GSAC Meeting Minutes

28 September 2010

Members Present: Kelly Burt (International and Intercultural Communication), Jane Johnson (Media Film and Journalism), Claire Foley (Economics), Milind Rao (Mechanical Engineering), Debbie Mitchell (Chemistry), Sami Lester (Geography), Jamie Lomax (Physics and Astronomy), Kav Shrestha (Computer Science), Jenya Kirshstein (Math), Gergana Argirova (Lamont School of Music), Lindsay Smith (Art and Art History), Kristy Firebaugh (English)

* Welcome new members/introductions
* Is anyone available to go to GSAC meetings this quarter?
  + GSAC meetings are scheduled when Kristy is unable to attend; Jenya volunteered to attend the meeting on Oct. 18and Lindsay volunteered to attend the meeting on Nov. 1.
* Rep responsibilities/go over bylaws:
  + discussed duties and responsibilities of representatives as outlined in the bylaws
  + explained the basics of the application process so that new representatives will be able to discuss the process with their departments
* Funding/application procedures; possible changes?
  + Jamie brought information from Azure: since three applications were misplaced last year, Azure developed a spreadsheet for representatives to fill out so we make sure all applications from all departments are accounted for.
  + We will use this sheet beginning with this quarter’s applications.
* Cross-departmental speaker
  + Jane suggested Law Prof. Derrigan Silver, who lectures on a variety of topics that would be of interdepartmental interest (such as first amendment rights). Jane will talk to Prof. Silver to see if he would be interested in being our speaker.
  + We discussed different options for timing; Kav noted that Friday night did not produce a good turnout so we are thinking about scheduling the event either on a weeknight or sometime midday.
* Other activities to facilitate cross-departmental interaction
  + Debbie suggested participating in a service project as a group
    - Representatives are to think about suggestions for specific projects that would appeal to all departments in GSFF
  + Brown bag lunches
    - Kristy suggested a reading series that would be open to graduate students from across the departments in GSFF; possibly a works-in-progress reading and/or an introduction to the work going on in various departments
    - We discussed whether or not there would be issues with student interest and the difficulty of cross-disciplinary discussions
    - Kristy will send out an email for representatives to send out to their departments to gauge interest
* Other business:
  + Grad Games:
    - Date not yet set; will probably be the weekend of Oct. 14-17
    - Lindsay suggested a GSFF get-together before the Grad Games and possibly making teams by department
    - We discussed whether there was enough student interest or would be attendance at an event on a Saturday
    - We decided to hold a GSFF get-together as long as it is not very early in the morning
  + RTD passes
    - Debbie brought up the issue of RTD passes for summer, and Jane added that Continuous Enrollment students are also not eligible
    - Debbie brought up the suggestion of a possible exchange program with Law students who are not in Denver in the summers
    - Kristy gave report on status of this issue from GSAC minutes and will bring up GSFF concerns at next GSAC meeting
* Pairing new members with veterans
  + We exchanged contact information so that new members have a contact if they have questions.
  + Kristy will be forwarding department-specific questions received via email to the appropriate representative
* Meeting adjourned 1:50.