

Minutes to 2016 Executive Committee meeting (11 Nov).

Present: Emily Lutenski, Jason Arthur, Andrea Knutson, Rachel Greenwald Smith, Erika Behrisch Elce, Arline Cravens, Matthew Barbee, Christopher Kendrick, Emily Isaacson (by conference phone), Hillary Nunn (by conference phone), Kathryn Dolan (new member), Eloise Sureau (new member).

The committee began with members introducing themselves.

The committee reviewed MMLA revenues and expenses for the past year, and the cashflow forecast report for 2016-17.

The committee reviewed income and subscriptions data for the JMMLA. Future editorial arrangements were discussed, including the possibility that editorial committee tenures might be extended to five years (Jason Arthur and Erika Behrisch Elce will confer and report back on that).

The committee reviewed data on the composition of the MMLA's membership for the past few years. (It was noted that data on Independent Scholars was missing, and should be collected next year.)

Emily Isaacson proposed the 2017 conference theme—Art and Activism. It was discussed and approved unanimously by the committee.

The two new nominees for service on the Executive Committee, Kathryn Dolan and Eloise Sureau, were approved. They are replacing Andrea Knutson and Arline Cravens, who are rotating off the committee this year. Hillary Nunn and Rachel Greenwald Smith also rotate off the committee. The committee grimly regretted these members' departure.

Sub-committees and posts were reviewed. Emily Isaacson will be president from (what remains of) 2016 through the 2017 convention. Emily Lutenski moves to the treasurer position. Kathryn Dolan will be the vice-president. Emily Isaacson, Erika Behrisch-Elce, Eloise Sureau, and Kathryn Dolan make up the program committee. Jason Arthur and Erika Behrisch Elce constitute the editorial committee. There are two ad hoc committees: Emily Lutenski, Matt Barbee, and Chris Kendrick are the standing governance committee; Matt Barbee, Jenny Frey, and a member to be determined comprise the committee on the inclusion of undergraduates in the convention.

The committee discussed the need to attract and include more sessions on literatures in foreign languages. It was agreed that we should reach out to foreign-language literary organizations, especially in the Midwest; and that we should attempt significantly to increase the number of such panels for next year's conference.

The committee discussed the need comprehensively to update the organization's bylaws. The question of how to replenish the committee was particularly discussed, and a sub-committee was assigned.

The committee discussed the possibility of including a group of undergraduate sessions in the convention on a regular basis. All agreed that this is a desirable thing to do, and that the manner of inclusion is an important matter, which needs deliberation. A subcommittee was established.

The committee was informed of the state of the ongoing project of securing hotel contracts for 2018-2022 convention. Contracts have been signed for 2018 (Kansas City) and 2019 (Chicago), and are in the offing for 2020 (Milwaukee) and 2021 (Cleveland). It was agreed that we should continue to try to find a hotel in Minneapolis for 2022).

The committee discussed the use in future of “conference apps”, whose main advantage would be to make communication with and among conference members more reliable and convenient. It was agreed that we would discuss this again at next year’s committee (when we will have more information available, not least concerning the relative cost of the apps).