

SIMSA Meeting Minutes:
Friday, January 24th, 2014 @ 7:00pm – Grad Pad

AGENDA

Attendance: Maggie, Karen, Andrea, Connie, Alieda, Nicole, Mark, Sam, Laura, Danielle

Absent: Rebecca (Laura Takes Minutes)

1. **Call to Order** – 7:15 pm
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Approval of Agenda** - Alieda motions to approve, Danielle seconds. All in favor.
4. **Funding Update**

Connie: For some reason DSU believes that we are classified as a type 2 society; but SIMSA is definitely a type 1 society. Because of this mix up we haven't received our funding yet. We currently have \$232 in our account. Maggie and I talked to Dr. Howard to see what we can do.

So first DSU sent me to another place because they thought that we were type 2 society; and these people didn't respond to me. I finally got a hold of someone, and DSU essentially said that they didn't know who we are.

Maggie: In regard to the meeting with Dr. Howard – we have always received funding from DSU, so we don't know why they are refusing us money. Dr. Howard is going to talk to Dr. Spiteri – if Holly (from DSU) gets back to us and we still don't get our money, then they (Dr. Howard/Dr. Spiteri) are going to talk to Holly, or perhaps Joann. Hopefully through this we can receive our funding. So essentially right now we're waiting to hear from Holly, to see whether or not we need to get Spiteri to step in. Kudos to Connie for all of the hard work that she was been doing about this. We've passed our fall audit – which is what we need to do in order to get our funding. So there shouldn't be such a hold up.

Karen: Connie has been doing a fabulous job, this is nothing to do with Connie's work. She's been working so hard to figure this out.

Mark: Who decided to change our classification as a society? Who changed our classification from 1 to 2? We should find out who decided this and when.

Connie: Holly said that nothing has changed from the policy – they have no record of this. Apparently they don't keep records of who they give money to each year.

Mark: It seems as though the definition of a type one society is for a faculty organizations?

Sam: When we received ratification did it say what type of society we are?

Maggie: Rebecca would know. But when you're ratified it goes through a committee – we got the committee treatment. We definitely were classified as a type one society.

Connie: I think that they think that we are just a master program, not a faculty/school.

Maggie: We'll keep you all updated on the situation.

- 5. Approval of last SIMSA Executive meeting minutes** - Karen motions to approve, Danielle seconds. All in favor.

6. Holiday Party Follow Up

Mark: Keeping it brief, essentially we made 278\$. That should all have been passed on to Connie, and we have no outstanding fees. The only issue we had was in regard to the King's Wardroom drink tickets. I would suggest that we not deal with them again. I was also thinking that I would perhaps do a doodle pole for the victory party to see when people are available.

Karen: A doodle poll for the whole SIM?

Mark: Yes, just to get an idea of when would be the best time. Just to make people feel a bit more included, and to get an idea of when the most people can go. Also thank you for everyone who stepped - up we made the most money this year in comparison to previous years.

7. Fundraisers in 2014 (creative writing, book bags, etc.)

Andrea: I made an announcement about the creative writing book in class. I also approached a few people – they seemed pretty excited about it. In regard to the tote bags – there are some designs I came up with. There are a couple of companies I'm looking at for cost. I approached the bookstore about whether or not they would want to sell them, but I haven't heard back from them. I think I would be ordering them all in one color. I think we would sell them for about \$10 per bag

Karen: I definitely would buy them! If we want to sell them to the book store – we might need some more information to clarify price. Do we sell them to the

book store, then they sell them for more? We also don't want to buy a bunch and then have some left over.

Alieda: Who have you contacted so far?

Andrea: So far just the bookstore, if I don't hear back I'll go in.

Maggie: The money situation also plays into this.

Sam: It was like \$2 each for 100.

Maggie: About the creative writing book – should we pump it up a lot and keep deadline, or extend the deadline?

Nicole: What is the size of the booklet?

Maggie: Relatively small.

Karen: I want to submit something – can it be anonymous?

Maggie: Definitely!

Danielle: We should be raising a bit more awareness about the creative writing book.

Laura: We could do that through the facebook page.

8. Constitution update

Karen: There's a team of us working on it: myself, Sam, Nikki, Andrea, and Rebecca. I've gotten through sections 1-4, and we can showing you what we're taking out. If you want to take a look through, and take a look at the changes feel free. Hopefully at our next meeting we'll have comments. Then in March we'll have a final version, and we can vote it in at the general meeting. The biggest change that we're making is that the professional networking chair doesn't need to be its own position. The communication's chair (currently Rebecca) tends to fill most of those duties and as well as Mark's position.

9. Management Career Services

Karen: We talked about this a bit in the last meeting. Do we want to move forward? If we do then we need to talk to Robert. It's really going to effect the incoming class, so we need to make a decision.

Andrea: It just isn't geared towards libraries. They are superficially helpful in regard to cover letters and resumes.

Maggie: We've actually brought that up to Spiteri. It really depends on the library – you can gear it toward libraries because they aren't consistent. However, in academic libraries you are expected to do a presentation. So there are some ways to include more things. It does vary, but there are other things that could be mentioned. I think it's too easy to say it's too vague.

Danielle: Reiterating a bit, they can't just focus on libraries, because not everyone wants to go into libraries. So they can't be too specific, but it would be nice to mention.

Karen: I think those are great comments, but in a lot of ways that is part of the purpose to talking to Robert – we can say here is a way that you can make it more relevant to libraries. Here are some ways you can improve the service to make it more library focused. Constructive criticism. In some ways not being a library or information manager, he may just not realize.

Alieda: It would be helpful to look at what skills each of the professionals need – how do you approach the job.

Nicole: They have to make it broad, because we have people who are interested in management, policy, public libraries, and academic libraries, and more! There are so many different routes – how do they really choose which ones to focus on?

