Present: Samantha Breslin, Anthropology; Md Omer Khayyam, Economics; Collin Campbell, English; Katherine Saunders, History; Kelly Brewer-Balch, MER; Natasha Farrell, Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures; Elahe Nezhadhossein, Sociology; Carrie Dyck (outgoing Associate Dean - Graduate); Sharon Roseman (incoming Associate Dean - Graduate).

1 Agenda

There was no formal agenda for this meeting.

2 Announcements

Your role as HSS Graduate Student Council representative ends on September 30th. Here’s what the HSS Graduate Student Council by-laws state:

Before September 15 of every year, the Associate Dean of Arts (Research and Grad Studies) will send a call for nominations for Council representatives to each Grad Coordinator or program Director. The nomination process shall be the responsibility of the Department/program, and shall involve collegial consultation.

The term of each representative will be one year, starting October 1 of each year. Terms are renewable.

3 General notes

• Mutual introductions with incoming Associate Dean (Research and Graduate), Dr. Sharon Roseman (Anthropology).
• CD to arrange to work on the Wiki (www.munstudents.ca) June 26, 27, or 28 in the afternoon; date to be publicized. Very little technical expertise needed!
• Normally, the HSS Graduate Student Council meets regularly in the summer as well. Dr. Roseman will poll you to discuss whether how many meetings to hold (regular meetings or Wiki meetings).

4 Exercise: looking back and looking forward

• We conducted an exercise to address the following questions, and grouped all the answers into themes:
• Looking back: Benefits and drawbacks of this Graduate Student Council - What was good? What needed improvement? (activities, initiatives, communication, etc.)
• Looking ahead: Desired role or projects for the HSS Graduate Student Council? Relationship of HSS Graduate Student Council to Departments? Relationship of HSS Graduate Student Council to the HSS Dean’s Office?
• Looking back — good aspects included (a) better communications with graduate students; (b) hearing about HSS issues, changes, plans; (c) opportunities to network and meet people
across departments; (d) the orientation Wiki.

- **Looking back —** areas for improvement included (a) changing the quorum rules so business could be accomplished (we haven’t yet had quorum, even over email, to ratify the constitution and by-laws); (b) other students don’t know that the HSS Graduate Student Council exists; and (c) the quality of the coffee (LOL).

- **Looking ahead —** suggestions included (a) revisiting project ideas discussed previously and doing more than one per year (project suggestions from the January 27, 2016 minutes are included below); (b) meeting more often (e.g., twice per month); (b) better orientation for new HSS Graduate Student Council representatives; (d) better communication between HSS Graduate Student Council representatives and other graduate students (CD suggests announcing the HSS Graduate Student Council representatives, website, and wiki on the HSS Grad Listserv); (e) more ways to involve other graduate students; (f) greater input into Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences governance and planning; (g) greater support to new students, with discussion topics that included a mentoring system, monthly working lunches; and (h) better mental health support. We also discussed using sub-committees of HSS Graduate Student Council to accomplish specific tasks. Sub-committees can include people who are not part of HSS Graduate Student Council too.

Note: all minutes, and information about the HSS Graduate Student Council, are included here: [http://www.mun.ca/hss//programs/graduate/graduate_council.php](http://www.mun.ca/hss//programs/graduate/graduate_council.php)
Project suggestions compiled in the January 27, 2016 meeting minutes:

**Potential projects**

I’ve divided these into categories; feel free to add or change anything.

**Health and well-being**
- Organize sport events to bring graduate students together
- Organize a thesis club to prevent ‘loneliness’ and ‘isolation’
- Take action to prevent mental health issues (e.g. anxiety) which are top issues for graduate students

**Advocacy**
- Create an identity for the Faculty of Arts graduate programs
- Posters, etc., Faculty of Arts research, in the Arts Atrium?
- Pictures of students in the halls (Geography example)
- Graduates can help with recruiting undergraduates; patronage-type system.
- Prepare a letter stating our position on library cutting Academic Journals
- A Faculty of Arts Celebration; a way to celebrate Arts and Humanities to kick off a campaign to promote the research within the Faculty of Arts; Proposed venue – the Breezeway; get alumni involved and discuss why people chose Arts over other subjects

**Information**
- Information Package for future graduate students
- Session for students on new ATIPA and implications
- What Student Services are also available for Grads; Post-degree services
- Navigating ethics review (ICEHR)
- Transparency
- Have a workshop on how to apply for grants (done)
- Web page for Arts Graduate Student Council (done)

**Professional development, scholarly work**
- Interdisciplinary journal that might qualify for SSHRC funding
- Thesis Club
- Speaker Series