

SOC Meeting  
Gold Room – JC  
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
September 14, 2007

SOC Co- Chair - Rob Gehl  
SOC Co- Chair – Leah Perry  
SOC Secretary – Nayantara Sheoran  
SOC Treasurer – Sara Mitcho

Next SOC Meeting – September 27, 2007 (To finalize 2008 conference topic)  
Final SOC Meeting – November 29, 2007

Meeting Minutes (In Brief)  
Members in Attendance - 16

A) Committee Memberships

B) Updates on 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Cultural Studies Graduate Student Conference – The politics of cultural programming. (Posters/Budget/Reading Groups/Attendance).  
Point of contact – Vickie Watts

C) 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Graduate Student Conference – Topic proposals requested by September 27 deadline.  
Point of contact – Rob Gehl and/or Leah Perry

D) Spring 2008 Double Part Series on the role of the university  
Point of contact – Randall Cohn

E) Spring 2008 Speaker  
Point of contact – Rachel Martin

F) Graduate Students Rights Committee  
Point of contact – Michael Lecker

G) Philosophy certification proposal

H) Graduate student lounge printer

Members in Attendance

1. Lisa Andion
2. Victoria Watts
3. Nayantara (Tara) Sheoran
4. Leah Perry
5. Rachel Martin
6. David Arditi
7. Randall Cohn
8. Sara Mitcho
9. John M. Woolsey
10. Dava Simpson
11. Michael Lecker
12. Cecilia Uy-Tioco
13. Sara Sweetman
14. Jason Morris
15. Queteck? (Since you did not sign up, I did not get the right spelling name down. Sorry)
16. Robert Gehl

## Meeting Minutes (In Detail)

### A) Committee Memberships

- Admissions Committee (2)
  - (i) Sean Andrew
  - (ii) Sara Sweetman
- Colloquium Committee (2)
  - (i) John Woolsey
  - (ii) David Ardit
- Faculty Matters (1)
  - (i) Lisa Andion
- Program Planning (2)
  - (i) Randall Cohn
  - (ii) Rachel Martin
- Committee of the Whole (2)
  - (i) Cecilia Uy-Tioco
  - (ii) Dava Simpson
- Student Matters (1)
  - (i) Jarrod Waetjen

For a detailed description and the duties attached to each of these membership position, please look at the student handbook. This applies to the newly elected members and also the CS student body.

### B) Updates on 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Cultural Studies Graduate Student Conference – The politics of cultural programming.

- Posters – Vickie has the posters in the print shop. She will be emailing people requesting them to plaster them across campus. Also she will be emailing people with the pdf version of the poster, so we can all share them with the various list-serves.
- Budget – We are under budget by \$50.00. This covers the food, cost of publicity, honorarium, and also one student presenters funding request.
- Reading Groups and moderators for panels – Vickie asked for volunteers for a reading group to enable people to read the papers beforehand and to generate questions for a healthy discussion on the day of the conference. Also, one of the members of each of these groups gets to moderate the panel they read for.
  - Panel I – Transgender athletes, burning man festival, and NASCAR racing
    - Michael
    - Randall
    - Rachel
  - Panel II – General topics associated with city spaces
    - Lisa
    - David
  - Panel III – General topics associated with Museums
    - Dava
    - John

If anybody else is interested in reading papers for this conference, please email Vickie Watts.

- Volunteers – There will be last minute errands to run and things to be taken care of – technical and non-technical issues will need to be addressed. If you can volunteer for a particular time slot or for the entire day, please email Vickie Watts.
- Attendance – We need to show support and show up for at least two of the panels. There will be free food and fodder for your intellect. Do not miss this opportunity. Also mention this (repeatedly) to your faculty members, because we need to see a faculty presence at our first annual student conference.

C) 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cultural Studies Graduate Student Conference – Proposals requested.

- Proposed Date of Conference – Fall 2008
- Proposals Request  
This request goes out to all members of the CS community, to propose a topic of their interest for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Graduate Student Conference. We would like to announce this topic on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007 to generate a year long “buzz”. You can put this forth in a five page proposal or one paragraph long idea. If it grips the imagination of your fellow CS’s then you’ll have the honor of spearheading this endeavor (with the generous help of your SOC committee members).
- Deadline for proposals – September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007 – 5:30 p.m.
- Submit proposals via email to Rob Gehl and/or Leah Perry or bring them to the meeting.
- Decision for Conference topic – Open meeting at 5:30 p.m. Presentation of proposed topics and voting for the topic of choice.

D) Spring 2008 Double Part Series on the role of the university

Randall, John, Sara are in the process of organizing a two part event for the Spring 2008 semester. It may or may not be part of the colloquium series; however, they will be emailing you for suggestions for names of professors at GMU who would be viable contributors to this dialog.

The two discussions they wish to initiate for the Spring semester cover broadly the issues of disciplinarity and inter-disciplinarity work in the academic university.

E) Spring 2008 Speaker

For our spring event we would like to bring a “BIG NAME” speaker to our conference. Ideally, the speaker will be involved with race studies in some capacity in the academic environment.

Please look for an email from Rachel asking for names or feel free to email her with suggestions. Also mention this to faculty members, who might be able to assist us in bringing this academic to our campus.

Eventually, we will also be looking for co-sponsors for this event. If you would like to be involved with this project, in any capacity, please email Rachel Martin.

F) Graduate Students Rights Committee

We are all graduate students working on campus – in some capacity or another. And at one point or another we've come to the realization, we are not being treated fairly and have no rights at all. The SOC has proposed the creation of a committee that takes up these concerns, and hopefully make a change in the lives of Graduate workers on GMU campus.

We don't believe this a year long project, rather understand this could be a decade long struggle. However, we are committed and would like the CS community to gather around this project.

Some of the concerns/grievances we would like to be addressed (eventually) is the lack of health care for graduate workers, the pay scale, and the teaching credit burden.

However, before any concrete measures are taken, the GSRC will do research on the laws and rights as they exist and update us on November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007 meeting.

Lisa, Sara, Rob, Randall, David are the key members of the committee, with Michael Lecker as the chair. I really hope Michael likes activism, 'cause this here is a crash course in activism. If anybody is interested in helping with their initial research or has questions, feel free to contact Michael.

We look forward to the report on November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

G) Philosophy certification proposal

A discussion was generated by Randall about the possibility of a Graduate certificate in Philosophy (similar to the women's studies certification program). Randall will email Fan and we should expect to hear from one them shortly on any progress reports.

H) Graduate student lounge printer

Because we have to pay for this....and we have no money....the unanimous decision was to use the printer based on the honor system. If you ever print more than 10 pages, email the CS community to let them know...just kidding. Please be prudent in your use, and use it only in case of extreme emergencies.

If you have additional questions about this, email Rob and/or Leah.