MINUTES, MRSC Board, 1-22-16

The Board of the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Center (MRSC) met at 2:00 pm on Friday, January 22 at Barnes & Noble Café in the University Center. Present were Janice Elliott, John Howe, Brian McFadden, and Angela Marianní Smith (other board members were away in exotic places).

I. STUDENT CONFERENCE SUBSIDIES: The Board discussed its program of providing reimbursement subsidies of $200/student to graduate students who want to attend approved interdisciplinary medieval and renaissance studies conferences. It approved a graduate student’s support request for a stipend to help defray the cost of an international art conference. On related matters, a half dozen students took advantage of transportation subsidies to attend the Texas Medieval Association (TEMA) meeting in San Marcos in Fall 2015. A similar number of students and faculty members will be attending the International Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo MI on May 5-8 2016, and Howe was asked to investigate the possibility of coordinating transportation.

II. TEACHING MRST 5301: The Board discussed MRST 5301, the certificate anchor class offered each spring. In 2016, a shift of instructors and a blip in admissions had made this class a struggle to fill (though, thanks to help from some affiliated faculty members, the class ultimately “made”). The Board concluded that, on the basis of applications for TTU graduate admission for fall 2016 and related offers, a return to previous levels of enrollment might occur in spring 2017. The ideal size, consonant with MRSC goals for awarding certificates, is 9-10 students.

III. PROPOSED EXHIBITS TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE TEMA MEETING TO BE HELD AT TTU IN 2018: TTU is scheduled to host the annual meeting of TEMA in 2018 and efforts are being made to arrange exhibits that might background the conference. John Howe and Janis Elliott will be meeting with Museum officials to try to secure space for “The Study of the Bible in the Middle Ages and Renaissance: Celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Publication of the Complutensian Polyglot Bible”—an exhibit that would utilize local and state resources and run for several months in fall 2018. Also discussed was a possible 2018 NEH summer seminar devoted to “The Horse in History” that would utilize regional resources and potentially leave a legacy of displays and papers for the TEMA conference.

The meeting concluded at 2:50pm.

--John Howe, acting scribe