



# MUSSA March Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, March 6th 2018

Time: 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Location: BL 507

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Meeting called to order at: 4:05pm

In Attendance: Aurora Cacioppo (via phone), Kristen McLaughlin, Kathleen Vahey, Hannah Hadfield, Serena Ypelaar, Erica Chi, Sydney Rose, Katlyn Wooder, Marlee Yule, Laetitia Dandavino-Tardif, Maeghan Jerry, Jessica Stevens

Regrets: Evelyn Feldman, Leore Zecharia, Charlotte Gagnier, Amy Intrator, Susan Jama

1. Meeting Called to Order
  - I. Approval of Agenda
    - i. Motion approved by (2 MUSSA members):
      1. Serena Ypelaar
      2. Maeghan Jerry
  - II. Approval of Minutes
    - i. Motion approved by:
      1. Kathleen Vahey
      2. Sydney Rose

## Vote for Social Media Assistant

- Jessica Stevens introduces herself
- Will be going to exhibitions to take photos and do social media
- Volunteer position for now because we can't vote in a role outside of the AGM
- Kristen asks if we are all ok with this plan and we vote yes, unanimously
- Meet this week or next week to figure out the schedule
- Serena to send links to Musings articles once they are published

## Committee Updates/Reports

- I. Alumni Association
  - i. Kathleen to discuss in social
- II. Admissions Committee
  - i. Nothing to report

- III. Programs Committee
  - i. Nothing to report
- IV. Committee on Standing
  - i. Nothing to report
- V. Tech Fund
  - i. Revamp how 307 is staffed - might be subsumed into the Inforum
  - ii. Tech Fund is in the process of compiling annual reports
- VI. MISC-MUSSA Liaison
  - i. MISC's last meeting was Monday February 19 at 5:30 - Wendy Duff visited to discuss the Inforum collection - MISC has a new website (<http://misc.ischool.utoronto.ca/>)
  - ii. The iBall is April 11, 7-10PM, at the Faculty Club - March 20 trivia night is the next and only remaining joint event this semester
  - iii. Voted for MISC to be in support of the Varsity referendum (for Grad Students to pay fees to The Varsity and have graduate issues be part of the paper)
  - iv. No progress to report on a joint calendar as yet.
- VII. Musings
  - i. Musings Panel at the iSchool conference was a success - Prof. Brower is really impressed with Musings and their social media strategies, he should be considered as a possible supervisor in the future
  - ii. Lots of interest from the Women in Leadership panel post, as many associated institutions reblogs the post (AGH & Power Plant)
  - iii. Event coverage is a good way for Musings to become visible in social media platforms - should continue into next year
  - iv. Serena is in progress of community outreach to reach more audiences

#### Exec Updates

- VIII. Treasurer
  - i. Financial reports and budget sent via email to MUSSA
  - ii. Reports and expenses from the recent iSchool Conference not completely compiled or included in the financial reports
  - iii. Bank account has approximately \$2700 - excluding some written cheques that need to be cashed
  - iv. MUSSA has available funds to spend for upcoming special events - i.e. end of semester party
  - v. Special Grant for next year often goes towards the overnight trips, this year it went towards the Women and

- Leadership Panel (since there was no trip) - the next year's council can decide how they would like to spend it
- IX. Social Chair and/or Social Assistant
    - i. No update from Susan as the Social Assistant
    - ii. Good turn out for the blood drive, movie night and other events - Women in Leadership panel had many attendees!
    - iii. Markham Museum visit was not as well attended - 12 people
    - iv. MUSSA donated the clothing drive to a women's shelter on Bloor St.
    - v. The upcoming Networking Trivia Event is to be tentatively held March 22nd with FIAA (waiting on trivia master confirmation) - with mixed teams of MMSt student, MISC student, FIAA alumni, faculty, etc
      - 1. Most likely to be hosted at O'Grady's on College St.
      - 2. MUSSA is contributing \$100 for prizes
    - vi. Future events with a private curator tour with the Power Plant and New Dimensions Testimony at the end of March
    - vii. End of Semester Pub Night set for **April 12th** around 6pm
    - viii. First Aid Workshop requires a minimum of 10 people - we are hoping to host it April 14-15th
  - X. First Year Representative
    - i. Nothing to report
  - XI. Second Year Representative
    - i. Final number for merchandise sales: expenses were **\$1259.36**, revenue for the fall **\$1227.22** and winter **\$842.96** - total of **\$2070.18**, overall profits of **\$811.82**
    - ii. Still have merchandise to sell & covered our total costs
  - XII. Vice President
    - i. UTGSU meeting attended with little updates
    - ii. Chief Returning Officer - elections occurring the first week of April as MUSSA council turn over date is April 14th
      - 1. Announcement will be held in MUSELETTER and Kristen will inform Laetitia of the positions to make an announcement in first-year class
      - 2. Possibility to create vote posters for the MUSSA wall
  - XIII. President
    - i. Women in Leadership was successfully held and social media for Musings was well-read
      - 1. Should be considered as an annual panel - to be planned during the summer
      - 2. Faculty and students were appreciative and inspired

- ii. MMSt 50 year celebration - Irina asked Aurora to bring a first-year, Erica will also attend the event March 14th from 11am-12pm
- iii. John Summers is publishing a book - Book launch event will be held Wednesday, April 18th in BL 728
- iv. Cara emailed the MMSt listserv regarding low participation in iSchool hosted events and requested better attendance for students to get the most out of their grad experience
- v. Year end reports due April 14th - please write a useful document that includes a summary of your roles and responsibilities for the transitioning council
  - 1. Representatives to meet up before the transition
  - 2. **To Do: write a report summarizing your roles and responsibilities to submit to Aurora by April 14th - she will create a Google Drive to access this info.**
- vi. **To Do:** Kristen to review the constitution and confirm the committee transitions for next year
- XIV. Friday, March 16th - MUSSA party event to be held around 7:00pm
  - i. **To Do:** Laetitia will pick a place for dinner and possibly drinks afterwards

