

MINUTES

MRSC Board, 8-27-15

The Board of the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Center (MRSC) met at 2:00 pm on Thursday, August 27 at Barnes & Noble Café in the University Center. Present were Janice Elliott, John Howe, Brian McFadden, Angela Marianni Smith, Connie Scarborough, and Abby Swingen.

I. STUDENT CONFERENCE SUBSIDIES CONTINUED

The Board voted to continue its program of providing \$200/student reimbursement subsidies to graduate students who want to attend approved medieval and renaissance studies conferences. The Renaissance society of America Meeting and the International Congress of Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo) are automatically approved. Requests for other interdisciplinary medieval and renaissance conferences will be considered by the Board on an ad hoc basis.

A major advantage of this small subsidy is that it can sometimes be enhanced by matching funds from students' home departments and from the Graduate School. Given that the Graduate School has sometimes run out of student travel funds early in the academic year, students planning to attend medieval and renaissance studies conferences should get their requests to the Board as soon as possible.

II. TTU PARTICIPATION IN TEMA (October 16-18 at Texas State University, San Marcos):

The Board voted to authorize the expenses needed to pay for a van, assuming the student demand exists, to convey anyone who wants to attend the TEMA meeting in San Marcos (located between Austin and San Antonio, about 400 miles from Lubbock).

MRSC affiliated faculty should announce these opportunities ASAP to students who might want to attend, either to give a paper (official deadline September 10) or just to go and learn what other medieval and renaissance scholars in Texas are doing.

III TEACHING MRST 5301

The Board discussed how to cover MRST 5301 in spring 2016, where it was necessary to replace the previously scheduled instructor who was unable to proceed. The Board approved, and Howe subsequently secured administrative confirmation, that Julie Nelson Couch teach the certificate anchor course this spring. This will be the first time that an instructor from the English department will be presiding, following classes taught by two CMLL instructors and one historian. The Board approves the idea of trying to rotate this course among instructors from a variety of Departments. MRST 5301 has been offered successfully every spring since 2012.

IV. ON-LINE DONATIONS TO THE CENTER

MRSC now has a TTU account for its own non-State funds. The Board had voted, following the lead of many TTU units, to add a donation link to the MRSC Website. In practice this requires tact because the MRSC Web is hosted by CMLL, which has its own fund-raising links. A compromise arrangement, now in place, puts the CMLL donation button front and center on the MRSC site, but a click there provides a donation option for MRSC among several other CMLL options.

VI. SUPPORT FOR UNIVERSITY VISITORS

Connie Scarborough requested help for campus visits on October 19-20 by Dr. Lesley Twomey (Reader in Hispanic Studies, Northumbria University) and Andy Bereford (School of Hispanic Languages and Cultures, Elvet Riverside, New Elvet, Durham). These scholars will be on their way to a Hispanic studies conference in El Paso, making it possible to fit a Texas Tech stop into their itineraries at minimal expense. The Board authorized \$200 to help defray campus expenses. Their schedules and events here

are still being negotiated: for additional details contact Connie Scarborough (Connie.Scarborough@ttu.edu).

The meeting concluded at 2:37pm, a MRSC Board record for brevity.

--John Howe, acting scribe