**Agenda for August 14th, 2020 CGSS Meeting**

**1:00 pm via Zoom**

1. Call to Order: 1:04 pm
   1. Present: Hayden, Julie, Matthew, Abhishek, Lily, Kris, Sabrina, Mostafa, Olivia, Alyssa, Maria, Jesse (during Item 3)
   2. Absent: Noah, Kevin
   3. Others: 0
2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
   1. Approved by Julie; seconded by Hayden.
3. Coffee Time
   1. Coffee Fairy Summer Gift Card Giveaway
      1. Julie has been distributing the cards. She will send out an email with past winners and the form for new people to sign up for the next month.
4. Events
   1. Paint Night
      1. As the paint night was not a walkthrough as many thought, it was suggested that if we were to repeat, it might be better to use the money to purchase our own supplies to hand out and have everyone go through a video tutorial (e.g., Bob Ross) together.
      2. It was noted that having cameras on should be encouraged for future online events to promote social interaction.
      3. Julie purchased single serving wine for the event, which people seemed to appreciate. For future, a Friday might work best for the event to improve attendance and encourage drinking.
   2. Scavenger Hunt
      1. There were no major updates to give. Two check-in submissions have been turned in thus far. There are 6 participating teams (and 6 prizes, so everyone will get one).
   3. Trivia Night
      1. As there are no events for first years to interact with each other, it was suggested that trivia night could be used as a substitute (e.g., with first year teams encouraged). This would need to be tested by council on Zoom heavily first.
      2. Sabrina brought up that she would like to set up events for incoming students to meet and socialize (especially now with no in person classes). She had some ideas in mind and thought trivia could work well. The event(s) could potentially be organized for one of the TA training days (Sept 1-3).
      3. Julie and Mostafa will look into another paint night; Julie and Sabrina will look into first year event(s).
5. Sports
   1. Yoga
      1. Two classes were held; they generally went well. Another one will be held next week (1.5 hour session in evening now that labs are running more fully).
   2. Ping-Pong (tabled for now)
      1. Kris has not received any word from participants. Julie suggested holding the tournament outside, and it was agreed to get approval from Mike/Laurel before finalizing anything.
   3. Fitness Classes
      1. Julie brought up the idea of organizing virtual workout sessions. Lagree West is offering classes, $5 per person via Zoom.
6. CGSS and CDI Care Package Fundraiser
   1. A total of 25 packages were sold with $450 being raised. CDI is thinking of doing it again around Christmas time.
7. Graduate Research Symposium
   1. This event is held every September. Students present posters, professors judge, the CGSS election is held. As it cannot be held in person, another option is needed if we want to do it this year.
   2. Sabrina suggested an online conference (e.g., Twitter for posters and Zoom for talks).
   3. Julie put forward the motion to form the Graduate Research Symposium Committee and seat Abhishek, Alyssa, Hayden, Julie, Maria, Sabrina and Matthew:
      1. Yes: 12
      2. No: 0
      3. Abstain: 0
8. Graduate Student Initiative (GSI) Committee
   1. The forum went well, though attendance was lower than usual. Matthew took the minutes and will send them out to the department.
   2. One important note from the forum: PhD and MSc research assistantships are being increased by 4%; another increase may be voted on next year.
   3. Julie will contact Mike regarding the dissemination of the endowment fund.
9. Wellness Report
   1. Nothing to report aside from yoga classes. Hopefully upcoming social events like trivia night will help student wellbeing.
10. Union Report
    1. Noah not present.
11. GSS Report
    1. The next meeting will be held next week.
    2. Two main points from last month’s meeting: 1. more funding ($20000) was received for the Graduate Student Financial Aid, so it should easier to apply for now; 2. graduate students can now apply for UPass subsidy (evidence of need required).
12. Discussion/Misc.
    1. Mostafa brought up the idea of Heads Up as a Zoom game that might work well.

Meeting adjourned: 1:49 pm