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## HGSC Meeting Notes – 1 PM -- January 22, 2019 (meeting #4)

*Present: Chris Marsh, Steven Langlois, Tyla Betke, Emily Kaliel, Dimitry Zakharov, Mckelvey Kelly, Kiera Mitchell, John Bird*

### 1. Discussion of BOYcott.

The committee was brought to a discussion by the Faculty Liaison and Social Media Director of the circumstances surrounding the issuing of the BOYcott Letter and in which ways this pertained to the committee's activities. Emphasis was made on BOYcott addressing larger systemic issues of gender, labour and power which apply department-wide and university-wide. The Faculty Liaison additionally spoke to the Jan 7, 2019 department-wide meeting and summarised discussions which occurred during this event. Discussion was had about suggestions made at the meeting regarding actions to take in response to BOYcott, specifically the addition of material to orientations and yearly workshops. Both Faculty Liaison and Social Media Directory suggest that the addition of material on privilege to orientation packages will provide people with appropriate language to address these issues.

Faculty Liaison suggests a possible solution for the HGSC is a better election protocol. Suggests the inclusion of HGSC position information and constitution in the orientation package for incoming students and an existing member of the HGSC attending orientations to explain the committee's purpose. Furthermore, election could be separate from the September welcome event.

GSA Representative questions graduate students' involvement in planning colloquium and De Brou lecture and suggests this event planning could perhaps be taken care of by the department instead of students. Faculty Liaison clarifies the De Brou lecture is mandatory. The GSA Representative reminds the committee that the HGSC constitution was recently revised so a student of any year standing can hold Vice President position which organizes the colloquium. Other GSA Representative suggests the reducing of GSA Representative positions.

Discussion then occurred regarding the Jan 7, 2019 meeting suggestion that HGSC elections move to January as opposed to September. Faculty Liaison is concerned this may exclude second year MAs or final year PhDs from participating in the HGSC. Social Media director raises concern over the election change disrupting event planning. President suggests holding the election later in September at the student-only BBQ event. Committee responds positively to this suggestion.

President then follows up on BOYcott conversation for final remarks. Social Media Director raises whether the HGSC is expected to issue an official response. It is established there is a pre-existing subcommittee for these types of responses consisting of one of the Social Directors, President, and Graduate Workshop Coordinator. Secretary-Treasurer states belief that Jan 7, 2019 meeting ended with

an expectation of statement from HGSC. Discussion occurred about the Men of the History Department letter issued in December. President clarifies that this was collaboratively written as a response to the BOYcott letter by men in the history department, which did include HGSC members. President suggests an HGSC letter would include an acknowledgement of BOYcott letter and an addressing of HGSC's planned actions in response. Committee consensus on the subcommittee drawing up a letter in this fashion and issuing it to student body.

Social Media Director begins a brief discussion on reiterating the President's official position duties. The President reiterates their understanding of position duties. Also requests that the President, going forward, be looped into all HGSC-related communication via email etc. President re-emphasizes his responsibilities for leadership and delegation. Social Media Director agrees that professional communication should not have occurred off official email chain.

Brief discussion is had on including an orientation on HGSC positions and constitution at initial HGSC meeting of every year in order to clarify duties and procedure of the committee. Social Media Director suggest including an additional document per position of practical advice from previous position holders.

The idea raised about scaling back Book Pub is discussed as Faculty Liaison and GSA Representative express inappropriateness of this suggestion. Social Director clarifies this idea originated from a meeting with the Department Head to reduce pressure on students. They also express their belief organizing the Book Pub this year will be manageable and that concrete steps have already been taken in planning it. Women committee members re-emphasize their willingness to help as long as it is not last-minute or off-position.

## 2. Book Pub Discussion

Social Director reports the event is booked for March 22, 2019 and will be MC-ed by Mark Meyers. Donation calls are currently being drafted. GSA Representative would like a clarification on where new book donations will be sourced from due to the closing of CJH. President suggests contacting the CJH, the donor from prior years, for clarification. Social Director reports new book donations will be pursued through professorial contacts.

Discussion occurred on the donation of stored used books. Faculty Liaison requests that the Social Directors plan a meeting time in which the stored used books can be removed from their current location. GSA Representative asks if it is possible to obtain a storage locker for HGSC materials. President and other GSA Representative believe this is a possibility.

Here the President checks-in about the feelings of the HGSC on the discussion of the BOYcott. Faculty Liaison suggests including the BOYcott on the final agenda of the year for a follow-up discussion. Social Media Director thanks the committee for the discussion.

