Comparative Literature Graduate Organization

Meeting on Friday, February 15, 2013

3 p.m., 155 Hodges

Start Time: 3:12 p.m.

Attendees: Guillermo, Amy, Geoffrey, Pengyi, Jingyuan, and Agnes

Old Business:

None

New Business:

**Proceedings:**

1. The role that CLGO could play in next year's graduate student conference - Guillermo

The first presenter was Guillermo, who needed help with his conference proposal for Dr. Russo. His idea was to prepare a conference for the fall semester of 2014. He proposed that this should be a multilingual conference, which would have sessions in English, Spanish, French, and Chinese. He would need a committee with multi-lingual abilities so that abstracts could be read in the original languages. Members discussed how too often conferences are taught all in English, but with comparative literature, most know multiple languages. The conference should highlight that and would be an interesting experiment. Pengyi and Jingyuan theorized that there may be some difficulty with Chinese, as there are fewer people that know this language than the other languages. There was a hope, however, that there would be at least one panel for this language. Members discussed some further difficulties, such as the logistics that would need to go into setting up rooms and spaces for the different sessions and how to get and/or pay for a keynote speaker or speakers. Members discussed how each member should do some research and get suggestions for speakers. The financing of this conference was discussed as an issue and was revisited when discussing #5 on the agenda. Also, eventually a name for the conference will be needed, but Guillermo tabled that for later discussion.

1. Electing a new vice-president and/or any other officer deemed necessary (e.g. treasurer) – Geoffrey

Geoffrey made members aware that Brian had withdrawn from the program and that Jesse had graduated, so two positions were open, that of the treasurer and vice-president. Duties were discussed and members decided that these positions would be defined on an “as needed” basis. Pengyi was nominated to be treasurer and accepted the position after some persuasion. Guillermo volunteered to be the vice-president and was unanimously accepted. Geoffrey will be talking to Dr. Stone or Dr. Russo about how to get an account set up for CLGO, and Pengyi then could start figuring out his role.

1. Setting up a schedule of meetings – members

Agnes proposed that meetings be one time per month, and this was unanimously approved. The next meeting will be Friday, March 15, 2013 at 3 p.m. in 155 Hodges

1. The possible creation of a graduate student journal – Amy

Amy proposed the creation of a graduate student journal. Members agreed that this would be a good idea and should be an online journal. Two suggestions were made for a first edition. One was that the 2014 conference papers would make up the first issue. The second was that the first issue feature graduate student writing just from universities in Louisiana, starting small. Both ideas were liked, and members unanimously agreed to the creation of the journal at an unspecified future date. Amy will be researching how to get this journal started, possible financing options, and the total cost of creating this kind of publication. She will report back with what she has found at the next meeting.

5) Fundraising (e.g. book sales, etc.), dues, etc - used for bringing guest lecturers, providing a small stipend for conference trips (on a competitive basis), trips that CLGO may want to take

(academically oriented, of course), etc. – treasurer

Many ideas were discussed on how the organization could generate funds. One was from Pengyi, which was allowing advertising in the journal. Another idea was to have an event, like a poetry reading, but this was not greeted enthusiastically. Agnes suggested something like workshops, where people pay to attend these workshops. The workshops would include activities such as calligraphy, Chinese theater, Latin or ballroom dancing, etc. This idea was greeted with great enthusiasm. Two venues were suggested. One was the cultural center, but the problem with that venue was that it would cost money. Another was the Greek theater. The workshops would need to be at least one hour long so that participants would feel that their money was well spent. Amy suggested a book sale, but few people had books with which they were willing to part, so the idea did not go further. Another idea was a food fair, featuring ethnic foods, but this was decided against, as it might prove too stereotypical. Paying dues was suggested, but members felt that this would not generate enough capital in order to justify it. Members were tasked with bringing one idea for fundraising to the next meeting.

1. Possible creation of peer mentoring for in-coming graduate students (both majors and minors) – members

Instead of creating a mentoring program, members discussed the possibility of having more social events that would allow more contact between comparative literature students. Also, new students usually attend the first department meeting, which allows them to meet other students in the program. Thus, there would be no need for a mentoring program, according to members, if there were more social events.

1. Any other business concerning the association, program, social gatherings, etc. – members

Guillermo made members aware that the International Day of the Book was coming up in April. This is especially important in the Spanish community, as it celebrates Cervantes. Guillermo suggested that CLGO members help out with this event as a part of creating positive inter-departmental relations.

1. Good of the order

Agnes’ official title was decided. Her position will henceforth be called “Ambassador of Social and Cultural Events.” Also, Agnes and Guillermo will create a Facebook page for CLGO. Amy will be creating a website for CLGO, and a link will be included on the Facebook page. The website will have the meeting minutes, announcements, a link to the first edition of the journal when this is realized, and whatever else is deemed important enough to be on the page.

Future Business:

Everybody thinks of a way to get money and comes with an idea at the next meeting. Maybe everyone brings a snack next time.

**Announcements:**

On March 7, 2013, there will be the program review from 3-5 p.m. Students may give their input around 4 p.m. Students are encouraged to go and talk to the folks reviewing. See Dr. Leupin for details.

Minutes submitted by: Amy Catania

Signature of secretary: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of president: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

End time: 3:56 p.m.

A signed version of this document will be included in the official binder for CLGO.