

## Association of English Graduate Students Executive Board Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2008

### 1. General Business

- a. See most recent MUGS News for UPASS update
- b. Provost ASF visit Nov. 11 at 3:30 pm (Eric Dunnum participating)
- c. ASF wish list
  - i. Update some computers in offices, add PrintWise location, improve aesthetics (carpet, paint), make handicap accessible, improve bathrooms
- d. Benefits of moving TA offices to Coughlin
  - i. Close to faculty advisors
  - ii. Easier access to building (some swipe card problems at ASF) and more convenient, central location
  - iii. Coughlin looks more professional
  - iv. Improve retention of FYE students and TAs
- e. Buddy Storm will coordinate Spring Book Sale
- f. Next meeting: December 9, 5:30

### 2. Individual updates

- a. Eric Dunnum, Vice President
  - i. AEGS website updated
    1. Add past editions of English News
    2. Wording for ASF liaison position (to be added to PFF liaison); Colleen Fenno will draft for approval at upcoming meeting
    3. Check for mistakes and dead links
  - ii. GSO notes: John and Eric are now voting members
- b. Maggie McKinley, Liaison to GSC
  - i. The GSC does not meet again this semester
  - ii. Graduate School travel funds are running out quickly, so students should apply as soon as possible for these matching funds; applications can be found online at the graduate school website.
  - iii. Notify Maggie of any graduate student accomplishments (conference, paper published) to be included in Graduate School newsletter
- c. Kelsey Squire, Liaison to FYE
  - i. Upcoming meeting called to discuss changes to FYE assistant director position
  - ii. Tom Broekelmann interested in more graduate student social events and suggested a movie night
- d. Colleen Fenno, Liaison to PFF (and ASF maintenance liaison)
  - i. Computer upgrade for ASF lounge forthcoming
  - ii. PFF informational meeting in spring with Carly Anger, PFF coordinator
  - iii. Gauge interest in information meetings with MU administrator to discuss university funding and with recent MU grad to discuss current job market
- e. Daniel Burke, Liaison to Faculty
  - i. Availability and amount of funds awarded to grad students changes yearly
  - ii. Graduate School proposed allowing only 1/3 of one's grad credits to be taken in undergrad classes; the current policy allows half of one's graduate credits to be taken in undergrad classes
  - iii. FYE recognized with CCCC award

- iv. January 23<sup>rd</sup> faculty retreat at AMU
      - 1. Discuss scholarly moves for 330, DQE, and dissertation
      - 2. Brainstorm GSC web page layouts for expected scholarly moves
  - f. Emily Blaser, Liaison to PhDs
    - i. Compiling list of FAQs at dissertation defense
  - g. Tom Massnick, Liaison to Second-Year MAs
    - i. Currently working individually or in pairs on MA exam preparation until winter break; practice in larger groups next semester
  - h. Kathleen Burt, Liaison to First-Year MAs
    - i. First Years preparing to register for second semester
  - i. Buddy Storm, Public Relations and Treasurer
    - i. \$1927.11 in conference funds; \$189.68 in petty cash
    - ii. Winter party is December 13<sup>th</sup>; email invites to come
    - iii. Consider making spring party more faculty friendly (earlier, location near or on campus)
      - 1. Outdoor patio at Caffrey's?
- 3. Informational Q&A with Dr. Gillespie regarding recent changes to graduate program
  - a. Thanks to Dr. Gillespie and Dr. Ratcliffe for updating department Web site
  - b. Health of graduate program reflects strength, ambition, success, and quality of students
  - c. MU English PhDs have 60% placement rate in tenure-track positions, most in small, liberal arts colleges; tenure-track and permanent academic positions has 86% placement rate (both stats higher than national average)
  - d. Recent changes in PhD program aimed to expedite progress toward degree
    - i. 24 credits of coursework (previously 30)
    - ii. Able to take foreign language reading course and receive satisfactory "pass" to fulfill foreign language requirement
    - iii. ENGL 330 goals: prepare annotated primary and secondary bibliographies of dissertation topic and contextual field surrounding topic; draft dissertation proposal; advance overall progress toward degree
    - iv. ENGL 399: 12 dissertation credits beyond coursework should be taken as soon as can be scheduled (in 3-credit segments); can be scheduled concurrently with ENGL 330