

GEOC Steering Committee
Friday, October 23, 2009
3pm, Conference Room

Carissa, Jason, Phoebe, Mark, Lisa, Nate, Debbie, Kate, later Bayley

- I. Updates 3:00 – 3:25
- a. Treasury and Budget (Carissa) We are doing fine.
 - b. Stewards (Phoebe) Also fine. The first meeting had 2 Stewards and 3 Steering. This should be higher when the double meetings begin next time around. Organizing time was scheduled with Mark.
 - c. Website and Newsletter (Lisa) We are staying with Yahoo. There is a quarterly payment and Jen is paying it off with her credit card. She should be consulted to ensure that she is getting paid back. Yahoo does not give full control but Lisa can work around it. Now up is a bare sample of what the page will look like. Carissa has corrections in her email. Jason has also sent information to Lisa. It is a two column set-up that will be turned into PDFs for future mailings. Articles should be between 200-250 words for a full column. This upcoming week is the deadline for information to be posted to the website.
 - d. Grievances (Nate) A member of the math department had not had tuition taken care of, but it is corrected now. Rachel should also have been taken care of. Everyone that has talked to Nate should have had his or her problems resolved. Grievances have been slowing slightly. We have not yet looked into those in Com that have not received their raises, but this will be taken care of shortly.
 - e. SEVIS (Jason) From the GMM we had hoped to garner interest but did not come to fruition. Jason is opened to ideas to getting members involved. Mark suggested face-to-face organizing and identifying members that would have a personal interest in it. Jason asked if an email would be a good idea and Carissa stated that it was. Jason will craft the email, including how committed people will be and what the end goal is. Jason would like to bring this up to the Board of Governors next week. Carissa suggested sending an email to all international students to ask them to attend this meeting. Students should email Jason or Mark to be on the committee but all are welcome to participate in the meeting.
 - f. Database (Mark) The only critical piece of info Mark is missing is our members' office numbers and the buildings they are in from Carol. Next week the organizing sheets should be ready to go. Carissa stated that this should be followed up with a FOIA and Mark believes it is covered in the contract.
 - g. OEP (Carissa) It went well, and a certain amount of sensitivity will be taken in regard to this matter. As a note, the university is not under obligation to change anything. It would be beneficial if other members of GEOC would be a part of the committee. The next meeting will be in December or January and in the meantime GEOC will complete a survey. Carissa asked that Jason head the committee, and this matter will be discussed further.
- II. Horror Movie Potluck Discussion 3:25 – 3:45

a. Potential Solutions

Jason suggested older movies that the copyright has passed on.

Lisa reported that the Burton theatre would be willing to work with us to host movie night. There are rental costs and still copyright costs, and Friday the 13th is not available.

Nate stated that Friday the 13th is important to maintain because its on the t-shirts and that taking \$1000 from the GEOC budget is not a good idea considering how few members were in attendance at the GMM. He prefers Jason's suggestion.

Mark stated that we need to try our best to commit members to bring something.

Where does everyone stand on what they think should come out of the horror movie night? Jason would like to see it done so that it is cool and at the theatre with concessions, etc, but on the flip side, this loses a sense of intimacy and community with the members. If he had to choose, he would prefer on campus and scaled down, push with the potluck on the Friday. Kate agreed with on-campus. Debbie also agreed and mentioned that the cost would be less. Nate feels that public domain, intimate potluck, and keeping cost down is the way to go. Until we know we can get a greater turnout, we should not be spending money. Lisa would support either argument – against the theatre is the cost/date, for is that she would rather sit in a theatre than a classroom. She would like to double check on the public domain possibility. She is also concerned about attendance on a Friday and the number of people who will actually participate in a potluck. Phoebe's opinion is that we should put on a play. Mark stated that low key and on campus seems to be the preference of the group and his goal is a bigger turn-out, so whatever gets us there. Jason commented that the potluck should be an incentive, not an admission fee. Debbie suggested renting a popcorn maker and Lisa seconded the idea. Carissa suggested post-Halloween candy will be cheap. Jason said if Steering and Stewards each brought something, we should have enough. Carissa asked Lisa if she would reserve the Kresge auditorium. We are not expecting more than 30 at any given time.

