

## **Communication Graduate Student Association Minutes of the General Meeting held March 25, 2004.**

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm in the third floor lounge area of Baldy Hall.

### **Attendance**

Officers present: Jennie Hwang, Haoting Lu (Tina), Heather Marshall, Brenda Battleson.

Officers excused: Ruiyun Xi (Rhea).

Members present: Leanne Chang, Reshma Fernandes, Jang Hyun Kim, Li Jean Law, Lina Mao, Alex Tan, Varsha Tickoo, and Nian Zhang.

### **Approval of Old Minutes**

The minutes from the meetings of January 15, January 22 and February 23, 2004 were unanimously approved.

### **Old Business**

Jennie announced that a date, venue and funding for the School of Informatics colloquium had been finalized. The date is April 9, 2004 from 3:00pm-6:00pm. The event will be held in Clemens 120 and there will be refreshments. The event is co-sponsored by the GSAs of the Communication (COM), Informatics (MAInfo) and Library and Information Studies (DLIS) departments as well as GSA and the School of Informatics (SOI) Dean's office. The funding breakdown is available in the minutes of February 23, 2004.

The officers emphasized that this is an important event and that participants and attendees view it with the same formality as they would a conference. Faculty will be present and it is the Dean's hope that such an event may be expanded to include other institutions.

As of this meeting, students from DLIS had contact Jennie about a number of group presentations. Those interested in presenting are encouraged to register as well as those wishing to attend. Jennie also expressed the need for volunteers to help with such tasks as assembling packets, setting up and cleaning up after the event.

Jennie will send a message to the list calling for volunteers and reminding students in all three departments of the need to register. More information is available on the COMGSA website at <http://wings.buffalo.edu/gsa/comgsa/index.htm>

### **New Business**

Jennie discussed the COMGSA sponsorship of Thai International Association GSA's Thai Night celebration to be held in Harriman Hall on the South Campus, April 9, 2004. Although the colloquium is planned for that date as well, the Thai Night celebration does not begin until 6:00pm, which is when the colloquium is scheduled to end. Varsha questioned the need for members of the COMGSA to purchase tickets given that we are sponsors. Jennie explained that everyone has to pay for tickets (\$15) but that this is also a big event that attracted over 300 participants last year.

Brenda and Jennie also explained that sponsorship of this sort is a way of networking and opening communication. Although we were not able to contribute much financially (only \$20.00) we were able to show our support for another GSA club as well as promote our own.

With this in mind, the COMGSA was also approached to support a speaker being brought in by media studies. Alex Rivera, a New York based digital media artist and filmmaker will lecture her on April 23, 2004. The COMGSA has pledged a co-sponsorship contribution of \$20.00.

Summaries of both the Thai Night celebration and the Rivera lecture were distributed to members and are attached.

The discussion turned to conference funding for student presenters. A funding request has been made by Pi-Chun Chang for ICA in New Orleans in May, 2004. The amount requested is 75.00.

This led to discussion of whether or not modifications should be made for funding request criteria. Should 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> authors qualify for funding if they are not presenters? At present, only those students presenting can request funding. While the COMGSA would like to be able to fund all requests, it is not economically possible. Also, making modifications to the qualification criteria in the middle of an academic year would not be ethical or fair. Thus, it was decided that the criteria would remain as decided at the first general meeting of the 2003-2004 academic year and the topic would be revisited in the fall semester 2004.

Jennie mentioned that after the colloquium the COMGSA treasury will have roughly \$200.00. This is enough to fund 2 conference speakers. The balance could then be used for an end-of-the-semester party or picnic. As heather mentioned, it is important that we spend all of the money, since we cannot recoup any for the next academic year.

Jennie announced a call for nominations for COMGSA officers for the 2004-2005 academic year. Nominations may be submitted to any of the present COMGSA officers.

## **Motions**

1. Motion to approve COMGSA co-sponsorship of the Thai Night Celebration April 9, 2004. Total contribution: \$20.00.
2. Motion to approve COMGSA co-sponsorship of the Media Studies Department's lecture by Alex Rivera, April 23, 2004. Total contribution: \$20.00.
3. Motion to approve conference funding for Pi-Chun Chang to attend the International Communication Association conference in New Orleans, May 2004. Paper title: "Cultural resistance and economic intervention: An examination on human right discourses." Total funding contribution: \$75.00.
4. Motion to approve COMGSA co-sponsorship of the SOI Colloquium April 9, 2004. Total contribution: \$50.00.

## **Approval/Denial of Motions**

All four motions were approved.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Battleson

## **1. UB Thai International Association**

Cordially invite you to attend Thai Night 2004

“The Reflections of Thailand” will focus on Thai culture, art, foods, and unique performances including Thai Kickboxing and traditional Thai Dancing. Through this event, our ultimate goal is to create a greater understanding and appreciation for the Thai culture within the UB community.

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Date: April 9, 2004

Location: Harriman Hall (UB South Campus)

Ticket can be purchased at the Student Union Ticket Office or contact [wm7@buffalo.edu](mailto:wm7@buffalo.edu)

## **2. Media Study Alex Rivera lecture on 4/23/04**

### ALEX RIVERA'S BIO

Alex Rivera is a New York based digital media artist and filmmaker. Through the past 5 years he's made work in digital video and on the internet that addresses concerns of the Latino community through a language of humor, satire, and metaphor. His work has been screened at The Museum of Modern Art, The Guggenheim Museum, Lincoln Center, on PBS, as well as at film festivals, universities, libraries, union halls, and community centers. Rivera has received support from various foundations including The Rockefeller Foundation, The Sundance Institute, Creative Capital, The Jerome Foundation, The New York Foundation for the Arts and The US/Mexico Fund for Culture.