

# GSSA Meeting

[2016-01-21] – [LBC 203]

- I. Call to Order: **6:37**
- II. Approval of Minutes: **Motion to approve. Seconded. Minutes are approved.**
- III. Guest Speakers

I. Eric Wedig, Chief Bibliographer for the Social Sciences **Thanks for letting us come talk to you guys. One of the things that I do is Chief Bibliographer, but I'm also liaison to the Economics department, the School of Social Work, Jewish Studies, and Ancient and Medieval history. I want to share some news about the library and the move of materials there. First of all, we have a new Dean of Library, David Banush, who came to us from Brown University. He is very interested in a lot of changes and updates in services. Many folks have asked about access to the 5th and 6th floors. We are just about ready to open those up, we thought today we would be approved for the opening but we had some last minute changes. There will be over 200 more study spaces on those floors - carrel space and more. It's a fabulous space, the view of the city is amazing. Monday is when I'm saying it will probably will open. Media, music, and new microforms area will be all in one place on the sixth floor. It will be much more expansive and user friendly, and technologies will be improved gradually. All the art and architecture books will be on the sixth floor, as well as the rare book collection and two classrooms. The fifth floor will contain all of our US government publications, which had been off-site since Katrina, as well as psychology collections. The work will be ongoing for the next few months and we hope to have money to continue doing more work to improve the building, particularly for grad students. I just wanted to provide that technical update.**

II. Raquel Horlick, Research & Instruction Librarian for the Sciences: **I wanted to share with you some of the services that we already offer specifically for grad students. I have a hand out with some of the things that we do for you. I also want to hear what you guys would like to see that the library doesn't currently offer. We have a lot of workshops happening this semester in addition to those that we typically offer on online citation managers. We're also doing a workshop on text analysis, finding your impact, DMP tool, and in collaboration with Office of Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property, we'll be doing a workshop on patents. We also offer a scan and deliver service for grad students and faculty - if there's a book chapter or part of a text you want to have but you don't want to come to the library, you can submit a request on Inter Library Loan (ILL) and we will scan it and send it to you. Then there's ILL - you should all take advantage of that. If you need something even faster, you can also borrow from any of the other Louisiana libraries - UNO, Loyola, etc.. Just come talk to us, tell us you're a grad student, and we will give you a card. We have study carrels for grad students, as well. If you don't have a lab or space, this is a great place to go and set up, keep your books. We can also help with copyrights, publishers, understanding your rights and the rights of the publisher, etc.. Just a couple of highlights. Feel free to email us and tell us your thoughts and opinions. Is there anything you all would like to see? Any questions?**

**Q: What is the status of graduate students sharing carrels, the possibility of allowing them to sign a contract to share the carrel? A: Sounds like a great idea! We will look into it. Q: Is there a list of the workshops online? A: Absolutely, on the main page there is a list of events. I can email you something as well. Some are still in the works, like the patent workshop. I might do another workshop on locating grants. Q: Any possibility you guys could extend hours for graduate students on the weekend? A: Awesome idea. We will look into it. Q: Is there a way that Tulane can purchase a book that might be relevant to our area/department? A: Yes, always. On the website, look for "suggest a purchase". The list of subject liaisons, any bibliographers, people in collection/development, will take requests from grad students and the majority of the time they are approved if they're a useful monograph, or a work that we know will**

continue to be used. Please get in touch with us. **Q: How do you get a carrell if the list is full? A: The new study areas on the fifth and sixth floors will be open space, unassigned, but we will put that on the list. We know we need new carrells and hope to accommodate that in future renovations. Q: There's no designated space where departments can mingle and meet. Seems like the library would be a good place. A: Yes, the library is the logical place. Our new dean helped put some places in like that at Brown relatively recently, so that is something he is very interested in and it will become a reality when we get the money to do it. These are things we're interested in and it's great to hear you guys want the same things.**

**The Dean is interested in forming an advisory group of graduate students for the library that will meet regularly with administrators to represent grad student population. We want to make sure we are meeting your needs and are prioritizing the things you want to happen. If you're interested, write down your name and email. Dean also wants to invite everyone to a public talk on Thursday, March 10, featuring a speaker from CNI In LBC 203. Also, graduate student open house - 5th floor of library, Friday 1/29. We'll have king cake! Good opportunity to get involved, share your thoughts, hear about services we offer, and then eat food!**

