Comparative Literature Graduate Organization

Meeting on Friday, March 15, 2013

3 p.m., 155 Hodges

Start Time: 3:08 (had to get door unlocked)

Attendees: Telba, Guillermo, Agnes, Pengyi, Geoffrey, Jinyuan, Amy

Old Business:

1. Amy read the meeting minutes form 2/15/13.
2. Fundraising ideas will be presented via the decision from the previous meeting.

New Business:

**Proceedings:**

1. Welcome any new attendees – all

Telba was welcomed, as well as the new addition that she will soon add to her family.

1. Debrief on how the program review went – all

Most members thought that the program review went well. Telba pointed out that we really need to keep attendance up in classes, even if we do not need a class. The number of students needed to keep a class differs, depending on a variety of factors, so when we get those e-mails every semester for classes with too few students enrolled, we need to sign up for those classes. Members expressed interest in knowing how the meeting with the professional staff went. Overall, though, members expressed a kind of curiosity in the process, thinking it a bit strange. All agreed, though, that the solidarity among students was good. Members discussed what would happen if the program were cancelled, and Geoffrey informed us that currently enrolled student would be able to finish, as this is what happened when the program was briefly cancelled before.

1. Discuss new students admitted

Amy had e-mailed Kristina and Elizabeth. Amy shared Kristina’s research interests, including her thesis that she did on Frieda Kahlo’s self-portrait and the grotesque. Other information, such as from whence she hailed (originally Southern California, but now from Utah), was imparted as well.

1. Update on the Graduate Student Conference Proposal – Guillermo

Guillermo shared Dr. Russo’s e-mail. He told the group that a topic was needed first. So, a committee should be formed for the topic. He presented the two people whom Dr. Russo suggested for keynote speakers - Lawrence Buell (Eco-Criticism) or Rob Rombout (Lit & Film). The conference could have a theoretical approach and could be cross-disciplinary with other media-oriented programs, such as film studies or communication studies. Once the committee decides on the topic, the idea will be presented. Members suggested that the committee meet during CLGO, as committee members belong to both groups. CLGO and the committee can decide if the conference should be a regional conference for the American Literary Scholars, Critics, and Writers (ALSCW). One advantage discussed was the participants could put conference papers on the ALSCW website if the conference involves members of ALSCW. A budget will have to be estimated, including plane fair, the reception, lodgings, etc. Also, a member/members from the LSU faculty should be invited to give a lecture. Suggestions included film studies, photography, and communication studies as part of an interdisciplinary approach. Members agreed that they wanted to foster greater inter-departmental relationships

1. Update on a CLGO journal – free template available (pros/cons) – Amy

Amy presented information on a free website that provides templates for open access journals. It does, however, have specialized software that must be downloaded, but the templates are free. The layout is not pretty. However, the journals that look better tended to be much higher priced, ranging from $200-$2000 for maintaining a web-based journal for the year. Many scientific journals, as well as academic journals, seem to be moving more toward open-access publications, so members considered this to be a good move. Amy will do more research to see if she can find a better publisher that might have a better template.

1. Fundraising – share ideas; decide on what to do; clear the event with Campus Life – all

Telba suggested a movie night, but other members warned that we could not charge for the movie. The charge has to be for the food or the “event.” The movie must be incidental, as this gets into copyright infringement. As a corollary to this idea, Agnes suggested that we do something like “French Lights” with movies from different countries (like France and China), but on the same theme. Amy suggested that food from the country might be served as part of the process, but we would need sponsors. Guillermo pointed out that Agnes’ idea would be more for raising awareness of program than for actual fundraising, as not many students would attend if past experience proved the norm. Telba, also, presented the idea of a raffle, where we would get different local vendors to donate products, and we could sell raffle tickets. Members discussed how many of these ideas, although good, might not raise much money. Amy and Telba both pointed out that since we do not have any money right now, something is better than nothing. Agnes briefly mentioned a carwash, but this was not discussed much. Amy still liked the idea of booths that Agnes brought up during the previous meeting. Members considered the idea and thought it would be good for a second fundraiser once the group had established itself somewhat. Amy, also, pointed out that any activity would need to be cleared with campus life, especially if we wanted to do it outside of Hodges. Pengyi shared that he cut men’s hair. He informed the group that Chinese men had difficulties in cutting their hair and that he could do haircuts as a fundraiser, charging $5-$10, depending on the length of the hair. This was met with enthusiasm, but further research needed to be done. Amy suggested having some kind of simple, small paraphernalia (e.g. hats, key chains, etc.) that could be sold. It would help to get word out about the organization, a kind of name recognition campaign. Once we earned money, we discussed what we would like to do with it, such as providing a mini-grant to a deserving student, since the graduate student office does not support students going to many of the conferences that we might attend. Also, getting specific speakers would be a good use of the money.

Members agreed that we needed to participate in Club Awareness Day.

1. Officer training – Campus Life requirement; advisor paperwork for Campus Life – Geoffrey

Guillermo informed the officers that two officers would need to do the training online for the group. Guillermo and Geoffrey were the best choices for this and agreed to do the training. Geoffrey will be touching base with Dr. Stone soon about the advisor’s paperwork. Amy encouraged everyone to check out the campus life site. She asked them to look over the page and make suggestions for changes, especially with regard to the mission statement.

1. Possible upcoming social events (e.g. creative workshops, social gatherings, etc.) – Agnes

(Telba had to leave at this point.) Agnes suggested that members should attend “From Belizaire to Beasts: Louisiana Folklife and Filmmaking,” so that CLGO would be represented. Agnes, also, updated members on the Creative Workshop she was hoping to get up and running. The owner of bar agreed to have the event there, but decided to move this Sunday due to financial problems. Agnes is waiting for the new owner to move in so that she can approach the owner about doing the workshop. So, the workshop will be postponed, possibly until next month. She suggested that we might want to move the workshop to the Chimes or to a similar venue, but we would have to make a reservation, as the Chimes gets very busy on some days. Members agreed that Friday night would still be the best night to have the workshop. Members tentatively suggested and agreed upon the 1st Friday after spring break.

1. Good of the Order

The next meeting will be on April 19, 2013 at the same time and in the same place.

Future Business:

**Announcements:**

The St. Patrick’s Day Parade will be tomorrow at 10 o’clock in downtown Baton Rouge.

Minutes submitted by: Amy Catania

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

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

End time: 4:02 p.m.

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