

**Graduate English Association (GEA) Meeting**  
**Minutes – January 20, 2017**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room**

Members Present: Christine Anlicker (president), David St. John (vice president), Josh Privett (treasurer), Dionne Clark (secretary), Jennifer Olive (communications chair), Brittany Byrom, Mack Curry

The meeting began at 12:00 p.m.

The meeting began with a discussion on the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Next Generation PhD Grant events. Dionne informed Christine about information discussed during the recent meeting. Dionne talked about potential internship opportunities in the English Department. Christine asked board members if they received ongoing information about past and future events sponsored by the grants. Christine suggested that the GEA inform graduate students of upcoming events. Christine will talk to Dr. Kocela to bridge communication between the department and the GEA. Jennifer will place departmental information on the GEA (online) calendar.

Christine welcomed new board members, and asked board members to introduce themselves.

Josh Privett discussed the current budget and account balance. The current balance is \$993.56, and the fiscal budget was \$3200.00. Dionne asked how the GEA is funded and what the budget pays for. Josh informed the board that the GEA is funded by the University as a chartered student organization. The GEA pays for conference reimbursements (registration) and activities. Activities sponsored by the GEA should promote students' needs and interdisciplinary programmatic efforts, and positively impact the community and student body. Josh noted that money would run out for conference reimbursements this year. The next budget request is due April 2017. Josh also asked the board to consider budgets for the following events: Ex Post Facto (end of the year event) and Grad Student Advising event (with Dr. Harker). The "Welcome Social" event expenses totaled to \$182.50. The board suggested \$150 for Ex Post Facto, and \$50 (each) for the graduate student advising event and an additional social event for the spring semester. The board also discussed options for fundraising.

The board discussed past and potential social events. Jennifer asked us to consider sponsoring events that were free admission, accessible for various physical abilities, and close to MARTA stations. The board discussed the following suggestions for a February/March social event: a group hike; visiting the Beltline; a picnic at Piedmont Park (guests bringing food and games); Wii Dance; a game night. We also discussed that we would pass on these suggestions for social events and potential sites (Leon's, Twane's) to Josh Martin (social chair) for further investigation.

Christine introduced the Graduate Students Advising Graduate Students event. The event is a continuation of the former GEA president's idea to bridge the communication gap

between first year and third and fourth year graduate students. The primary goal of this series is to provide a mentoring space for students in the program. Dr. Harker will lead a session, tentatively, on February 10. The board suggested topics that would be helpful for graduate students in the areas of course work, professionalization, publications and conferences, and dissertation and prospectus preparation. The following are prospective events and dates for the advising sessions:

Comprehensive Exams (planning and taking) – February 15 – **Christine A.**

Writing/Defending Prospectus & Dissertation – March **Jennifer O.**

Conference Proposal & Abstracts – April **Josh P**

PhD Applications – Fall

The National Day on Writing is in October. David offered to lead efforts in planning activities for the event. David also inquired of the primary duties of vice president of GEA and offered to provide additional support when and where needed.

The New Voices Conference is February 3 and 4, 2017. Christine asked the board if New Voices should fall under the governance of GEA. The board discussed issues about the budget, current and past conference planning, and board representation. Christine will talk with the current president to begin the conversation about working with New Voices.

Christine asked the board to identify additional ways to increase interest and participation in the graduate student writing group. Christine discussed concerns about continuing the group due to low participation, but asked for ways to increase interest. Josh asked if creating a writing group was GEA's role, and asked if we could reduce meeting times and simply encourage graduate students to create their own groups. A tentative writing group session is scheduled for February 24 at 12:00 p.m.

Christine talked about GEA's role and presence in the Graduate Student Alliance. It was suggested the president and vice president attend the GSA meetings. The board also suggested that the president attend the departmental faculty meetings, and the vice president serve as the GEA liaison for New Voices.

Jennifer informed the board about the current communication system the GEA uses to disseminate information to graduate students. She suggested that we inquire about submitting the Kudos Report. She also suggested that we maximize usage of our current social media outlets (Facebook) before expanding to other avenues. Jennifer will also begin updating the GEA website with current updates, events and meeting minutes.

David made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Jennifer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:08 p.m.