

The MRSC Board met in Holden Hall 40 at 1:30pm on Thursday, August 23, 2012. Present were Couch, Elliott, Howe, Marianni, McFadden, Scarborough, and Swingen.

- I.      **Report on the Certificate Program:** The certificate program was approved on September 1, 2011. Its first MRST 53012 class was held in spring 2012, with an enrollment of 7 (syllabus). [<http://courses.ttu.edu/jhowe/hammurab.htm> --put in as a byperlink to "syllabus."]  
Currently there are four students who have filed papers to enter the certificate program. The goal of six awarded certificates per year when the program is up and running has not yet been achieved, but the initial progress is promising. MRST 5301 will be offered in spring 2013 by John Beusterien and in Spring 2014 by Connie Scarborough.
  
- II.     **Francesca di Poppa (Philosophy)** was approved as a member of the MRST affiliated faculty.
  
- III.    **Discussion of the MRST program to encourage students to travel** to interdisciplinary medieval and renaissance studies conferences. The Board favored continuing the program, but looked to define the parameters in a way that might broaden it to make more opportunities available for Renaissance studies programs (the International Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo is affordable in a way that the Renaissance Society of America is not). The final consensus was that \$200 subsidies would continue to be made available to graduate students (not to undergraduates) who wished to attend the meetings of the International Congress and of the Renaissance Society. However, the Board also voted to post an application form where graduate students could request similar support to attend other interdisciplinary medieval and Renaissance conferences and could explain why this attendance would be useful to their academic programs. These applications would be sent to the full Board for comment and then would be submitted to the Co-Directors for a final decision. Also discussed was the possibility of subsidizing a van for students who wanted to attend the Texas Medieval Association Conference to be held at Houston on October 12-13: Howe was deputized to investigate the costs and logistics.
  
- IV.    **The new beta MRST Web** was discussed . The general direction was approved. When finished the site would be connected to the A&S Centers page, and relevant departments would be encouraged to provide links to it on their sites. McFadden volunteered to apply with Howe for permission to edit.
  
- V.      **New Business**
  - A. The possibility of a minor in medieval and renaissance studies was brought forth once more. Members of the Board shared similar ideas in regard to an 18 hour content, no "double dipping" allowed with major units, basic language credit

allowed only for Latin III and Latin IV. The question of designating a minor advisor was raised: it was suggested that, so long as the minor requirements were clear, departments that might benefit from such a minor might allow their professional advisors to help out with this task. Swingen volunteered to make inquiries about the logistics of getting a minor approved.

- B. MRST assistance in the sponsorship of medieval and Renaissance studies events on campus was raised as a possibility. Interested parties should contact the co-directors or other members of the Board. It was observed that support for in-class guest speakers is easier to obtain at the undergraduate than at the graduate level, so guest speakers brought in for MRST 5301 or other programs should be encouraged to also appear in an undergraduate class in order to improve potential funding possibilities.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.