

Minutes to 2017 Executive Committee meeting (10 Nov).

Present: Emily Isaacson, Kathryn Dolan, Eloise Sureau, Jason Arthur, Matthew Barbee, Erika Behrisch Elce, Christopher Kendrick.

After introductions, the committee reviewed a "Summary of Revenue and Expenses 2016-17" document, and a forecast report. While the finances of the organization are in relatively good shape, there is reason to think that the past few years' increase in revenues (especially royalties) will decrease over the next few years. In a discussion of how surplus might best be used, it was decided that the amount spent on travel grants, for adjunct faculty as well as graduate students, should be increased.

The committee reviewed a "Report on Membership". The number of members, and the ratio of faculty to graduate students, and of faculty ranks, have stayed roughly the same over the last 4 years, with generally small annual fluctuations. In a discussion of how to increase conference attendance next year, it was suggested that we should increase publicity efforts with regard to schools in and close to Kansas City; increase the number of pedagogy sessions and panels; and continue to recruit affiliate organizations. There was discussion of what might be appropriate group events in Kansas City. There was also discussion of whether and how digital humanities matters might be incorporated more effectively into the convention; the possibility of digital displays and exhibits was specifically discussed. Books of MMLA members published the preceding year are currently listed in the Program Book; the possibility of having an authors' table of recently published books was discussed. (The issue of skyped paper presentations, and of substitute readers, was also discussed, and it was decided to stick with the general policy of not allowing them.)

MMLA membership and registration policies, in relation to those of other regional MLAs, were reviewed. MMLA policies on refunds and unannounced no-shows were reviewed and discussed; it was decided that a list of no-shows should be kept, and sent to the committee charged with reviewing paper proposals, and that, barring extenuating circumstances, unannounced no-shows should not be allowed to participate in the conference.

The composition of the Executive Committee was discussed. With respect to rotation: Emily Isaacson will move to the position of Past President/ Treasurer; Kathryn Dolan moves to the position of President, and also joins Erika Berisch Elce on the Editorial Committee; Eloise Sureau was elected Vice-President. Sheila Liming, from the U of North Dakota, was elected and begins a three-year term on the committee. Jason Arthur and Emily Lutenski rotate off the committee, to the unanimous chagrin of those who remain. It was agreed that the Executive Committee should in future include a graduate student, and nominations from the committee were invited. It was agreed that in future there should be at least two Modern-Language faculty, and nominations were invited.

Kathryn Dolan proposed "Consuming Cultures" as the theme of the 2018 (Kansas City) convention, and this was discussed and approved.

The group of undergraduate panels was increased, this year, from 3 to 8 panels. The committee discussed this "undergraduate symposium", agreed that it seems a welcome and successful addition to the conference, and that it should be reviewed and continued as seems advisable.

The state of by-laws revision was consulted. It was determined that a draft of the by-laws should be prepared by the end of the year, and that they should include specific guidelines for replenishing the Executive Committee. (The by-laws committee is Matt Barbee, Chris Kendrick, and Emily Lutenski [graciously extending her time-of-service to help with completing the revision].)