Connie: – This degree enables you to do a lot of jobs, but how do you find these jobs? I'd like to have help with job searching.

Karen: So going back to the original question – should we approach Robert?

Nicole: It seems as though people feel like we should have more specialized information at the sessions.

Maggie: What we can say to Robert is that we're wondering if you're open to having a conversation with the students, to explore ways to improve. We need to speak to him first out of courtesy, and to see if he's open to this having a conversation.

Karen: I'm sure he's open to it.

Maggie: so we'll go into this.

Action Karen motions to have Maggie and herself meet with management career services to discuss a potential conversation about improvements to the service. Sam seconds. All in favor. Motion approved.

10. Grad Photos

Maggie: About the grad photos – Marianne e-mailed me that lifetouch is coming to campus on the 4th and 6th of February. I asked about when the online registration open, and she said she would email them and ask. She was a bit delayed getting back to me, but the online registration is now open. I know it's short notice, but it's going to happen!

11. Other business

Logos

Andrea: So we thought that we would send an online survey out about the logos.

Alieda: We thought that some students may want to contribute their own logo. So the survey would give people a chance to voice their opinion

Karen: When would send the survey?

Andrea: Shortly after this meeting.

Sam: So it would just be the logos that Andrea has created in the survey?

Alieda: Yes, the survey would identify those who like those logos, and also identify others who are interested in creating logos themselves.

Sam: So if there's a few people interested in creating logos, then we would give them the opportunity to create them if they want.

Action Andrea motions to go forward with the survey. Danielle seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

DAL Reads

Maggie: We had a meeting with Marlo to find out information about Dal reads. It's been around since 2009, but it hasn't had a lot of attention. It was scheduled at the same time as One Book Nova Scotia. It involved selecting a book, and short list a campus wide survey. The book would be selected in March, and then we would be given time to read it. Then it would be promoted when fall activities are happening. It would give SIM students a great opportunity to take part in RA marketing, surveying, a lot of different things. Even if students aren't interested in taking part right away, there's lots of opportunity. Lots of interest! Great way to get involved, and you can commit as much time as you want. You don't have to stay involved after graduation if you don't want to. Super open and flexible.

Karen: Maggie did a great description, and to add to that – is about how SIMSA is involved. The main role we have is that we're the communication piece between Marlo, Dal Libraries and SIMSA.

DJIM

Conflict of interest – Mark, Andrea

Karen: So DJIM has requested funding

Maggie reads summary from the letter from DJIM

Maggie: So we do fund DJIM? Our main concern right now is that we don't have money!

Connie: \$30 was given to them last year

Danielle: I think that we had some criteria from last year that we used to determine whether or not to give them money.

Connie: Last year was the first year we gave them money.

Karen: if I remember correctly, we talked about whether we're giving money to DJIM in our budget. We already voted that we were going to give them money.

Connie: I think it was \$100 but I don't have it in front of me.

Karen: We decided in the summer, because we decided on the budget.

Maggie: We did agree to give them money, I don't want to avoid it because we don't have money. I'd like to give them a response.

Laura: We can respond and say that we are giving them money, it is just "pending". Until we receive our funding from DAGS.

Maggie: I'd feel terrible if they didn't get their money.

Karen: ACA and SLA have letters waiting as well, so there are more requests coming.

Maggie: Does everyone think Laura's suggestion is appropriate?

Murmurs of agreement

Karen: I personally I think it would be good to specify the amount.

Action Danielle motions for Maggie to send an e-mail to DJIM, stating that they will get their funding pending for when SIMSA's receives their funding from DAGS. Alieda seconds, all in favor. (Andrea and Mark do not vote – conflict of interest).

Student Leaders Meeting

Karen: We gave them an update on some of the things we're doing: IWB, Dal reads, creative writing book, grad photos. A common theme is that they wanted to hear about our events. They said that if we are having an event – the faculty of management will promote it. For example if there are any professional development – other schools might be interested in attending.

Maggie: Other societies might be interested in what we're doing: there are opportunities there for us to create some connections.

Alieda: who's the contact?

Karen: Merianne Hagan. She said to send her summary of events and she'll send them to other school's and organizations.

Sam: About connecting with their societies – do we have the contact information of the other societies? Perhaps we could create a listserve.

Karen: Marianne would have that that information

Connie: Did you have a chance to ask anyone at the meeting whether or not they had trouble receiving their DAGS funding?

Karen: No I'm sorry we didn't!

Laura: If you like I could talk to Jen, the head of the MPA student union whether or not they've had trouble.

Karen: Aother interesting thing that happened at the meeting was about the International Student Experience Association. They are trying to raise awareness, so if there's anyone who'd liketo help out with those activities. Miranda, whose office is on the fourth floor (465 office number) is available if anyone gets a question from our international students - we can direct them to her.

IWB

Maggie: I'd like to give Sam the opportunity to talk about IWB.

Sam: Well, we're 20 days away from the conference. We have our final speaker, our program is done, and we're just waiting for people to sign up. We've had quite a few professionals register so far. We're currently waiting to give numbers to the caterers. We have some awesome speakers lined up! There's also the tweet contest, which is going to be great.

Website

Alieda: Margaret, myself and Danielle are meeting soon to change the website over to wordpress. So probably in the next week or so the new website will be under construction! I was thinking about getting in contact with all the SIM type societies who may want a presence on the website. What do you think? I thought it would be interesting to have the SIMSA website as a sort of hub for activity.

murmurs of agreement

Karen: I was thinking that we could have a website launch party!

Andrea: We could also use that to launch the new logo as well!

Danielle: The contacts are buried in the resource page.

Karen motions to adjourn, Laura seconds. All in favor.

Meeting ends at 8:37pm.