

**MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING  
THE GRADUATE ENGLISH SOCIETY  
WESTERN UNIVERSITY  
March 16, 2017**

Call to Order: The third general meeting of the 2016-17 academic year, held in AHB 1B02, was called to order by Caroline Diezyn at 1:30 p.m.

Attendees: Adam Bowes, Lyndsay Day, Caroline Diezyn, Ian Hynd, Jeremy Johnston, Lori Maddigan, Farrah Nakhaie, Jackie Reed, Cameron Riddell, Logan Rohde, Lisa Templin

Regrets: Visiting Speakers Committee Rep. (David Huebert), MA Rep. (Colton Sherman), Academic Coordinator (Tom Stuart), Union Steward (Sebastian Johnston), Appointments Committee Rep. (Nahmi Lee)

**Proceedings**

1. The Agenda was approved without amendments. (Motion: Lisa / Second: Farrah)
2. The Minutes of the meeting of December 9, 2016 were approved as circulated. (Motion: Ian / Second: Lyndsay)
3. Business Arising from Previous Minutes: NOTHING TO REPORT
4. GES Co-Chairs' Report (Diezyn):
  - a. Joshua Schuster is seeking information and suggestions to help improve attendance at GDP workshops. One suggestion raised, to make the workshops mandatory in PhD year 3, was not favourably received by the group. Another suggestion, to include the workshops in the mandatory course (currently called Research Methods), was considered a better option. A survey will be forthcoming seeking information and suggestions from GES members.
  - b. Following up on an action item from the last meeting, Caroline advised that a survey will be issued to GES members seeking input on establishing regulations regarding membership in the GES Facebook group.
  - c. Lisa provided a summary of discussions held at the recent English Department meeting regarding ramifications of a change to the Provincial Funding Model. Going forward, rather than allocating funds based on enrolments—a program that encourages growth in universities, the Province will adopt a corridor model under which enrolments exceeding the top end of the corridor will not result in extra funding. Lower income generating faculties, like A&H, currently in a financial deficit position, will be monitored more closely by the University with the expectation that expenses must be drastically reduced, meaning job loss for contract and limited duties faculty and fewer opportunities for upper year PhD students to gain teaching experience. Further information will be forthcoming to GES members, along with a survey seeking feedback. As well, a meeting will be arranged with the Dean to determine the faculty's

action plan to ensure grad students receive the level of support for job market preparation originally committed upon recruitment to the program.

**ACTION ITEM:** **Caroline** sending out 3 surveys. **All members** are encouraged to respond.

5. Notice of Motions:

- a. Caroline moved to expand the Academic Coordinator's portfolio to include:  
*3.5.7. work alongside the Department's Graduate Development and Placement Coordinator to promote the Coordinator's workshops etc.*

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote.

6. Treasurer's Report (Maddigan):

- a. Lori presented the budget report for the quarter ending February 28, 2017. Of note:
  - i. Resolving an action item from the previous meeting, Jeremy has provided the SOGS subsidy of \$388.76, which exceeds the planned amount (\$300). Caroline thanked the SOGS Councilors for their ongoing service.
  - ii. The proceeds from the fall and winter book sales exceeded plan. This, along with the additional SOGS subsidy, positions our income \$529.96 better than plan.

**NOTE: The meeting relocated to the Grad Student Lounge area at this time.**

7. Social Coordinator's Report (Templin & Reed):

- a. Book sale: Next year the fall sale will continue to be run over three days; however, the winter sale will be shortened to two days. The hours for both sales will also change to 11:00-4:00, rather than 10:00-3:00 which is better aligned with the times that people come to the sale.
- b. Coffee Maker: Discussion was held regarding replacing the coffee maker that mysteriously disappeared from the Grad Lounge. Until we find a better way to secure the space and its contents, the group does not feel comfortable with bringing in Keurig 2.0 that is available. However, a less expensive, regular drip coffee maker is also available and will be placed in the Lounge soon.
- c. Social Committee: a meeting will be scheduled (probably for March 31) to plan post comps revelry and the year-end party. Lori advised that \$500 is available for these events.

8. Academic Coordinator's Report (Diezyn, in Tom's absence):

- a. Speaker Series: Courtney Church is giving a talk at the first event in the speaker series. GES members are encouraged to support our peers by attending the talk.

**ACTION ITEM:** **Caroline** to set up an event on Facebook.

9. SOGS report (Johnston):

- a. SOGS can help coordinate interdisciplinary social events if we have ideas for such events.
- b. SOGS is concerned that wellness information may not be reaching its audience effectively and is exploring methods, other than email, to distribute this important information. The idea of wellness ambassadors within department or faculties has been suggested. All were in favour of this idea and decided that the GES should have a wellness ambassador regardless of how SOGS decides to proceed.

**ACTION ITEM:** **Caroline** will add a motion to be tabled at the next meeting calling for the creation of a new GES position called Wellness Ambassador.

10. New Business:

- a. No new business items raised.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Caroline declared the meeting adjourned by unanimous consent. (Motion: Jeremy / Second: Jackie)  
Meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.