Members attending: Berta-Avila, Cecil, Echandia, Ross, Hembree, Goodwin, Espitia

New Business

1) outstanding graduate student award decisions
The bulk of the meeting was spent on discussion and decisions around the Outstanding Graduate Student recipient for Fall graduation. There were four nominations made by faculty by the deadline, however, only three included a completed nomination form with responses to those required questions (Frolov, Burke, Kyle). The committee considered all three of these students strong candidates for the award and service as graduation speaker. The committee unanimously agreed that Christa Kyle and Laura Burke were particularly noteworthy because of their extensive work in the community in addition to their scholarship, which we thought particularly consistent with the mission of the college. Christa’s activism particularly impressed us, thus the committee ranked these two candidates for the award in this order: 1) Kyle and 2) Burke.

The committee discussed adding additional information to these nominations, including a short abstract of the students’ thesis or project and a short item concerning the student’s suitability as graduation speaker.

2) committee vacancies
There are several community vacancies on the committee. The committee discussed potential candidates for these vacancies and decided to invite prospective community members to spring SSOAR meetings. There is also no representative attending from the grad branch, so Sheri will check on this with the grad branch chair.

3) prioritizing agenda items relative to charge
In addition to forming ad-hoc committees (appeals) and selecting candidates for outstanding graduate for spring graduation, the committee agreed to focus particularly on: (a) strategies for recruitment, (b) recognizing student success and (c) connecting with community members, in the Spring semester

SSOAR meetings for Spring semester
Thursday, Feb 20th
Thursday, March 20th
Thursday, April 17th
Thursday, May 15th