

Annual Medical Rhetoric Standing Group (MRSRG) Meeting Notes

Thursday, April 4th, 6:30-7:30pm. Location: Room 206 A, Spokane Convention Center

Room Level: Upper Level. [Session Code 2: TSIG.16](#)

Introductions and Attendance (25 minutes)

First, Lilly Campbell, MRSRG Chair, started the session by discussing who we are as a group, and what the group aims to do. She noted that our group is interdisciplinary in nature and that our group often overlaps and intersects with others, but the key to group existence is the experiences around medical contexts and how these contexts function in various spaces.

Next, Lilly invited everyone to the [MRSRG roundtable](#) the following day. After which Lilly reminded the group of the planned Social Hour at Saranac Public House from 3:30-5:00pm. This time is meant to encourage community-building and gives everyone the opportunity to chat and get to know one another.

Following the invitation for an event, Lilly set the agenda for the meeting by asking what the steps should be for the following year. For example, she pointed to thinking through what topics folx might like to attend for [Third Thursdays](#). She also commented that the meeting space welcomes different approaches and ideas to events such as Third Thursdays. As an example, Lilly mentioned other areas that our group might be able to assist others such as grant writing practices and spaces.

Lastly, Lilly invited the group to share their names, how they found the group (if applicable), any affiliations they felt comfortable sharing, and research interests in RHM. Everyone agreed to have their names, affiliations, email addresses, and research interests shared on this public space. Attendees were also excited about the possibility to work with others who might be interested in talking and/or collaborating on projects. Approximately 17 people attended the meeting!

New Officer Elections: Updates (5 minutes)

Kirstin LaFollette (Associate Chair) noted that there are three positions coming up for election. The roles and their responsibilities are as follows:

- Associate Chair
 - Running elections and assisting the Chair with planning and logistics for the MRSRG
- Member-at-Large
 - Organizing and writing the CFP for the MRSRG meeting at CCCC (the roundtable)
- Graduate Student Representative (1)
 - Emailing folx about Third Thursdays and seeing if they would reach out to others they know and working through logistics

Should you have any questions about any of the positions, please email Kristin LaFollette at klafollett@usi.edu.

Small Group Sessions and Feedback (25 minutes)

Since all attendees were sitting at tables for the meeting, small groups were determined based on the general area someone was sitting, but there wasn't a specific group anyone had to be a part of; instead, groups formed organically based on space. Conversation ensued and then groups came back to debrief what they discussed as a group. While the overall goal was to discuss the addition of a proposed bylaw revision (Article 6, Section 1): "A new graduate student representative will be elected each year to serve a two-year term. There will be a total of two graduate student representatives per year: one new and one returning," groups had the autonomy to discuss their own topics.

Potential Grant Applications for SIGs

April 18th is leadership and service. Lilly will look into potential money for service next year in Baltimore, MD. Many agreed to think about a potential service field trip. Lilly will reach out to Brian Harrell to see if he can set something up since he's close to the space and has contacts. Another member suggested reaching out to Johns Hopkins and asking what they might need. As a group, we can offer them project help.

Another point in this conversation was thinking through how to reach undergraduate folks to join the MRSRG. One suggestion was to recruit by affiliation, but to formalize the approaches is a conversation to continue to have.

In thinking through naming the event, some suggested the name Barbara Heiffron since she was integral to founding the group. Another member suggested naming the event after Lisa Melonçon and/or Blake Scott as they started the journal after Heiffron. One member felt strongly that whatever event we engage in, the event should be named after Lisa Melonçon as a way to honor her contributions to RHM. Many suggested using Twitter ([@medrhet](https://twitter.com/medrhet)) to promote the event.

MRSRG CFP Ideas

- One group suggested including the work interdisciplinary and asking about transdisciplinarity within the CFP for next year. Another mentioned that Judy Segal called the field polydisciplinary and suggested that any language would help encourage an array of submissions for next year.
- Another idea was collaborating with sights/universities. One member suggested that collaborating would be a great Third Thursday topic.

Then the members moved to potential Third Thursday topics, listed below.

Third Thursday Potential Topics

- Critically communicating about methods in healthcare business administration and similar spaces would be a great way to think through the work RHM engages.
- Environmental work, like perhaps collaborating with the Environmental SIG?

- Introduction to the field and what does research in the field look like – maybe like a primer
- How to submit to the [RHM Journal](#) and how methodologies are framed in the field which may be similar/not similar to other fields
- Pandemic rhetorics
- Cancer care
- Ageism and consequences
- Mental Health Rhetorics, broadly defined
- Rhetorics of care, broadly defined

Conclusion (5 minutes)

The meeting ended with Lilly inviting members to the roundtable the following day, to be on the lookout for the CFP via social media ([Facebook: Flux](#) and [Twitter](#), or X) and the RHM listserv. Attendees left in high spirits as members talked and discussed their plans for the evening, the excitement for next year's meeting grew. The MRSO officers decided to meet in the next few months to plan out next year's events. If any questions remain, please feel free to reach out to Lilly Campbell [via email](#).