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| September Council Meeting Minutes | | |

Updates from Committee Members/Representatives

Colloquia Committee

* 2019 Fall Colloquium: Wednesday October 30, 2019 featuring Dr. Sarah Jane Brubaker
* Combined colloquium presented by Dept. of Sociology & Criminal Justice and Dept. of Women and Gender Studies
* Graduate Student workshop- Tentatively 10am-11am.
  + Exam time and place to be announced
  + Workshop will cover job market strategies, types of academic appointments, tenure expectations, and work-life balance
  + Please do your best to attend this workshop, the Department of Women and Gender Studies does not have graduate students, so it is important for graduate students in our department to attend this workshop
* Colloquium Talk: 2pm in the Rodney Room in Perkins Student Center
* Please do your best to attend this event as Dr. Parket is really expecting better attendance for colloquium talks from both faculty and graduate students, so want a good turnout

Faculty Reps

* Started meeting going over the new advising model. Showed how there is less pressure now on professors in our department to advise freshmen and sophomores, focusing more on juniors, seniors, and graduate students
* Welcomed the new staff
* Karen mentioned open to graduate student issues and topics and for the faculty reps to act as bridge between students and faculty
* Working on hiring for a position in social welfare, goal is to have a undergraduate concentration in social welfare but the job is for Public Sociology
* Considering trying to hire someone in Race, Theory, or Law and Society
* Faculty retreat was a positive experience. Created different committees, such as Community Building where the conference room is reserved every day at 12:00 for people to have lunch together.
* Next semester, 1 hour informal class once a month for a brown bag series
* Happy Hour coming up is at Tammy’s house, Oct. 3?
* No budget again for the fourth year
* Karen attended a retreat about money coming through, money is increasing, this is why we were able to get new computers for Amstel
* There is an interim dean currently
* 7 of 25 faculty in administrative positions
* Em and D’Janna serving as college advisors
* Dual MA in China, reach out to them and make them feel included
* Summer workshop on R went really well
* Welcome reception went really well
* Talking about shortening winter break from 5 weeks to 4 weeks, but that it might concern study abroad\
* DRC discussed new faculty and cluster hires
* Christy, speaking for CDHC hiring new staff
* Trying to make sure that what we need and want is heard, and strengthen the connection between faculty and staff
* They want MMLS to move to the fall if possible, or Conference

Webmaster:

* Use the website to keep updated on events, look at the calendar at the bottom of the website as it lists department events
* Update website with current council members serving in a position (really important to update this once elections occur)

GSG

* First meeting was very brief, still assigning people to committees
* Have a graduate college now, so part of it is having representatives that represent the college and the GSG representatives that represent each department (Eileen Young from DRC is the College of Arts and Sciences representative)
* Trying to figure out if it is fair that only some graduate student representatives get a vote with the Graduate Student Government
* Meetings for GSG are open to all graduate students
* Two different groups of student committees running at the same time (GSG and Graduate College)
* Graduate Conference meetings with the college reps are closed to the public

Conference

* Have speaker lined up- Kristopher Kohler
* He is less known, but would take less money to get him to come, and we can put this money elsewhere
* Karen emphasized that attendance needs to be better for conference
* Tentative date: Friday, April 17th
* Theme this year: Progress, and how progress for some is not progress for all
* Wide open, broad theme, that allows participation from everyone, no matter what they are doing
* Sent out a survey asking students what they want from Conference, and taking student needs into account along with faculty expectations for Conference
* Waiting on Deanna to hear back from the Marriott about the event space and date and then will send out emails about difference committees that students can serve on
* Budget this year is $2500, but want to try to stay under budget. Want to allocate the budget accordingly.

GPC

* Not allowed access to the first meeting

Comp Committee

* Feel free to share concerns with the student representatives, Graciela and Tricia.
* Purpose of the committee is to take a comprehensive look at the current comp process to see if it is disadvantaging certain groups, and offer suggestions for improvement/recommendations, and to report this information to the GPC to make plans going forward
* Had their first meeting this week, and beginning to think about the best method of data collection. Starting to ask faculty what they see as the purpose of the comp exams. Still trying to see if they can get student feedback. Also trying to get a student who was part of the comp memo to be on the committee.

Positions up for election

* Professional Development Chair
  + Work with Ann Bell on *The Advanced Series*
  + Plan other professional development events
* Webmaster
  + Take care of council website
* Secretary
  + Take notes at meetings
  + Send out reminders of when council meetings are
* Treasurer
  + Handle budget
  + Supposed to work with MMLS and Conference to handle budgets and work with Karen
  + This year all graduate RSOs get $500 to use as needed
    - Suggested that use this money for snacks at council meetings, or to help with conference funding
* Wellness Committee Chair
  + Offer wellness resources; provide information on wellness resources
  + Plan wellness events for students
* Service Committee Chair
  + Offer service events
  + Plan spring picnic
* Jan Burrows Award Committee Chair
  + Gather nominations from students for faculty who are good mentors
  + Run election of the Jan Burrows Award recipient
  + Notify winner

Other Issues

* Amstel renovation
  + Make sure that files from old computers get transferred to the new ones
  + Make qualtrics survey to gather information on what students want to see with amstel renovation and how we use the space
* New cohort would be willing to come to meetings with or without food if understand more of what the council is, etc.
  + Feel should come to ProSem and talk about council, as well as conference and MMLS
  + ProSems are Wednesdays at 10:30am in Smith 321.
* For graduate student conference, love the idea of it being in the fall as new cohort doesn’t know what to do in the fall, and that it would be a good opportunity for them to learn from other graduate students, and their research.
* Some way of supporting students that just comped or are going through comps: cake, happy hour, etc. to celebrate going through comps and just going through the process before finding out grade. Going to bring up this suggestion to the Comp Committee.