Board Meeting, Medieval and Renaissance Studies Center
November 30, 2018
MINUTES

In attendance: Angela Mariani and Janis Elliott (co-chairs), John Beusterien, Julie Couch, Francesca di Poppa.
Absent: Jacob Baum (conference), Peter Briggs, Abigail Swingen (standing meeting).
Guest: John Howe

1) TEMA Conference / Pre-Modern Bibles Exhibit: thanks, etc

2) New MRSC brochure
   • The brochure was printed without contact information for the directors. Janis will have labels added before distributing to the MRSC board and affiliated faculty.

3) Report on meeting with Dean Zahler, TCVPA
   • The dean applauded our recent accomplishments (TEMA, Bible exhibition) but was not moved to assist us financially. He agreed to consider a matching contribution once we had funding from the units involved. He also suggested we approach the Humanities Center and the Provost.
   • Angela and Janis will set up a meeting with Dean Lindquist (A&S) for January. John Howe volunteered to accompany and introduce the new co-directors and to present the dean with the relevant history of the MRSC.
   • Angela and Janis will also approach the Humanities Center and will consider a strategy for approaching the Provost in Spring.

4) Request for affiliated faculty member status from Lane Sobehrad
   • Lane Sobehrad’s CV was circulated among the board members. Francesca moved to accept, Julie seconded. Unanimous approval.

5) Request for funding for SCRC from Brian Steele
   • Brian Steele asked for a donation of $500 or $1000 toward the South-Central Renaissance Conference (SCRC) he is hosting at TTU in April. Unfortunately, MRSC has no budget for this year (as of yet). Based on the current account balance, we will offer him $200 with the option to increase that should we succeed in finding funding from Dean Lindquist and/or other sources. Francesca moved to accept, Julie seconded. Unanimous approval.
• We will offer Brian the MRSC lanyards, left over from TEMA and donated by John Howe, for use at the SCRC.

6) List of MRSC-eligible courses for Spring 2019: additions? ADD:
   • PHIL 5302 Early Modern European Philosophy
   • MUS Early Music Theory

7) From John Howe:
   a. Info re/ advising MRSC students
      • Richard Verrone (History), who serves as academic advisor, has agreed to facilitate advising and registration for the MRSC. John Howe will continue as faculty advisor and Angela will join him as a faculty advisor and learn the ropes from John and Richard.
      • Howe recommended that it would be advantageous to have Brian McFadden (English) as a faculty advisor as well so that he might encourage English students into the program.
   b. Other MRSC-related matters
      • Howe suggested that we begin to look for an affiliated faculty (or board) member to teach MRST 5301 in Spring 2020.
      • Numbers are still down – so far only 3 registered for Spring 2019. Need to spread the word!

8) Need to promote the MRSC Graduate Certificate
   • Francesca di Poppa (Philosophy) and Abigail Swingen (History) are developing an Undergraduate Certificate in Medieval Studies. This could feed students into the Grad programs and certificate.
   • Need to update the website. James Lemon (james.lemon@ttu.edu) can help with that.
   • Need to set up social media (FB and Instagram). We will need to find students to help with that.

9) Other
   • John Howe passed the MRSC paper archives to Angela and Janis this fall. To re-organize them and to make them accessible, we discussed how to find
assistance for scanning. Angela will request assistance from one of the student groups who accumulate service credit by volunteering in the Music Department.
Dear Co-Directors Angela and Janis,

As you know, the South-Central Renaissance Conference meets at TTU 11-13 April 2019. I’m requesting funding from the MRSC to provide the honorarium of one of two speakers (see SCRC budgeting document), either Richard Strier or Lena Cowen Orlin. The fact that both are specialists in English literature owes to an accident of ‘planetary conjunction,’ since our affiliated societies choose speakers on a rotating basis (Andrew Marvell Society, Queen Elizabeth I Society, Society for Renaissance Art History). The MRSC can select either speaker as its designee if the center agrees to fund $1,000 or $500.

The budget estimate for the conference follows the two biographies – I hope that the SCRC program booklet will show the support of as many campus entities as possible, since it will be good press. I’ve been asked about this regional society: we have members from the University of Massachusetts to California State University-Fullerton, and from UT Austin & San Antonio to the University of Toronto, plus a contingent from the UK whose specialty is Andrew Marvell.

I’ve also attached the CFP and hope you’ll circulate it again when you ask the membership about funding an honorarium. After I learn about the MRSC’s potential involvement, I’ll revise the budget and approach the Humanities Center for support as well.

Thanks so much for considering this, Brian

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MRSC Certificate Eligible Courses, Spring 2019
https://www.depts.ttu.edu/classic_modern/medieval/classes.php

• ARTH 5340 – Renaissance & Baroque Art: Renaissance Venice, Secular, Sacred, and Spectacular (Brian Steele). Tuesday/Thursday, 9:30-10:50 am. Art B-01.

• ARTH 4320/7000 – Art, Pilgrimage, and the Cult of Saints and Relics (Janis Elliott), T-TH 12:30-1:50, Art B-01.

• ENGL 5303 - Beowulf (Brian McFadden), Wednesday, 2:00-4:50 pm. English 5301 or an equivalent course is a pre-requisite for English 5303.

• ENGL 5306 - Sovereignty and Subversion in Milton's England (Ryan Hackenbracht). Monday, 6-8:50 pm (location TBA).

• HIST 5348 - Roman Law (Gary Forsythe). Monday/Wednesday, 4:00-5:30pm.

• HIST 5349 - Studies in Early Modern European History (Jacob Baum), Thursday, 3:00-5:50 pm.

• MRST 5301 - Methods in Medieval and Renaissance Studies (John Howe). Wednesday, 7:00-9:50 pm.

• MUHL 5322.001 - Introduction to Early Music Performance Practice (Angela Mariani Smith). Tuesday/Thursday, 9:30-10:50 am. Musical background helpful but not mandatory.

• SPAN 5362.001 - Global Cervantes (John Beusterien). Date and time TBA. Knowledge of Spanish required.