

CCCC 2026 MRSG Business Meeting Minutes

Date: Thurs, March 5th, 2026

Time: 6:30-7:30 PM

Facilitator: Kristin LaFollette, klafollett@usi.edu

Location: Huntington Convention Center; Cleveland, OH

Minutes Taker: Amanda Pratt

Present: Amanda Pratt, Kristin LaFollette, Christa Teston, Carly Braxton, Linda Smith-Brecheisen, Atiana Spivey, Khushi Patel, Prakash Paudel, Lilly Campbell, Kate Burt, Janie Raghunandan, Natalie Thompson, Jenn Patel

Present Online: Maggie Hart

1. Introductions
 - a. Distributed a sign-in sheet for attendees to indicate their name, email, and whether they would like to be added to the listserv
2. Update on Elections
 - a. Kristin sent around a flyer advertising the two open positions and their duties
 - i. At-Large member
 1. Main responsibility is drafting the CFP for our sponsored 4C27 roundtable and arranging the panel
 - ii. Graduate student representative
 1. Main responsibility is planning and facilitating 3rd Thursday events
 2. Clarified that although Maggie is the only current grad rep, she is currently serving the first of two terms, so will be continuing her service next year to support the incoming grad rep and maintain continuity moving forward
 - iii. Amanda will send out elections information to our communication channels once finalized by Martha, as there will be a tight turnaround to get the CFP drafted following elections
3. Update on Communication Channels
 - a. Christa Teston discussed logistical issues related to the listserv and emphasized that the RHM society is working hard behind the scenes to come up with a solution, including sending recent test emails that some but not all extant listserv subscribers at the meeting had received.

- i. Currently email, wordpress, and listserv all through the same hosting site – so listserv content is perhaps going straight to spam. One possibility is to remove listserv from the hosting site and put it somewhere else, e.g., a google group.
- 4. Ideas for Third Thursdays and Related Discussion
 - a. Kate – informed consent working with long term research processes – what that looks like for RHM and those that want to do more community engaged work
 - i. Lilly – maybe had someone a couple of years ago speak about that, but this is an evergreen topic.
 - b. Carly – Conversations around methodologies – very varied, but could be useful.
 - i. Kristin – we could maybe incorporate this discussion into the beginning of year networking event – people could talk about what they do and ask questions.
 - c. Linda S-B – Based on intros, everyone seems to be doing something very different. Could be great to hear places where you’re doing this work. Feels like an outsider/tangentially related but also very welcome in this group.
 - d. Carly – e.g., explains she is at Michigan State and was hired as part of an Arts and humanities/health and wellbeing initiative; takes a health and medicine/tech comm perspective on teaching, but also tenure-track so gets to do work and research with medical professionals / in clinical settings. Currently working to build out a research trajectory as well as new courses, has partnerships with the medical school
 - e. Kate – UNCG added a new general education requirement – undergraduates have to take a health and wellness class very broadly defined. The English depart created new curricula around literature and health that can be taught very differently per faculty interest (e.g., medical horror, nutrition/food, international approach)
 - f. Question - What is the likelihood that someone going to a medical school would ever have a health writing.
 - i. Lilly – tricky, and dependent on institutional context. U of FL teaches a very specific genre
 - ii. Khushi – in her undergraduate rhetoric major at UCF, there was a certificate on medical rhetoric and writing – graphic medicine course, very STEMMy but got really into it. And you can get an AMA certificate on top of it

- iii. Christa – a lot of accreditation audits pointing out that schools of public health etc. don't have enough writing in the curriculum.
Opportunity to build bridges – approached by PH
- g. Kristin – Does mostly archival research on medical history – communication about human remains – post mortem technical communication/human remains rhetorics. Book – mostly archival, visited lots of museums.
 - i. Kristin, Scott Graham, and Tori Peters all working on cadaverous rhetorics stuff — med museums make their displays so we're not freaked out by them – arranged so that we're not horrified by them
- h. Natalie – Does RHM only focus on human health? Pet/veterinary rhetorics? Pet drugs that you don't have to go to vet
 - i. Lilly – tech comm articles about how vet students learn to write and talk – planetary health –
 - ii. Lilly – just did the interprofessional health training at u – intersection between OneHealth
 - iii. Amanda - Jenell Johnson's book might be a good touchpoint – Rhetoric of Life itself; maybe a remapping of RHM is in order
 - iv. Natalie says YES she would be willing to do a 3rd Thursday talk
 - v. Therapy animals – food industry regulations with animal culture another area of potential interest
 - vi. Amanda – rural health and medicine has agricultural tie-in
- i. Maggie - We do have a speaker for this April – Erin Clark will present on a zine project related to reproductive health and the ways they get the word out.
- j. Linda – Important to prioritize actual usable work for advocacy in RHM work and connect with communities to which our work matters.
 - i. Lilly - The perpetual problem/goal; graphic medicine really trying to bridge this divide.
- k. Natalie - Edutainment – Hank Green videos – or “The Biggest Loser,” Crash Course, Con Academy, Magic Schoolbus.
- l. Linda – Diabetes stigma summit happening end of this month
- m. Natalie – There was a recent RHM journal article about patient expertise – online forum, embodying expertise
- n. Amanda – We can use 3rd Thursday sessions as a journal club to boost scholarship in RHM, e.g., inviting one or more contributors from a recent journal issue to present solo or on a panel
- o. Amanda – We can also use 3rd Thursday recordings somehow, e.g., creating a youtube channel for our standing group
 - i. Others: or turn them into audio podcasts / otherwise use in teaching

5. Upcoming 4C26 events

- a. Butcher and Brewery – social following the meeting
- b. Friday 3/6 - Field Trip to Dittrick Medical Museum at Case Western University
– self guided, free, but we will meet outside Starbucks in the Convention Center at 10 AM to organize rideshares