IV. Advisor Reports: **None**

V. Officer Reports

I. President – Jacobs Jordan ([jjordan2@tulane.edu](mailto:jjordan2@tulane.edu))

- A. Elections April 7th - **2nd to last meeting of the year. If you're interested contact one of us and let us know. We can answer questions! Reach out to any one of us and we will tell you what the position entails, time requirement, etc.**
- B. Upcoming Guest Speakers:
  - a. Briana Mohan, Senior Academic & Career Advisor, Office Of Graduate And Postdoctoral Studies– Feb 11<sup>th</sup> meeting
  - b. Meredith Smith, Title IX coordinator, Feb 11th meeting. **She confirmed today, we'll hear about Title IX at Tulane. Come with any questions if you have any.**
  - c. **Other possibilities - someone from CAPS, OneWave, Hillel, etc. Let me know if you have any suggestions or would like to set up a workshop. Come speak to us after this meeting or shoot me an email.**
- C. VPhD: **Updated numbers since we pay in part for this. We have essentially doubled our usage for this over the past year. People are definitely aware of it, getting familiar with it, and using it. It's a great resource for alternative career pathways.**
  - i. July – Dec
    - 1. 119 users, 115 accessed website, 67 accessed PhD Career Finder content( 137 Visits)
  - ii. Last Year (Jul – Dec)
    - 1. 64 users, 60 accessed the VPhD website, 30 accessed PhD Career Finder content ( 43 visits)
- D. Orgsync issues: **In the last week, I've gotten emails from a lot of people about issues on Orgsync. Let me know if you have not heard back from me. If you're trying to register an event and you can't, shoot me an email. If you're not in there at all you need to go to the Orgsync portal and sign up under GSSA. The reason for having to do this is because we had a lot of people registering events inaccurately. Contact any member of the e-board if you have any question. You should all be able to set up an event on Orgsync. Reminder that everyone who is a GSSA member needs to be TIPS trained. If you're trying to plan an event with alcohol, you must have a sober event manager. We're working on getting out dates for TIPS trainings for the rest of the semester, including one just for graduate students. Registration is good for three years. You can go to TheWell website and look up the list of the registered TIPS trained person to see if you're registered, look up your department, etc. IF you're not orgsync**

**trained, come see me after the meeting.**

II. Vice President - Nicholas Fears ([nfears@tulane.edu](mailto:nfears@tulane.edu)) **Spring is our big semester events-wise.**

- a. GSSA Trivia Nights – Bruno’s Tavern - February 18<sup>th</sup>, March 17<sup>th</sup>, April 14<sup>th</sup>, May 19<sup>th</sup> - \$4,000 **Requesting for May trivia night so the next VP doesn’t have to make the request right after they take the position**
- b. GSSA Colloquium – March 1<sup>st</sup>, March 29<sup>th</sup>, April 26<sup>th</sup> - \$1000 **Scheduled them for 2 hours this year. We won’t spend the total \$1000, but we ask for the round number in case of any incidentals.**
- c. GSSA Bowling Night – Rock ‘N’ Bowl – February 25<sup>th</sup> - \$3500 **Graduate student bowling night. Looking at 2/25 from 6-8:30. Basically \$20 a head, we have room for 150 people. Food, beer, wine...not sure if there’s an open bar or not.**
- d. GSSA Crawfish Boil – Mr. Mudbug – April 22<sup>nd</sup> - \$15,000 **This is the largest event that GSSA does, quoted price is for 400 people with 5 lbs. of crawfish per person. This is what we have ordered in the past. Also includes 6 kegs of beer, parking spaces, putting up fencing, etc.**

Total - \$23,500 **Don’t usually reach this level but that’s a safe estimate**

**Ali Enami: Personally, I think there is a lot of waste going on. People don’t care since they get it free. I have a problem with wasting food and when it’s that much of it, because it’s all subsidized, that’s the part. I’m not sure how much of the \$15,000 goes to the crawfish... maybe introducing a fee would make people waste less.**

**Jacobs: Just a point, we usually eat all of the crawfish. Last year we had the huge downpour, that has never happened before. All of the sides are always gone. If the kegs are still full we do not get charged for them.**

**Ali: I’m talking about the food that is left on the table. The whole point is that there is waste there. People don’t think about it since they don’t pay for it.**

**Q: What is the difference between this event and others that provide free food?**

**A: This is the event where I saw the most waste. If I’d seen other events with similar levels of waste I would view them negatively as well.**

**Q: Perhaps we could make posters and do a bit of event outreach, make it an awareness kind of thing? As a group, we could be very conscious of this and use this as information gathering year. Is this event really wasteful? What kind of policy changes would make this better in the future? Is there room for that in the budget? A: Yes, some cash in operating supplies.**

**Q: Can we put a blurb in the email that goes out to advertise the event? A: Yes.**

**Move to fund all events. Seconded. One opposed. Motion passes.**

**Talk to someone on the exec board if you have ideas about making it less wasteful. This is a great year to do some information gathering and see if people are throwing away food that we’re paying for. Follow up with us prior to the crawfish boil if you’re interested in that and we can work on it.**