#### Announcements/Updates

- I. Truth and Reconciliation Student Working Group
  - i. It is a working group in the Faculty with 2 MISC reps and 1 MUSSA rep and PHD students - working group with MI/MMst to create events regarding reconciliation efforts
  - ii. Blanket exercise in review to make a workshop for next year
  - iii. **To Do:** Create a position for the Truth and Reconciliation committee representative, who is responsible to plan a reconciliation event once a semester with the committee
  - iv. Ideas for the group to do for next year: panel discussion with the local Indigenous community to speak with us, OISE has resources that could help and collaborate, exhibitions in the city with a relationship with Indigenous history or current culture and have an event (curator's tour or discussion)
    - 1. Possibility suggested that Committee representative will write on Musings in the upcoming year
- II. The Space Revitalization Working Group
  - i. Sydney's update from her role on the Space Revitalization committee (with an MI rep and PHD rep) - transparency was not present during the Bissell revitalization and removal of the Inforum print collection

1. The revitalization and committee concluded August 2017
  - faculty received the update, however students were excluded from the discussion and the update was not shared until March 6, 2018
2. Vagueness regarding the possibility to relocate the Inforum collection - "was discussed and should be explored further"
- ii. **To Do: compile any suggestions or concerns of MMSt students with the Bissell Revitalization Plan**
- iii. Hannah and Kristen have created a survey and disseminated it to students to receive feedback
- iv. Inforum print collection
  1. Evelyn (MISC/MUSSA liaison) email featured in the **Appendix** regarding her opinion of the print collection and lack of librarian consultation
- III. Faculty consultation occurred regarding the Revitalization Working Group - allegedly, librarians were not consulted
  - i. Roles and responsibilities of the librarians will change but we are concerned with how this changes collection processes
  - ii. Inconclusive results from the consultation - UofT librarians sent a letter with 70+ signatures of the distress caused from not consulting its staff
    1. MISC petition (acquired 55 signatures in under 24 hrs) regarding why were students not consulted
    2. MUSSA is representative of MMSt students, not many have voiced concerns and feedback - we are taking a neutral stance until feedback can be gathered because information was dropped on students very recently so it will take time (transparency was not there)
  - iii. Data shows that students do not support the collections removal and are concerned with exclusion of MMSt within an MI space
  - iv. MUSSA can stand in support and provide a stance after feedback - everyone disapproved with the process of removal and lack of communication between faculty and students
  - v. There will be a **Communications committee** created in the future with a MUSSA representative for issues like this in the future (faculty and staff) to clarify how information is disseminated to students
    1. **To Do: email the Dean to send a statement on behalf of MUSSA and send to the MMSt listserv through Asma**

2. Statement is supporting better communications strategies, the Faculty of Information and libraries
- IV. MUSSA encourages and continues to report ongoing communication between students and faculty
    - i. Access & care to the Museum Studies collections is at risk!
  - V. Executive Council should ensure communication on feasibility committee - feasibility studies are held with student feedback
  - VI. How to promote MUSSA engagement for next year
    - i. Collaborate with Colin for Milestones as an MMSt student
    - ii. Opportunity to form connections through the experience - empowerment through association initiatives
    - iii. Next year council to go into classes and motivate people to join the association early
    - iv. Laetitia will make an announcement in an upcoming first-year class to promote joining MUSSA next year
    - v. We can organize meetings between executives and future nominations to clarify their roles and will review the summary of roles and responsibilities as previously mentioned

Meeting adjourned at: 5:32pm

## Appendix - Evelyn's Notes

My MI concentration is in Library and Information Science, I currently work at two U of T libraries, and I hope to some day make my career as a librarian.

I feel, both from my knowledge of libraries, and from personal experience with the collection, that there are a great number of reasons that it makes far more sense to keep the collection. There is a reason that U of T has 44 libraries--smaller, specialized collections in large library systems are incredibly valuable for users. I could go on for a very long time about the many many things that are wrong with dispersing the print collection, from the users' perspective.

However, more than anything, I think that this issue is not about the collection but about the librarians, and the administration's lack of transparency. It is appalling to me that the administration is dispersing the library print collection without even consulting the Inforum librarians. Decisions about a library should be made by the librarians, who curate the collection, who look after the collection, and who know best the users' needs and the collection's utility for those users.

At the MISC meeting, Wendy Duff seemed shocked when we told her how useless the coffee table seating area is, and she disagreed with us on the basis that she periodically walked through the Inforum and saw people sitting in that area. This illustrates my point, that the librarians are the ones who work in the inforum, know the space and the users, and should have decision-making control, at least in part. This is not even to mention that not consulting with them undermines their professional capacity, and the professional capacity of Librarianship as a whole--which is appalling in any case, but particularly so in a school that teaches future library professionals.

I personally feel that whether we care about the print collection or not, if we care about the Inforum librarians we should be opposed to these actions by the administration, in solidarity with the librarians.

I don't really know how much MUSSA can do, if much at all, but I'd really like to urge everyone as individuals, if you disagree with the dispersal of the Inforum collection, to email your feelings to the dean and CC the Inforum librarians."

As far as MISC goes, I unfortunately don't know what further actions they will be taking on the issue of the print collection, if any. I don't know about any at this time. There was a lack of consensus at the MISC meeting over whether this issue was even a problem. I think if MISC does make any other plans, they will be based on decisions of the executive council and I won't know much about them.

And, one addition--if people email the dean and librarians, please make sure to keep it professional and politely worded.