Library and Archival Studies Student Association
2014-2015 School Year Meeting #15

Date: March 19, 2015
Time: 12:00
Location: SUB 211

In attendance:
Kelsey Ockert (outgoing MLIS Co-President)
Sarah Giesbrecht (outgoing MAS Co-President)
Nicole Askin (outgoing Secretary)
Cathryn Crocker (outgoing MAS Member-at-Large, incoming MAS Co-President)
Abeer Siddiqui (outgoing and incoming AMS Representative)
Maggie Hunter (outgoing MAS First-Year Representative, incoming Secretary)
Matthew Murray (outgoing Webmaster)
Roxanne Kalenborn (outgoing Events Coordinator)
Pascal Canucci (MLIS First-Year Representative)
Alamir Novin (outgoing PhD Representative)
Colleen Pawliuk (incoming Events Coordinator)
Nancy Shin (incoming Communications Officer)
Christie Waltham (incoming GSS Representative)
Kelly Rovegno (incoming Treasurer)
Taylor Kenkel (incoming Webmaster)
Mystery Beck (incoming MLIS Co-President)
Luanne Freund
David Gill

Regrets (Excused):
Meghan Smith (incoming MACL representative)
Michael Wynne (outgoing Treasurer)
Inti Dewey (outgoing GSS Representative)
Jacob Vangeest (incoming MLIS member-at-large)
Nichole DeMichelis (outgoing MLIS Member-at-Large)

Absent:
Maria Paraschos (outgoing GSS Representative)

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Meeting called to order by Sarah at 12:00.

1. **Minutes** for AGM and last meeting both had slight amendments. Motion to approve put forward by Abeer, seconded Sarah, passed no objections. The revised constitution will be submitted to SAC in order to receive approval from the AMS once the agenda and final vote count has been received; a representative (to be determined) will attend an SAC meeting after the submission of documentation.
2. **Transition**. Kelsey and Sarah thank the old executive for their service and welcome the new executive. Kelsey will be circulating the emails from the new executive (which have also been added to the listserv) in order to facilitate sharing of information. Kelsey describes the place of LASSA within SLAIS. All members (outgoing and incoming) introduced themselves, and arrangements were made to connect old and new members to facilitate transition. The new executive officially assumes its responsibilities on April 1st.
3. **ALA Accreditation.** Dr. Luanne Freund was present to update LASSA on the ALA Accreditation status and SLAIS's work to respond (expanding on what is already posted on the website). A report was submitted to ALA in October 2014 and 1 March 2015 (the latter is not yet posted). SLAIS's goal is to

regain full status as quickly as possible, following the process outlined by ALA. ALA will be doing another external review in Fall 2016 and SLAIS will submit another full accreditation report. SLAIS is quite confident that full accreditation status will be restored at that time. Concerns largely centred on learning outcomes assessment, which ALA considers to be of prime importance. SLAIS has since instituted a learning assessment process and an Assessment Committee – they are and will be collected more data from both students and employers, and reporting results annually. Graduate competencies have been outlined and will be supported by evidence of learning outcomes. Major changes from the student perspective are a student survey and other considerations of assessment, both to MLIS and to other programs; other changes include the introduction of a graduating/capstone project (one of which is being piloted this term to allow students to collaborate with community partners), a potential graduating experience requirement (asking that students do either the graduating project or a co-op or some other option), links from course syllabi to graduating competencies, and greater use of rubrics in course grading. This summer will see the first full-year reporting cycle. The timeline for potential new requirements is not yet known (earliest possible September 2016), but will not apply to students already partway through the program at the time of implementation. SLAIS has just received a response from the Faculty of Arts regarding their external review and will update students shortly. Luanne will be sharing her notes from this meeting with Nicole, who will circulate them to the listserv and as an appendix to these minutes (see Appendix A). [Luanne departs.] Kelsey notes that there has been no official announcement regarding plans for Caroline's departure and its impact on the department. Maggie raises the issue of the impact of ALA-induced changes on the MAS program, as it is not yet clear how this will play out. Kelsey states that SLAIS has an excellent post-graduation employment rate.

4. **By-elections.** David Gill puts himself forward as the GSS representative. Sarah nominates him, Abeer seconds, passed no objections. Alamir was on the ballot at the election but had not submitted his nomination form; he now submits his completed nomination form (signed by Kelsey and Elise Gowen) and is elected as PhD representative.