## 3. Selection of new HGSC logo.

Social Media Director presents the committee with three potential logos by hired graphic designer, Danika. GSA Representative suggest a font change. Committee unanimously votes for logo #1 with a suggested font change. Committee agrees on requesting both a black and white logo as well as a dark green and white logo for different applications.

#### 4. Faculty meeting and De Brou lecture update – Reported by Faculty Liaison

*Committee is reported to on the faculty meeting from Jan 9, 2019.*

The CJH will be shutting down. Reasons for this were not discussed in the meeting. A formal announcement will be forthcoming.

New Faculty: Mark Geldoff

Sabbatical: Katie Labelle, Mathew Neufeld, John Porter

Half-Year Sabbatical: Robert Englebert, Jim Handy

Pre-Tenure Research Leave: Mo Labelle, Maurella David

Retiring: Leslie Biggs

Geoff Cunfer's term as department head is ending and will begin administrative leave next January. Summer course offerings will be reduced due to funding cuts for sessionals. PhD students will no longer be offered the opportunity to teach during these summer courses. Cunfer is also skeptical about the feasibility and difficult timeline of these courses and how this effects PhD students' work. Cunfer also reemphasized the continuation of teaching opportunities for PhD students during the term. Potential CUPE strike for janitorial, food services and administrative staff which will affect cleaning of sessional rooms, student offices etc. Faculty discussed issues regarding their stance on the strike if it should occur ie. Workplace safety, crossing picket lines, effects on student pay. The potential for students striking in support was also raised.

Erika Dyck reported that MA and PhD applications were due on Jan 15, 2019. Also, the Travel Award Scholarships application is open. The De Brou video recollections project has launched. Progress meetings need to be completed by January 31, 2019 for MA and April 31, 2019 for PhD.

Dyck also summarized the BOYcott Jan 7, 2019 meeting and related departmental discussions. Raised the suggestions of more information provided orientation packages, an ongoing workshop series on privilege and diversity and regular mental health workshops. Andrew Watson will be providing meeting minutes from Jan 7, 2019.

Simonne Horowitz reported on the Undergraduate Committee. After attending a lecture on online courses, has arranged for someone to talk at a department meeting to further develop web-based courses. Curriculum renewal plans are set for 2021. As History Matters series courses now fulfill writing requirement for College of Arts and Sciences. Indigenous content requirements are also being issued college-wide, which will affect course design in History department. History Matters courses are being developed to meet this requirement. Swan Colloquium will occur on Feb 8, 2019.

Leslie Biggs requests more people to peer-review other departments' lectures. February's research seminar is being cancelled due to many events scheduled around the same time. The Research Celebration is upcoming on January 29, 2019. Box-Top revisions are nearly complete.

The Complement Plan, as requested of the department by the college, is complete. Four positions wanted by the department have been ranked as follows: Professional Terminology in Medical History; Ancient Mediterranean in CMRS; Colonialism and East Asia; Indigenous People and Resource Conflict in Latin America.

#### *Report on the De Brou Lecture*

The lecture is booked for March 5, 2019 with doors at 6Pm and lecture at 7PM. Lecturer is Valerie Korinek. Erika Dyck and Faculty Liaison are pursuing advertising in a wider selection of venues than previous lectures. Faculty Liaison requests help tabling for book sales at the lecture. Will have posters done for the end of January.

### 5. Dealing with Conflicts of Interest – Off-the-Record

GSA Representative brought up their belief that there needs to be a procedure established for dealing with conflicts of interest on the HGSC. Suggests the implementation of *in camera* procedure to allow for confidential meetings to occur. GSA Representative also suggests the sending of an apology letter to a prior HGSC committee member. Discussion occurred about prior meetings which led GSA Representative to bring forth this motion. President raises their general discomfort with not putting meetings on-the-record. Suggests a procedure in which sensitive topics are first broached in one-on-one meetings with the President and one witness, potentially the Secretary-Treasurer. Faculty Liaison agrees and suggests their position could be part of these initial meetings as per the position's duties to receive student's anonymous concerns.

Regarding the letter of apology, discussion proceeded regarding the contents of the letter and the terms in which an apology was being extended.

To close, the committee decided to move forward the new procedure of prior consultation with the President regarding sensitive topics. GSA Representative notified the committee that they will distribute a draft of the apology letter in order to allow for editing and signing.

The President moves to adjourn at 4 PM.