

## **Library and Archival Studies Student Association 2016-2017 School Year Meeting #4**

**Date:** January 17, 2017

**Time:** 12pm

**Location:** SLAIS Trail Room (IKB 491)

### **In attendance:**

Executive officers:

Margrith Mooney (President)

Ean Henninger (MLIS Member-at-Large and Secretary)

David Gill (GSS Rep)

Leila Matte-Kaci (MACL Rep)

Darra Hofmann (DSA Rep)

Casey Stepaniuk (Webmaster)

Fellow students:

Emma

Lucas

Kate

Saguna

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

Chris Viresema-Magnuson (Treasurer)

Mia Steinberg (MAS Member-at-Large)

### **Absent:**

None

**1. The meeting was called to order at 12:01pm.**

**2. Executive reports:**

#### **MLIS Member-at-Large:**

Concerning the informal mentorship program, feedback from the few who participated in term 1 was mostly positive. Turnout this year was very good from the new cohort, less so from existing students. It may be more productive to have

general meetings or panels of current SLAIS students in start of term or as part of orientation.

Ean shared that photos were freshly printed and would be put up after the meeting.

He asked about updating the clubs list on the SLAIS and LASSA websites, and Margrith responded that she would talk to Mary about doing so pending a complete list of clubs and contact info.

Ean further mentioned that there is a student experience focus group on 1/18 at 1-1:50 in IKB 461.

### **Secretary**

Ean put on his new secretary cap and moved to approve the minutes from last year, which had been circulated previously on Slack, as part of catching up. Darra seconded, and it was resolved that LASSA would shortly host the minutes on its website and distribute future ones through the email digests.

### **MAS Member-at-Large**

Mia submitted a message to the effect that the ACA seminar and symposium is Feb 9-10 and is only \$10 for students. Dual students in the library core are especially encouraged to attend. More information is at <http://acasymposium.sites.olt.ubc.ca>.

### **MACL Representative**

Nothing to report.

### **Doctoral Representative**

Darra stated that Research Day is happening on March 10. The Doctoral Students' Association would like funding from LASSA to promote it, and they will talk to Chris as such. Right now the DSA is looking for three things:

1. Submissions, which don't necessarily have to be complete or on the theme of 'information, social media, and wellbeing'.
2. Volunteers, who will have a 4 hour time commitment the day of.

3. A volunteer coordinator, who will gather everyone and assign roles such as registration, photos, lunch. This work takes about 15 hours in total.

Questions and interest can be directed towards Saguna.

### **Treasurer**

The treasurer was excused.

### **GSS Representatives**

The GSS is consulting regarding its draft strategic plan and having four town hall meetings starting 1/18 at places including Green College, VGH, Life Sciences, and the GSS Loft. More information is available at <http://gss.ubc.ca/main/about/plan/>.

### **Webmaster**

Casey has been acquainting herself with the website and its internal organization. She sought feedback on site design and will start changing things up right away.

## **3. LASSA Business**

### **Filling exec roles:**

Darra volunteered as AMS Rep contingent on scheduling and virtual accommodation. Ean nominated, and Margrith seconded.

Lucas volunteered as Dual Member-at-Large. Ean nominated, and Emma seconded.

Kate volunteered as Communications Officer. Margrith nominated, and everyone seconded at basically the same time.

We still could use:

- First year reps for MLIS, MAS, MACL
- A Faculty of Arts rep
- An additional GSS Rep
- An MAS co-president

### **Grad photos:**

LASSA and SLAIS are considering retiring the grad photos and would like student input. Neither group wants to do them since the number of students who show has declined overall, and the administrative work is not perceived to be worth the effort. Students with opinions should contact LASSA leadership, and David will also construct a survey to gauge general opinion.

### **Events for the year:**

Margrith stated that the welcome gathering happened, and people seemed to enjoy it, but there was low attendance outside the new cohort.

Ean shared his idea for 'Toonie Nights,' where LASSA would host a variety of social events and incentivize attendance by taking \$2 per person off tabs, admission, and so on. Proposed events included a pub night, partner dancing, and the UBC Botanical Gardens canopy walk. As Chris was not present, financial feasibility could not be immediately assessed, but all present were generally in favour.

Darra raised the possibility of free events such as a board game night and suggested that events take place on different dates and times to accommodate students' varying schedules.

It was agreed that Ean will draft a social schedule for the year and work with Margrith on getting a pub night going, likely at Storm Crow Alehouse.

Ean also suggested putting treats in student mailboxes for Valentine's Day or another upcoming holiday. The idea was well-received, and Emma and Lucas will coordinate, again depending on the financials.

### **Elections, recruitment, succession planning:**

Margrith discussed the need for people to be elected, involved, and trained earlier so that everyone can transition smoothly as the new exec takes over April 1st. She also asked that everyone on the current exec document a little bit about their position, accounts or documents they use, activities they coordinate, etc.

### **SLAIS and Journalism merger:**

David asked whether LASSA would change based on the forthcoming merger. Margrith said that it would continue to represent the existing programs and maintain its independence, but that there may be a separate student committee of the merged schools at some point. However, it is still unsure, and LASSA will continue making decisions based on its current structure for the time being.

Margrith reported that Luanne has said there will be another town hall soon, but the focus and timeframe are unknown. She also stressed LASSA's advocacy role and that any LASSA member can be contacted with comments for SLAIS.

Emma said that the journalism school's town hall was contentious and that they appear to favour the merger even less than those at the SLAIS town hall. She also said she had asked if incoming students were aware of the merger and did not receive a response. This fact was generally concerning to those in attendance.

Darra shared that the DSA has been talking about writing an open letter and thought that perhaps LASSA could spearhead it.

After some discussion, the following proposed plan of action was drawn up:

1. Actively solicit feedback on the merger from students
2. Give feedback to SLAIS
3. Transmit the SLAIS response to students
4. Produce an open letter based on this response

### **Advocacy**

Margrith wished it to be known that she has been continuing to work on accessible and gender-neutral bathrooms for SLAIS students.

**4. The meeting was adjourned at 1:07pm.**