**GEA Meeting**

**Friday, December 1, 2016 JHB 719, from 4:30-5:30pm**

1. **Call to Order at 4:40pm (4:30 U of T time)**

Stephanie Redekop, Sean McPhail, Olivia Pellegrino, Emily Halliwell-Macdonald, Mitchell Gunn

1. **Approval of Agenda --** seconded by Olivia
2. **Approval of Minutes from 22 September 2017 --** seconded by everyone
3. **General Announcements**
4. Holiday party will follow meeting at 6:00pm at the Duke of York
5. **Reports**

**a) Vice President’s Report :**

Welcome, all. Thank you for making the time to attend today’s meeting and to be involved with the GEA during this busy time of year. Thanks especially to all of the volunteers who have been involved throughout this semester, and to the other members of the exec, Sean McPhail and Meg Desmond, and to Owen Kane, for all of your hard work and for helping to prepare for today’s meeting and holiday party. We are currently looking for one more member to join this year’s GEA Executive, and are hoping that someone in attendance today is interested in serving as GEA President until elections in April.
This semester, the GEA has continued to make relationships between students and faculty members a priority. The Student-Faculty Relations committee hosted a very successful Research Round Table. The GEA is also working with Paul Stevens and Cannon Schmitt to support monthly coffee hours in this room, to give students a chance to speak with graduate administrators in a casual setting. A number of the department’s Reading Groups have also hosted coffee hours in conjunction with the GEA throughout the term.
As I understand, the Conference Committee is also hard at work in planning for this year’s Graduate Student Conference. Members of the GEA have also participated in several Departmental meetings this term, including the Graduate English Council, and will be attending the UTGSU Meeting next week. Looking ahead, the Department is involved in several job searches, about which we will share more information once we have it. A number of exciting events will also take place early next term, including the Cook the Books Potluck and a Brown Bag Lunch with Christopher Warley. Stay tuned!
That’s all I’ll say for now, other than one final thank you, and that I hope to see you at tonight’s holiday party.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

1) Finances are in good shape so far this year. As you will see from the numbers below, even if we overspend at tonight's holiday party, we are below what we had anticipated spending by this point in the term:

Event: Budget: Actual:

September GEA drop-in reception: $100 $0

Softball game: $150 $112.96

Fall pub night: $150 $132.83

Reading groups: $200 $52.20

GEA Holiday Party $475 ~$550 (anticipated)
TOTAL: $1075 $847.99

Difference: $227.01 (of which, $147.80 is leftover

reading group allocation. This leaves us **79.29** **under budget**).

2) The Research Roundtable was a great success. It was a lot of fun working with the SSR committee to plan the event, and we are currently working on our replacement for Cook the Books. We've confirmed that we will be doing a trivia event which possibly retains the potluck element of the original (and thus the name). It is tentatively scheduled for March 9, but may change thanks to yours truly.

3) The GSU Head Grant application has been submitted. We should get the first cheque sometime this month.

4) Conference Committee has also submitted their GSU funding application. This month I will be managing its other applications: one to the department, and one to SGS.

**c) Secretary’s Report** – nothing to report at this time

**d) GSU Report** – nothing to report at this time

e) **CUPE Stewards’ Report(s)**

Currently in bargaining year, in midst of bargaining, unit 3 has come to tentative agreement that must be ratified. They have more in terms of health care, semester wide courses (est 8% increase and 2% in subsequent years until bargaining happens again). Won’t know results until tonight but looks like they’ll probably take it. The big date to keep in mind is Dec5—big CUPE meeting College and St. George location 5-7pm. This is the vote for should we go to strike, important to get as much attendance as possible. Voting in strike vote means voting to have the ability to strike, give bargaining team more to bargain with with the university, stronger the bargaining power is and the less likely it is that we will strike. Stronger we are at the table the better a deal we will get and more likely it will be accepted.

2020 vision campaign going: idea is that by 2020 our funding will be up to 20,000 and that unit 1 teachers of half year courses will be 10,000 and it’s 7,600 now. Significant rise. Also better mental health care, more detailed platform on CUPE 3902 website goes into more detail. But in general better working conditions for power in terms of sexual assault and all those kind of harassment issues. And health care is a big one—trying to get more healthcare money, up the HSTP (healthcare spending top-up plan).

After the polls CUPE goes back to the table and we vote again about if we like or don’t like the agreement/what the University is offering.

**f) Equity Representatives Report -- absent**

**g) MA and MCRW Reports –** MACRWfreaking out over SSHRC applications and end of semester woes but otherwise things are going well.

**h) PhD 1 Report** – absent

1. **PhD 2 Report** – absent

**j) PhD 3 Report** – we are all alive, fields are done, entire month of November is a blur.

**k) ABD Report** – “it’s great fam” – Sean

1. **New Business:**
2. We are seeking a new president
3. Volunteer(s) wanted to organize Brown Bag lunch for January with Christopher Warley

Meg and Stephanie

1. **Adjournment** -- seconded by Sean.