Mark asked about the organizability of a theatre – will we be able to get people more involved in such a setting? The benefit of an MST type of movie would provide an atmosphere where the audience is not paying total attention anyway and we could engage the membership in discussion in a fun atmosphere.

Carissa will send an email to Steering for movie suggestions for public domain movies. Lisa stated we may also look into janitorial services after.

III. AGEL

3:45 – 3:55

- a. When? Nov 5-8 at MSU.
- b. Why? It is the conference of graduate locals, nationwide. Several states participate. They do organizing training and grievance issues. Carissa will forward the itinerary. Lisa and Jason definitely cannot. Mark will be there for the staff section on the 7th. AFT will pay for two people to travel and have home-stays if we want. We can also check with our Stewards.

IV. Strategic Spending

3:55 – 4:00

- a. Set Date for Conference Call with Alyssa

Debbie, Lisa and Jason would like to be on the committee. Carissa asked if they could think about their schedules to plan a date for the conference call, starting two weeks from now. Mark asked about the possibility of a phone bridge from remote locations. Everyone does not need to be in the same room to share their ideas with Alyssa. Lisa prefers the ability

to have a face-to-face meeting after. It is likely the meeting will be between the 9th and the 13th of November.

V. E-mail Conversation

4:00 – 4:15

- a. How much is really too much? Nate does not support a lot of email conversation but we had very little GMM attendance. The GMM will be continued later. Lisa stated that the new plan is to have a general membership list and a subcommittee list. The newsletter will be subscribed to by all members with the option to remove themselves from the list. Everything will come from the general gmail account, unless it is specifically from someone in the union. Mark does not feel that there is ever too much. Carissa feels that having the subject line should be very pertinent and then members can pick and choose what they want to read. Lisa suggested a digest format within the email server. Mark likes the idea of opting out. Jason agrees with Mark that there is never too much. Kate also agrees. Lisa likes the idea of the digest and the unsubscribe option for the newsletter. Nate supports the unsubscribe option and still suggests minimizing email. Phoebe thinks more than two emails per event is enough and the digest option is also good. Lisa suggests informing early and reminding close to the event. Carissa presented that, in sum, email subject headings are very important and a digest function/separate listserve for the newsletter is the consensus. In addition, the reply-all function has been disabled.
- b. Separate listserve for newsletter? See above.
- c. Discussion Board on Website. It would be private to members only. They would have a login and ID so that only members could post. Lisa questioned who would be administering the site. Someone must manually approve new users and someone must moderate to make sure inappropriate conversation is not going on. Mark stated that he has a database and could manage the first part. Lisa asked what the point was. Mark said it would be a discussion in an open space for members to communicate. Bayley suggested that we have too many projects going as it is. Nate suggested tabling this for later, especially as we have facebook already. Student Council has one and Jason will keep Steering up to date on how popular it is there. Phoebe asked what we should do for members who do not have facebook. Bayley said email would be sufficient for other members. General consensus is to focus more on facebook for now and possibly return to this in the future.

VI. GMM

4:15 – 4:25

- a. What went wrong? We did not send emails early enough nor enough emails. We did not have enough contact information and did not start organizing soon enough. Jason suggested the day and time may not have been the best. Bayley stated that organizing sooner would cover this problem. Nate also said we locked in the dates early for the t-shirts. Debbie said we do not need to be extremely stuck on dates. Nate said we did not have issues to bring people in. Carissa suggested uniting people around newer causes. Nate said the location may have been a problem. Timing was an issue in that regard.

- b. How can we improve? Organize earlier, have a more central location, organize around an issue, make it more appealing in a way that does not alienate, do things in the past that have worked. Nate inquired about the voting turnout – did we have fewer people vote than last year? We did not, so the day/time/place was not the problem so much as a lack of interest. Bayley suggested more brevity and excitement, and not losing the fun of it.

VII. Schedule Organizing sessions with Mark (and sign his contract)
4:30

4:25 –