III. Treasurer – Jordan Adams ([jadams15@tulane.edu](mailto:jadams15@tulane.edu))

- A. Off-campus events at private residences **We talked about this at the December meeting. When I dealt with Student Programs with that around that time, I was told that because we're grad students, as long as there's no alcohol, we can have events at private residents. Come the new year, they've changed their minds. I'm still working to get the specifics, to see if there is any way that we can get around it. I'm in the middle of a back and forth with student programs, but for now I'm going to advise you as treasurer to put a moratorium for requesting money for off campus events. It's been very very convoluted dealing with this. If you MUST have some kind of specific event off campus, come talk to me BEFORE you apply for funding. I am working on it tirelessly. Any questions? No.**
- B. SOC Art Curation Meeting **Most of you have come to see me in the SOC in the basement - one of the people who works down there is trying to get student art up on the walls in the SOC and other parts of the LBC. Right now she is working with someone from the Art Department, someone in the LBC, and some undergraduates. She asked me to put it out there to grad students - you don't have to be in the art department! If you want to sit in on the first meeting, which is this coming Tuesday, shoot me an email. If you know anyone interested outside of GSSA, tell them to contact me and we can get them the info.**

C. Event Requests

Event Name	Department	Date	Requested
Anthropology Colloquium Reception	Anthropology	3/31/16	\$100.00
Art History Dinner	Art History	3/2/16	\$250.00
EENS January Meeting	Earth & Environmental Sciences	1/27/16	\$175.00
Stats Lunch	Ecology & Evolutionary Biology	1/28/16	\$20.00
Stats Lunch	Ecology & Evolutionary Biology	2/4/16	\$20.00
Stats Lunch	Ecology & Evolutionary Biology	2/11/16	\$20.00
Economics Graduate Student Monthly Meeting	Economics	2/19/16	\$120.00
Economics Graduate Student Monthly Meeting	Economics	3/18/16	\$120.00
Economics Graduate Student Monthly Meeting	Economics	4/15/16	\$120.00
ADEEFF Meeting	French/Italian	2/26/16	\$60.00
ADEEFF Meeting	French/Italian	4/1/16	\$60.00
ADEEFF Meeting	French/Italian	4/29/16	\$120.00
ADEEFF Spring Mixer	French/Italian	3/5/16	\$200.00

**Motion to vote on event funding as a slate. Seconded. Motion approved. Motion to vote on the slate. Seconded. Motion passes.**

D. Speaker Requests

Speaker	Department	Date	Amount
Ning Bao	Physics	3/11/16	\$870.00

**Motion to vote. Seconded. Motion to approve. Seconded. Motion passes.**

II. Secretary – Abigail Nixon ([anixon1@tulane.edu](mailto:anixon1@tulane.edu))

## VI. New Business

**I. Kate Elfer - This is for SSE - we have several outreach events this semester that are looking for graduate students, including one robotics competition. We will have 57 teams of 15 students each that will fill up the convention center. If you're STEM related, we might put you onto working with the robots and making sure they are functional. If not, we always need people to be scorekeepers, referees, manage the students and younger volunteers, there are a bunch of different roles that will need to be filled. We're also looking for volunteers for the Zephyrs STEM day. Not much info, but there will be 10-15,000 kids there. That will be April 18th, with more information to come. This is the first time we're doing it.**

## VII. Old Business

## VIII. Announcements

### I. Grad & Postdoc Donut Days

February 11<sup>th</sup> 9:00 – 10:30

March 24<sup>th</sup> 9:00 – 10:30

April 14<sup>th</sup> 9:00 – 10:30

### II. Career Workshops **All on Wednesdays. Will be emailed out.**

- Jan 27, CV writing
- Feb 3, Interview Preparation Skills
- Feb 17, Careers in US for International Students
- Feb 24, Resumes and cover letters for non-academic positions
- Mar 2, Career Exploration Beyond Academia
- Mar 9 & 16, 2-Hour job search Part I
- Mar 30, Careers in Academia
- Mar 30, Two hour job search part II
- Apr 6, Managing stress, anxiety and frustration during job search
- April 13, Teaching and research statements
- April 20, Academic Cover Letters

## Committee reports?

**Kate Elfer: Grad Council - majority of the discussion was about how to work out for Affordable Care Act purposes, the role of our position as graduate students. We meet all the requirements for ACA coverage and it is also able to be subsidized by our departments, so we get it for lower than a sticker price. We should not be classified by employees of the institution for insurance purposes, since we'd need to be transferred to the employee plan since it is \$700/month.**

**Ali Enami: Trying to define what is considered working for the department versus working towards dissertation. The problem is having a professor who makes you work 60 or 80 hours, instead of hiring a post-doc or fellow. That was the issue. I personally think the best way of going about this is to use publications as an indicator for how much is "working" vs. dissertation work, e.g. ordering of names on publications. We need some sort of way to discern whether you are doing work or working on your dissertation. That is something they are thinking about talking about throughout the semester, it has not been decided on yet.**

**Faculty Award - are we able to nominate a professor of practice? A: Yes! Also, if anyone is interested in being on the committee for that, email [jjordan2@tulane.edu](mailto:jjordan2@tulane.edu). Jacobs will send out reminder emails for nominations and then a Doodle poll will go out to anyone who has contacted me about being on the committee. It will be a one time meeting, lasting from half an hour to an hour and a half.**

IX. Adjournment: **7:40**