5. **Out on the Shelves**. Kelsey reprises the Out on the Shelves issue raised at the previous meeting. After conversing with the board, the AMS, and other stakeholders, it became clear that Out on the Shelves could potentially relocate to the new SUB. The library has traditionally been supported by volunteers from LASSA and SLAIS more broadly, with a yearly cataloguing drive and regular shifts; Out on the Shelves is interested in reprising this arrangement. A move is tentatively scheduled for April; Abeer and Catherine have expressed interest in helping with the move and so are invited to take a tour of the Pride space in the SUB. This project will be the responsibility of the incoming executive and may also be promoted to the Progressive Librarians Guild. David also offers to volunteer for the project. Kelsey will discuss delegation with the new co-chairs.

6. **SLAIS computers**. SLAIS no longer has control over the computer system, which is now managed by Arts ISIT. Since this transition, technical issues have cropped up with the new computers – this included an automatic logout at 10pm (which has been addressed). Matthew expresses frustration with lack of communication and support from Arts ISIT, and suggests that the new executive get involved in advocating for a better approach.

7. **Potluck**. Roxanne notes that if alcohol is served, the server would feel uncomfortable with having minors present – she and Kelsey discussed this issue, and Kelsey suggests that children are more important than alcohol (as barring children may limit faculty attendance), but opens this for general discussion. Mystery suggests that she could serve alcohol if needed. The possibility of an alternate server (allowing for both children and alcohol) will be put forward to Connie; should this not be possible, the executive votes that children should be prioritized. The potluck is traditionally held the last Friday of the term – this year, April 10th from 5 to 7 pm. Roxanne will be developing publicity materials once the alcohol issue is decided.

8. **Director's Forum**. Kelsey describes the purpose and background of the Director's Forum. This event will be held on March 31st. LASSA is no longer in charge of running the Director's Forum; the outgoing and incoming co-chairs will be meeting with Mary to discuss the new approach. There is conflicting information about the location of this event, which will be clarified. It is unclear whether anonymous questions will be permitted – Kelsey will follow up on this with Luanne. This may be an opportunity to make use of the LASSA suggestion box. Kelsey requests that everyone try to attend the event. Roxanne mentions a potential issue to discuss at the Director's Forum (access to linda.com).

9. **LASSA Awards**. Kelsey describes last year's LASSA Appreciation Awards and their impact. Concerns were raised by faculty/staff last year that the awards represented a popularity contest and led to people being left out; thus, Kelsey has been directly asked not to run the awards this year. Matthew proposes doing a student-only award; Kelsey suggests that this should be left to the new administration.

Meeting adjourned at 1:01.

Appendix A: Update on ALA Accreditation Status

Dr. L. Freund, March 19, 2015

In January 2014, the American Library Association (ALA) granted conditional Accreditation Status to the MLIS Program. This means that the program is accredited for a period of 3 years, rather than the 7 year term that comes with full accreditation status, and is required to address the concerns raised by the ALA's Committee on Accreditation (COA).

Over the past year, faculty and staff at the iSchool have worked hard to address all of the concerns raised by the ALA, which centred on the need to strengthen learning outcomes assessment within the school and to incorporate more assessment into program and school-level planning. We have met the two major deadlines for reporting to ALA.

- On October 1, 2014, we submitted a major report on the iSchool's plan to address ALA concerns, which was subsequently accepted by the COA (available here http://slais.ubc.ca/programs/about-department/ala-accreditation/)
- On March 1, 2015, we submitted a status report describing steps carried out since October, and detailing how assessment supports planning. We have not year received a response to this report.

From the student perspective, the major changes that you may anticipate seeing are more data collection and assessment activities taking place within the school, such as student surveys and focus groups, and greater dissemination of assessment results. A new Assessment Committee, chaired by Dr. Freund and including representation from faculty, students and working professionals, has been established to carry out these activities. Assessment is focused around the iSchool Graduate Competencies statement, which is available on the iSchool Website: http://slais.ubc.ca/programs/about-department/graduate-competencies/ These competencies and the related assessment activities are associated with the professional programs: MLIS, MAS and Dual.

Other changes:

- The introduction of the Graduating Project course;
- The possible introduction of a Graduating Experience Requirement in the MLIS / MAS programs, likely in the form of a choice between several options, such as the Graduating Project, Co-op, etc. ;
- Course syllabi now show how course objectives link to the Graduate Competencies;
- In some of your courses, grading rubrics will be introduced so that student outcomes on key assignments can be used to assess how well students in general are doing with respect to certain competencies;
- A student survey will be circulated this spring to collect a wide range of data on student perceptions of their programs and their own competencies;
- An annual report summarizing the results of the assessment program for the year will be published on the iSchool website.