

MINUTES, MRSC Board, 11-29-16

The Board of the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Center (MRSC) met at 1:15 pm on Tuesday, November 29, at Barnes & Noble Café in the University Center. Present were Janis Elliott, John Howe, Brian McFadden, Connie Scarborough, Angelamariani Smith, and Abigail Swingen.

I. TEMA Meeting Fall 2018: Planning is underway for the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Texas Medieval Association (TEMA), which Texas Tech will host on a weekend in early October 2018. Attempts to get football scheduling information from the Athletic Department in order to avoid potential conflicts with home games have produced no useable results: TTU, working with television contracts that encourage scheduling flexibility, currently has only one early game solidly calendared for 2018 (and only three for 2017). It will be necessary to guess a date, one that will not conflict with potentially competing academic societies, and hope for the best. Discussions about plenary speaker possibilities resulted in authorizations for Howe and Scarborough to make initial contacts.

II. Grant Initiatives:

- A. **"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 to run from August 2018 through February of 201, organized by John Howe and Janis Elliott, has solidified its arrangements with the TTU Museum and the Remnant Trust. The first grant application has gone out to the Helen Jones Foundation.
- B. **"The Horse in History,"** a proposed NEH summer institute to be held at Texas Tech in summer 2018, organized by John Howe assisted by Arts & Sciences research office, should be ready for a preliminary reading by the NEH in January of 2017.

III. Proposal to Change the Name of the MRSC: A resolution was proposed to the MRSC Board to change the Center name to the "Medieval and Early Modern Studies Center." After discussion, generally favorable, it was decided to forward it to the MRSC affiliated faculty members so that the Board would have their input in making its final decision. Howe presented this proposal to the Dean of Arts & Sciences (the Center's superior in the TTU corporate flow chart) who indicated that he would not object to the change if it was supported by the faculty members involved.

IV. Procedures for MRSC Elections: Spring 2017 will be the time to elect the MRSC Board (see http://www.depts.ttu.edu/classic_modern/medieval/governance.php for governance regulations, terms, and requirements). MRSC Co-directors Howe and Scarborough have announced that they will not continue on as co-directors after their current Board terms expire in 2017. The Center exists within the College of Arts & Sciences, under the purview of the Dean of A&S, but Dean Brent Lindquist has agreed that the newly elected Board may select the MRSC director(s), subject to his ratification.

The meeting concluded at 2:05pm
--John Howe, acting scribe