever, but people to volunteer for each area of the list to work in consultation with which ever professors oversee it, that way we can update them personally. Stress to them that the conversation has started about exam change, but it will be a slow-ish process. Everyone's informed opinions and feedback (meaning, do your home work, look at other programs' exam structure, don't just opine blithely) will be really helpful. And then push that we need volunteers to work on areas of the lists. Also put forward that the committee is committed to being dynamic in terms of how we are trained -- that was huge for our program, identify new ways to train teachers, scholars, and non-academic professionals.”
● AF asks if Stanton had a revised 17th century list.
● AM responds that she revised it a few years ago, but it was never officially accepted.

IV. New Business
a. Elections Committee: Appoint/elect three students
● AM notes that we overlooked the election of students to the Elections Committee, since this committee was not recognized as a standing committee in the program bylaws.
● PG notes that he I would do it again.
● AF asks for clarification of the role of students on this committee.
● AM responds that these student reps are responsible for holding elections in the spring.
● PG asks if we are we still planning to send out a ballot by March 15.
● AM notes that we should, yes, since we have to report our Grad Council rep to Executive Committee by April 15.
● AM motions to appoint PG and AF to the Elections Committee, PK seconds; passes unanimously.

b. First-exam internal review
● PG reports that Przybos told EC that the GC wants all programs to do some sort of self-evaluation each year. So, the EC is working on a survey to ask former and current students about the First Exam. They would like to have results by the end of March, so they’ll try to draft one in the next week or so. PG will start a Google doc to draft a survey.

c. Proposed bylaws changes
● AM reviews a few proposed changes to the current FPSA bylaws:
  ○ use “Governance Document” instead of “bylaws” throughout
  ○ the first-year student liaison could be elected by FPSA instead of only first-year students (4.3.b)
  ○ FPSA meetings location could be extended to include DSC rooms (5.1)
  ○ FPSA meetings would be advertised by at least two methods (5.3)
  ○ a clarification of committee memberships, specifically on Grad Council (6.2)
  ○ the conference chair(s) could be elected in September of each year, rather than in the spring during regular elections (6.4.a.ii)
  ○ a clarification on how to appoint Student Workshop members (6.4.b)
  ○ the elections ballot should be sent by March 15th, allowing a week to vote; the nominations ballot would then be sent in early March; DSC not oversee (elected) (6.5.d)
  ○ the addition of Student Elections Committee to the stand committees of the program (6.6.e)
  ○ a change in procedure for amending the governance document, so that this can be done on a rolling basis, rather than once a year during spring elections (8.2)
d. Alumni Relations Ad-hoc Committee
   ● AM explains the work of the Faculty and Alumni Commission of the DSC and notes that she has met with him more than once about work that can be done by the program students to connect with alumni. She notes that we could start small with a group of students who work to update alumni information on the program’s GC website.
   ● PG suggests that we drum up interest and put it on the nominations ballot for the spring elections.
   ● AM motions to create an Alumni Relations ad-hoc committee, PG seconds; passes unanimously.

V. Reports
   a. Ad-hoc Committee for French Students’ Lounge Beautification
      ● PG reports on the meeting he had with the urban ed students about the lounge
         ○ they also want a couch in the lounge
         ○ they are willing to give us wall space once we know what we are going to do with it
   b. Curriculum and Exams Committee Representative
      ● CB reported above on Revising Century Structure
   c. Student Conference Committee
      ● PG notes that there has been some concern about funding, but we are waiting on DSC, which often supports the event.
      ● AF reports that she has been put in charge of applying for money and is working on the DSC grant, while looking for other sources of funding.
   d. Student Workshop Committee (Writing Group)
      ● AM reports that the student work roundtable went well, and that the goal setting group continues to meet regularly.
   e. Admissions Committee
      ● AM reports the event on Friday was a great success, with many prospective students, current students and faculty in attendance.

Parfait steps out of meeting at 1:05pm

f. Executive Committee
   ● PG notes that there hasn’t been a meeting, so there is nothing new to report, apart from the upcoming survey on the First Exam.

g. DSC Representative
   ● AM reports the following:
      ● From our $230 fall DSC allocation, we have $122 left. We spent $108 on one case of wine in the fall. (Can we arrange two or three people to go to Trader Joe’s wine
store?--I have two nice wine bags that hold six bottles each.) We have $210 from the DSC in the spring, since we now have 42 matriculated students.

- FPSA constitution was presented at DSC Plenary on Feb. 21st. There will be a vote on March 21st.
- I forwarded you a survey from the Governance Task Force, that is trying to collect information about the way that each program runs meetings, elections, etc. Please complete the survey if you haven’t yet, because the 3 programs with the highest rate of participation get extra DSC funds.
- DSC Nominations closed Feb. 28th. Elections will run from April 1 to May 1. I’m hoping to run as an At-Large rep, which means…. And whoever is the Program rep will be in charge of the DSC allocation, they will have to attend the DSC Plenary once a month on a Friday evening, and they will be an officer of the FPSA, with the duty to report on DSC things/actions. So please do vote, both for a Program rep, and for me under the at-large category.
- The DSC EC met with Ray Ring, who’s in charge of aesthetics in the building. He said our EO can request a couch, but he will evaluate if it ‘fits’ in the space, and it will be added to the list of all programs in need of replacement couches. He also said that there is artwork available, since a lot of people have been making donations of art instead of money, so we could consider requesting some of that for our walls.
- Jane Trombley, head of Communications, spoke with acting associate provost David Olan about students using GC letterhead. She reports that he said there should be no hurdles to getting it (even though the whole controversy started in his office, if I’m remembering correctly), and I forwarded that email to Carole. So, if you are applying to a job or a grant that would benefit from a letter from you on GC letterhead, go ahead and ask Carole for the Word doc.
- If you are having any late pay issues from any CUNY campus, contact the Adjunct Project. theadjunctproject@gmail.com. They continue to push the administration, and are working with the union to make sure that adjuncts are protected from late pay, and that they can receive advances when late pay issues do occur.
- There have been changes to the NYSHIP mental health carrier and the prescription coverage. See the flyer.
- Chartered Orgs hold/co-sponsor some very interesting events. Please check out the list of orgs and sign rosters at cunyds. org/works.
- The Safer Sex Initiative continues to go well. If you have any specific requests, you can let me know, or email Jen Prince health@cunyds. org. (or leave an anonymous note in my mailbox). If we need refills, please send me an email, since I’m the DSC rep in charge of the bowl in our lounge.
- DSC EC will be presenting a resolution against the CUNY Draft Proposal on Expressive Conduct. Brooklyn College Faculty and the PSC have already passed
similar resolutions against it.

**h. Kneller Library report**

- PG reports that there is not a lot of crossover between the Kneller library (in the French office) and our reading lists. The 17th, 19th and 20th lists are best (but not solidly) represented. We don’t have Glissant’s books, for example. He also reports that John Sorrentino, an alum, has offered to donate some books, but has not specified the number or titles. These books will likely go on the shelves in the thesis room, and become part of a rotating library for students to take from or donate to.

- AM notes that Carole gets review copies of books, and perhaps we can ask her what happens to those.

**VI. Announcements**

**VII. Adjournment**

- AM motions to adjourn, AF seconds; passes unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Amy Martin.