MINUTES OF THE NEW VOICES MEETING  
7 MAR. 2014  
GRADUATE STUDENT LOUNGE, ENGLISH DEPARTMENT,  
LANGDALE HALL, GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

In Attendance:  
Deborah D’Cruze  
Kateland Wolfe  
Valarie Robin  
William Lake  
Jennifer Olive  
Christine Busser  
Andrea Rogers  
Brian Heston

Welcome  
1st Chair Deborah D’Cruze called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Review of Previous Meeting  
1st Chair Deborah D’Cruz recalled that the previous meeting’s discussion regarded the possible themes for the 2015 Conference, the spring meeting schedule, and the available leadership. All of these discussions have been carried over and elaborated upon for this meeting.

2nd Chair (Co-Chair) Decision  
1st Chair Deborah D’Cruze announced that Kateland Wolfe was selected as the 2nd Chair (Co-Chair) for the 2014-2015 conference planning year. Her tenure will last 2 years and will result in her becoming the 1st Chair for the 2015-2016 conference planning year. All persons in attendance approved the decision.

Committee Member Discussions and Decisions  
1st Chair Deborah D’Cruze announced the availability of the committee member positions for the 2014-2015 conference planning year. Next, she explained the duties for each position and asked for volunteers from the attendees. The results are as follows:  
- Secretary—Jennifer Olive  
- Treasurer—Jessica Temple  
  - After the meeting, Jessica Temple volunteered for this position  
- Hospitality Chair—Christine Busser  
- Creative Writing Chair—Andrea Rogers  
- Volunteer Coordinator—Brian Heston  
- GEA Liaison—Dan Abitz  
  - After the meeting, Dan Abitz volunteered for this position

In addition to these committee member positions, 1st Chair Deborah D’Cruze also announced the inclusion of 2 additional positions to help with the outreach of the conference to other departments in the GSU community. The results are as follows:  
- New Voices Modern and Classical Languages Liaison—William Lake
• New Voices Communications Liaison—Christopher Toula

It was also determined that all of the committee members’ names and positions will be added to the website unless there were any objections. There were no objections.

Theme Proposal
1st Chair Deborah D’Cruze recapped the three Fountainhead Press readers selected for proposal regarding the 2015 conference theme:
- Green
- Borders
- Death

Valarie Robin confirmed that Shane McGowan would get in touch with the contact at Fountainhead Press to confirm the availability of these readers and speakers for the 2015 conference. Once confirmed, 1st Chair Deborah D’Cruze determined that a poll will be distributed amongst the GEA listserv regarding the possible choices and a theme would be chosen from the top choices of the poll. The results will be publically announced in the form of the call for proposals for the 2015 conference.

Additionally, 1st Chair Deborah D’Cruze suggested the following tentative deadlines related to the theme proposal:
- Call for proposals sent to GEA via the listserv—March 12
  - Current deadline awaiting confirmation of availability mentioned above
- Deadline for proposals—March 28
- Meeting for proposal reading and selection—April 4
- Deadline for survey (Survey Monkey) vote—April 11

Funding Award
1st Chair Deborah D’Cruze announced that $300 of funds had been awarded to New Voices from the GEA to be spent this semester. Valarie Robin suggested that a portion of this money be spent on conference materials in preparation for the upcoming planning season. Jennifer Olive suggested that another portion of this money be invested into spring fund raising. Both ideas were accepted and decided that they would be discussed further at future meetings related to these topics.

2014 Conference Thank You Notes
Committee members from the 2013-2014 planning committee recalled a previous proposal for sending thank you notes to the 2014 conference speakers and GSU facilities management for their contributions to the 2014 conference. It was decided that these thank you notes would be drafted by 2nd Chair Kateland Wolfe and signed by previous Chairs Valarie Robin and Shane McGowan. Additionally, it was decided that postage for these cards would be taken out of the $300 award from the GEA. Christine Busser also suggested that starting with this next year that the committee should consider including volunteers in the distribution of thank you notes in order to increase volunteer engagement from year to year.

Spring Fundraising
1st Chair Deborah D’Cruze suggested that the committee hold a spring 2014 fundraiser in order to raise funds for the conference. To discuss ideas for the proposed activity and scheduling, a meeting was scheduled for March 14 at 1:00 p.m. in the Graduate Student Lounge. Mandatory attendees will include the 1st and 2nd Chairs as well as the Hospitality Chair; however, all voluntary attendees are welcome to come and submit ideas. To further facilitate this discussion with additional volunteers, including those who are unable to attend this meeting, a Google Doc will be created for suggesting fundraising ideas.

**Future Meeting Times**
In response to the online survey, 1st Chair Deborah D’Cruze reported that the best meet times appeared to be Fridays from 3:00—5:00 p.m., Monday 9:00—11:00 a.m., and Wednesday 9:00—11:00 a.m. Based on this schedule, the committee discussed possible meeting times and scheduled the next 3 official New Voices meetings to take place in the Graduate Student Lounge of the English Department on the following dates and times:

- March 28 at 3:00 p.m.
- April 7 at 9:00 a.m.
- April 25 at 3:00 p.m.

1st Chair Deborah D’Cruze asked if anyone had any further comments or questions. **The meeting was concluded at 1:30 p.m.**