

Present: Sophie Riemenschneider, Kristi Fleetwood, Stefano Morello, Alison Douglass, Daisy Atterbury, Bradley Douglass, Jojo Karlin, Jason Nielson, Jacob Aplaca, Elissa Meyers, Filipa Calado

Announcements:

The Recruitment Committee is asking for feedback on last year's recruitment event. They're hoping to gather ideas on what can be improved for this year's event. They are also soliciting statements of purpose to hand out at the recruitment event.

The Alumni Committee is hoping to start a new fundraising campaign this coming fall.

Discussion:

Exec Meeting: In the recent exec meeting, there were a few issues that were raised that we wanted to get feedback from the entire ESA before returning for the second meeting in October:

- Faculty/Student Relations: There seems to be a large disconnect between the faculty and students, especially in relation to students' areas of interest. For example, faculty expressing concern that recent hires are no longer relevant to students' interests. What are some suggestions to overcome this divide?
 - Jason pointed out that the gap between student expression of hiring concerns and the new faculty hire is too large, creating more problems.
 - JoJo raised the point, though, that it's hard to attract students in a new field if we have no faculty to work with them.
 - Stefano: Suggestion that we circulate a survey to see who/what/when in relation to what is being studied, what year are the students' who are studying it, what are the gaps in our department, where do we want to see the department going? Could also help the upcoming department's self-study.
- Courses/Faculty: Only one course was canceled this semester (yay!), but again, the concern for courses and faculty being reflective of what current students are interested in taking. What are some suggestions that can help ensure a diverse course (and faculty) load? For example, one suggestion has been that there has to be a required number of courses (on the department end) offered in each semester based on a certain field. Another suggestion is that courses should be required to all cover x, y, and z in order to be accessible to the most number of students.
 - Sophie: focus on methodologies, where there is structure on the content and the way classes are being taught to provide the most diversity.
 - Conversation surround the nature of why courses are being dropped. Smaller cohorts mean we can't run as many courses. Consortium students registering too late.
 - Readdressed the possibility of supporting the MA. Need more information before ESA feels comfortable support the move. Specifically questions/concerns of the

MA in relation to the problem of promoting unfunded courses to make the department (and GC) money. What would be the cost for the students? How would the MA cure the track/filing?

- New Exam: Professors have expressed concerns that the new exam is not resulting in high quality material or material that covers enough fields. Further, professors have concern of what is even expected of the new exam and don't incorporate the new structure into their course design. What are some ways we can help with this problem? Does this simply go back to the faculty/student communication? Should the ESA host workshops? Can the ESA create a detailed guide like the old exam had?
 - Point raised that a lot of second years are feeling like their was a lack of communication on what the exam was and how it should be satisfactorily implemented. Further, the push towards comprehension negates the new "more useful" format. The old exam replaced with the new format in hopes that the portfolio would produce work relevant to the students. Students seem to find that the "comprehensive" structure prevent it from being truly helpful.
 - Suggestion that the prompts need to be improved, a guide needs to be created, and a joint statement defining the scope of the exam and what is the expected outcome. Elissa suggested that the faculty can pull example from the second years' exams or write examples themselves.
 - Stefano--suggestion that faculty members who are the first year mentors also mentor the student for the exam. Circulate surveys among second year students to hear directly from them - what went wrong/in what ways did you feel supported or not supported?
 - Further, there has been mention that faculty are not pleased with the exam, mostly because they didn't know how to grade it. Multiple people mentioned the importance of faculty hearing the student feedback, possibly receiving further training on the exam.

Website: Recently, there have been complaints about the structure and function of the website. It has been proposed that it needs an overhaul and possibly needs to be moved to an outside domain. The page of the committees needs to be updated.

Redecorating the Lounge: The ESA space in the lounge is sorely in need of an update. Specifically, we are hoping to, once again, define the content of each board and host a decorating party to update the designs of both.

- Previously, we worked with 3Text to have an event to decorate. Will contact them again about having a similar event to redecorate the lounge.
- Jacob: Have this event post-Friday Forum to attract the most students?
- Change the small board into an ESA "Archive"

Friday Forum: The microphone in the lounge is not portable, resulting in Friday Forum Q&A sessions being incomprehensible. Should we propose to the department they purchase a new microphone? Further, the possibility that the Friday Forum start live streaming?

- Agreement that we'll buy the mic.
- JoJo is going to talk to the videographer fellow and social media fellow about recording and live streaming.
- Bradley suggested going to the GC for the funding/set up since the live stream would be a chance to be in charge of their "image"

Monthly Events: While our budget is not in yet, would we be interested in using some of our budget to host monthly get togethers. If so, what would the scope of those meetings be? Simply food and drinks? Should they be constructive? Should there be an activity attached?

- Multiple events were suggested. Most linking an activity (bagels and coffee during papers, pedagogy chat and chew, a stitch and bitch, a wine tasting, pub trivia) with food/wine. Mix between constructive and more relaxed events.