

MINUTES
FROM THE GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE MEETING
September 19, 2017

Attendees: Amy Besnoy (Library), Brian Byrnes (Theater), Michael Gonzalez (History), Ronald Kaufmann (Dean's Office), Daniel Lopez-Perez (Architecture), Leonora Simonovis-Brown (Department of Languages, Cultures, and Literatures), Leslie Spring (Marketing and Communications Director), Drew Talley (EOS), Phillip Tran (Secretary), and Randy Willoughby (MAIR)

Absent: Ray Chambers (Theater) and David Shirk (MAIR)

Guests: *none*

M. Gonzalez brought the meeting to order at 1:25 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes from 5/9/17

- M. Gonzalez asked for comments/concerns from GSC members regarding May's minutes. No objections—unanimous approval without any modifications needed.

II. Old Globe Trip in November

- B. Byrnes opined that November 11 would be a good date to have the trip. He will confer with R. Chambers to confirm appropriateness of this proposed date.

- M. Gonzalez initiated conversation with GSC members regarding the appropriate number of seats to save for students. He suggested "30 + 1 guest" to be a possible starting number. Both B. Byrnes and R. Kaufmann concurred. However, A. Besnoy commented that based on the recent graduate student reception, in which many students showed up, perhaps 40 + 1 guest might be a more appropriate number. L. Smith then reflected that we could perhaps begin with 30 + 1 guest and leave open the possibility of increasing the number should that be warranted. The entire GSC then concurred with L. Smith's suggestion.

- R. Willoughby requested the reconsideration of November 11 being the targeted date due to a field trip to Cuba that same week by students in the MAIR program. He asked for the possibility to change the date to November 12, to which B. Byrnes responded that he will do some investigations (and get back to the GSC) to see if November 12 would be a more ideal date, considering that this date falls on a Sunday.

III. Election of New Chair

- M. Gonzalez opened up conversation with the group regarding election of a new GSC chair for this year. He responded to A. Besnoy's inquiry regarding the former's status on the GSC due to impending conclusion of the MA-History program. Response: M. Gonzalez will remain on the

GSC so long as there still exist MA-History students. Currently, there is a total of 10 students still in the program, with three actively enrolled this semester. R. Willoughby shared his department's interest in helping MA-History students by possibly allowing for more flexibility in transferring history units into the MAIR program. M. Gonzalez and R. Willoughby expressed mutual interest in this possibility and may meet in the future to explore further.

- B. Byrnes commented that both he and R. Chambers will be unable to become chair of the GSC because they have taken on this role in the past five years.

- R. Kaufmann stated that he could not take on the chairmanship because (1) he has chaired three prior occasions, and (2) there would be a conflict of interest due to his role in the Dean's Office. However, he commented that the following people would be eligible to become GSC chair: A. Besnoy, D. Lopez-Perez, D. Talley, R. Willoughby, and L. Simonovis-Brown.

- A. Besnoy responded that she cannot take on the chair role due to chairing another group.

- R. Kaufmann nominated L. Simonovis-Brown, to which A. Besnoy and R. Willoughby seconded the nomination. M. Gonzalez commented that he would help L. Simonovis-Brown with the transition should she accept the nomination.

IV. Selection of Graduate Student Representative

- R. Kaufmann delineated university rules pertaining to graduate student representation on the GSC. This requires there be one graduate student selected from the Graduate Student Council to serve on the GSC, as well as another graduate student invited from one of the graduate programs.

- M. Gonzalez will work with P. Tran to contact Mariann Sanchez from Student Affairs to arrange for a graduate student from the Graduate Student Council to partake in GSC meetings.

V. Guests to be Invited to Address the GSC

- A. Besnoy proposed the possibility of inviting One-Stop—but with a focus on graduate student degree auditing—to address the GSC.

- R. Kaufmann proposed that Michael Belasco from the Financial Aid Office give a presentation to the GSC. M. Gonzalez seconded this proposal.

- R. Kaufmann also proposed the possibility of Reuel Shivers from the Registrar's Office address the GSC.

VI. MAIR Course Revision Matters

- R. Kaufmann commented that he has already spoken to D. Shirk regarding up-to-date course revision forms, and will gladly meet with him again to clarify any unresolved matters.

- R. Willoughby indicated he too will talk to D. Shirk to touch base.

VII. Other Matters

A. Acceptance of Nomination

- After careful consideration, L. Simonovis-Brown accepted the nomination for chairing this year's GSC. The entire GSC then approved by acclamation. There was much applauding.
- M. Gonzalez indicated to L. Simonovis-Brown that he and P. Tran will help her with the transition.

B. New GSC Member

- D. Lopez-Perez arrived midway through the meeting and introduced himself.

C. Validation of GSC

- R. Kaufmann commented on the significant role that the GSC plays in preliminary curriculum approvals. Once the GSC preliminarily approves of a proposed curriculum, it is then sent to the Academic Assembly for discussion and final approval or denial.
- A. Besnoy suggested that the GSC and Graduate Student Council should be active in the Learning Commons. The Learning Commons should not be self-standing; rather, it should be collaborative with ITS and Printing Services.