SIMSA All Members Meeting — June 24th 2020

**Attendees (SIMSA Executives)**

Katie Kehoe, Communications Chair

Kathleen Pond, Non-Academic Chair

Alexis Wilkinson, Academic Chair

Annalise Benoit, Financial Chair

Ratna Dhaliwal, Chair

Ashley MacKinnon, Digital Publications Chair

Missing: Grace Hildebrand, Special Projects Chair

**Attendees (Members)**

Dan Phillips

Lynn Hart

Jesse Burgess

Erica Finch

Rachel Moylan

Cambria Huff

Jared McLellan

Liana Nand

Meaghan Rout

Celina Stillman

Tamanna Moharana

Cassandra Larose

Jai Soloy

**Meeting called to session: 3:05pm**

*[Recording begins]*

1. Update from Academic Chair, Alexis Wilkinson

Scheduling Lunch and Learn’s for the fall semester

* Will be uploaded to Brightspace
* First lunch and learn from Dan Phillips on how to use Wordpress
* Ideally will upload this content in August for launch in September
* Second Lunch and Learn from Deborah Hemmings, current liaison librarian
* Possibly asking new assistant professor Phillippe Mongeon to do a Lunch and Learn

Other ideas

* Collaborating with children services team from HPL
* Workshops on virtual librarianship
* Workshop focusing on children’s librarianship

**2.** Update from Non-Academic Chair, Kathleen Pond

Email buddies

* Email buddies recruitment email was send out
* Deadline to volunteer is Friday (June 26th)
* Template to use as first email and email buddy assignment to come soon

Orientation survey

* Sent out a week or so ago
* Feedback to be collected and analyzed soon
* Meeting with Janet and Sandra to discuss

Orientation activities

* Will be mainly virtual activities
* Beneficial to new students outside of province
* If you have any ideas for orientation activities, feel free to email Kathleen

What will our Association Display look like this year?

* Kathleen or Alexis will be getting in touch with HLA (Halifax Library Association) and NSLA (Nova Scotia Library Association) to discuss
* These associations have already reached out and expressed interest
* Will probably ask them to film videos/create virtual content
* Virtually through Brightspace
* Added to list of projects

**3.** Update from Digital Publications Chair, Ashley MacKinnon

New Brightspace page!

* The aim of the Brightspace page is to create a virtual community for new and returning students
* Ashley is open to suggestions for new content
* Meeting minutes and Blackboard Collaborate videos from SIMSA meetings will be posted to Brightspace as well as website

Special project — SIM logo

* Project is a collaboration between Grace and Ashley
* Current logo does not accurately reflect SIM, especially since the program’s rebranding
* Project was discussed during the winter semester but was then derailed due to pandemic
* Question of should it be rekindled? Is there interest in this project?
* Would be a design competition among students
* Should a committee be formed?

**4.** Update from Communication Chair, Katie Kehoe

* Appreciate the responsiveness to requests for feedback
* Is the current channel for asking for feedback and communicating with students working well? Any suggestions?

**5.** Update from Financial Chair, Annalise Benoit

* We will continue to budgeting for holiday party, which can hopefully happen in December or January
* Flexible in moving timelines (may only be a end of the year party)
* Fundraising will look different this year but it will happen!
* There is room in the budget for new logo and possibly merchandise displaying the new logo

*[Open floor discussion, recording turned off]*

*[Sandra joins call, recording resumes]*

**Sandra Regarding MCS [Management Career Services]**

Meeting with Robert Wooden

* Expressed concerns from feedback (clear communication issues, generalized workshops, etc.)
* Promises that the service will be better going forward, however only in terms of communication channels (no plan on how to make service more specified to our program)

Other Options?

Sandra is working with directors of MPA (Masters of Public Administration) and MREM (Masters of Resources and Environmental Management). We could combine with these parties to create a service that will cater to our specified needs.

The Faculty of Graduate Studies has created a certificate for professional development.

* Students would receive credit in their program for practicum, work with IWB
* Focused on readiness for the job market, leadership, health and wellness
* Certificate has been approved by faculty council
* Should be should be fully approved within the next week or so

What do we, as students, want from professional development?

* More specialized workshops
* It is important to note that many generalized services are offered by the Student Success Centre and we can attend these workshops there
* We have resources within alumni
* We would like to see the return of a previous mentorship program called SIMConnect, which would connect current students with a alumni mentor
* APLA is interested in a mentorship program with us

How can we structure professional development that is not too much of a demand on students’ time?

* Should we work professional development into practicums? (E.g., studying online resources alongside practicum work)
* If you have any ideas on this, feel free to email Sandra

What are things that you wished you’d known in your first year that could have helped you with professional development?

* The various different avenues of this degree

**Final verdict**

SIM will be **cutting ties** with MCS for the time being and exploring other options for student professional development.

We will be exploring our options with other faculties within the School of Business (MPA and MREM) and looking into mentorship options with alumni and APLA.

We will continue to monitor the situation and may reconnect with MCS if services improve.

**Meeting adjourned: 4:47pm**

*[Recording ended]*