

## **Library and Archival Studies Student Association**

2014-2015 School Year Meeting #10

**Date:** January 8, 2015

**Time:** 12:00

**Location:** SUB 211

### **In attendance:**

Kelsey Ockert (MLIS Co-President)

Sarah Giesbrecht (MAS Co-President)

Nicole Askin (Secretary)

Maggie Hunter (MAS First-Year Representative)

Abeer Siddiqui (AMS Representative)

Nichole DeMichelis (MLIS First-Year Representative)

Cathryn Crocker (MAS Member-at-Large)

Matthew Murray (Webmaster)

Michael Wynne (Treasurer)

Maria Paraschos (GSS Representative)

Roxanne Kalenborn (Events Coordinator)

Christopher Stephenson (MLIS Member-at-Large)

Mattias Olshausen

Jason Martin

Elise Gowen

Pascal Benoit

Neal Yonson (GSS Policy Researcher)

### **Regrets (Excused):**

Rachel Balko (MACL Representative)

Inti Dewey (GSS Representative)

### **Absent:**

Alamir Novin (PhD Representative)

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### **Meeting called to order by Kelsey at 12:01.**

1. **Motion to approve minutes** put forward by Nichole, seconded Abeer, passed no objections.
2. **Reports**
  - A. **Treasurer.** SLA will be receiving funds, after a long delay. AMALA and SLAIS Gamers now also have treasury accounts. The LASSA report will be available next meeting. There is now a \$200 pizza credit in Kelsey's name at Panago.
  - B. **AMS.** Most of the session was in camera. Abeer spoke to Taylor about the loan situation but he reports that nothing can be done at this level.
  - C. **Members-at-large.** Chris reports that he will shortly be assuming a position in Victoria and that he thus feels he should stand down from his position. He intends to seek a potential replacement but does not yet have any to propose. Two Dual students have contacted Kelsey regarding potentially replacing Adena as Dual Member-at-Large, but she proposes publicizing this position and the MLIS opening through Gmail to seek interested parties.
  - D. **Archival representatives.** There has been extensive support via Facebook for Jennifer Douglas and her role at SLAIS. Kelsey invites feedback on hers and other archival courses.
3. **Orientation debrief.** Kelsey describes the orientation. The potential of hosting it in Thea's Lounge was discussed at previous meetings, but this was impossible because of elevator repairs. The pizza order was late because of traffic/construction, but in restitution they have offered \$242 in pizza for the future use

of LASSA. Clubs were well represented and the layout of the room helped to control traffic flow. Nichole suggests that the greeting table should be visible from the doorway, if possible. Students were verbally reminded and encouraged to come at the morning orientation; Nichole proposes signage. Cathryn reraises the possibility of having a LASSA member at orientation, but Kelsey reports that faculty were reluctant to support this; a guide arriving at the end to escort students might be better received.

4. **Potluck.** Faculty and students have been invited to the potluck tomorrow evening at 5pm in the SLAIS lounge. There will be no alcohol served at this event. Matthew reports that the alcohol cupboards in SLAIS are unlocked. The ACA event afterwards is open to all, though it is off-campus.
5. **American loan situation.** Over the break, 26 US students received notification that they will not be having their expected student loans. The US Department of Education has decided that because the SLAIS program includes an online course among its core requirements (unlike most programs), they will not be supporting students in the program. At least one student is known to have dropped out over this issue, while others have had financial difficulties; no students in the incoming cohort are reported to have declined attendance over this issue. Megan Brown has discussed the problem with media representatives. Because of the upcoming changes in the core curriculum, this may be a temporary problem, but Melissa has not received any recent updates from the US. Nichole proposes that certain RA positions should be prioritized to American students, although Matthew and others object to this possibility; she also advocates for additional financial aid from SLAIS. Neal notes that international students are ineligible for Policy 72 and for general bursary funding; while emergency funding is available (contact [advocacy@gss.ubc.ca](mailto:advocacy@gss.ubc.ca)), it is insufficient to accommodate the number of students affected. Discussion considered alternative means of easing financial hardship; Kelsey solicits additional options via email that she can bring to SLAIS administration. Nichole proposes additional guidance for students regarding what to do in cases of financial hardship; Kelsey suggests creating a resources page including such details as the food bank and other community options. Maria, Nichole, Mattias, and Inti are tasked with examining this possibility.
6. **Curriculum changes.** SLAIS has announced changes to the core curriculum, particularly to the MLIS program. Michael reports that it places more of a distributed focus on things like research management and technology skills, preventing them from becoming siloed. Kelsey queries whether HCI is specifically addressed; it is not. 500 will no longer be a separate course, with technology requirements distributed among other courses. 505 has now been incorporated as a core course, though 504 remains a required but not core course.
7. **Committees**
  - A. **Communication.** Michael and Pascal (and later Abeer) are involved in a committee to discuss communication issues with SLAIS administration which were highlighted at the Director's Forum. Items discussed so far include the weekly digest, which has been well received; changes to the SLAIS webpage to surface the job blog (Matthew and Nichole propose changing its official name from iSchool Blog to Job Blog); the Connect portal is now being discontinued, with another website to replace it incoming via Arts IT; ongoing consideration of who (SLAIS vs LASSA) should be communicating what issues to the student body; a proposed open brown-bag lunch session for administrative issues discussed in orientation (reorientation); and a possible integrated calendar (which prompted a discussion of the Weebly calendar and the possibility of sharing this with faculty).
  - B. **Research Day.** The call for proposals has gone out. However, Nichole reports that the meetings are held during her classes and so she has been unable to participate.
  - C. **Facilities.** There has been no recent communication regarding this committee.
8. **Positions.** Sarah proposes adding two new positions to the executive team: Communications Coordinator and Records Manager. Kelsey also suggests the possibility of having a club liaison. Michael requests that Kelsey send out an email regarding these new proposed positions as well as recent changes to other positions. Pascal offers to replace Nichole as first-year representative. Nichole offers to replace Christopher as MLIS Member-at-Large. Kelsey proposes to ask one of the two students interested in the Dual position whether they would be willing to serve as the Faculty of Arts representative.

**Meeting abruptly adjourned at 12:59.**