

University of North Florida Digital Humanities Initiative
Minutes of Advisory Committee Meeting
September 23, 2016, 2:00–3:30
Thomas G. Carpenter Library Special Collections Reading Room
Meeting Minutes

In attendance:

Faculty/Staff: James Beasley (English), Erin K. Bennett (Music), Michael Boyles (CIRT), Tom Caswell (Thomas G. Carpenter Library), Stuart Chalk (Chemistry), Laura Heffernan (English), Phil Kaplan (History), Chau Kelly (History), Clayton McCarl (Languages, Literatures and Cultures), Courtenay McLeland (Thomas G. Carpenter Library), Deb Miller (CIRT), Stephanie Race (Thomas G. Carpenter Library), Bob Nawrocki (SAHS), Krista Paulsen (COAS Dean's Office), Anne Pfister (Anthropology), David Sheffler (History), Margaret C. Stewart (Communication), Ben Thompson (MOCA Jacksonville), Provost Earle Traynham (Academic Affairs), Karthik Umapathy (School of Computing), Stephanie Weiss (Thomas G. Carpenter Library), David Wilson (CIRT)

Students: Aislinn Kelly (History), Kathlina Brady (Political Science), Danielle Kendrick (History), Will Pate (History)

Welcome and introductions

Approval of minutes from 2/12/16 meeting

Updates

New Advisory Committee Members. We welcomed the following:

- Dave Lambert, Director, UNF Environmental Center
- Stephanie Race, Head of Research and Faculty Outreach, Thomas G. Carpenter Library
- Tara Rowe, UNF THRIVE Program Coordinator

New Student Representatives. We welcomed the following:

- Cameron Adelsperger, English/Spanish
- Rachel Bennett, Information Science
- Kathlina Brady, Political Science
- Chad Germany, History
- Kristeen Graves, English (graduate student)
- Aislinn Kelly, English

Spring and Summer 2016 news and events. We reviewed the following:

- 2016–2018 Florida Digital Humanities (FLDH) Consortium Executive Council election, March (Clayton McCarl and Anne Pfister elected to represent UNF)
- “The World War I Letters of Capt. Ansel Brooks–Smith” presentation, led by James Beasley, Associate Professor of English, and Aisha Johnson–Jones, Head of Special Collections and Archives, April 20
- “Introduction to TEI–XML” workshop, led by Clayton McCarl, and “Introduction to Story Maps” workshop, led by Chris Baynard, Associate Professor of Geography and GIS, April 20
- THATCamp Gainesville, April 23, in which UNF faculty, staff and students participated
- “Voces y Caras: Hispanic Communities of North Florida” student presentation, led by Constanza López, Associate Professor of Spanish, April 29
- DHI Presentation to UNF Board of Trustees, June 7
- Introduction to Electronic Textual Editing: “Editing the Eartha M.M. White Archives,” Summer A course, and public presentation, June 14

Fall 2016 events. We announced the following:

- Annual “Voces y caras” exhibit (in display cases outside Special Collections), through October 7
- DHI Digital Projects Showcase, November 2

Spring 2017 events. We discussed some tentative activities:

- “Introduction to Photovoice,” Anne Pfister, Assistant Professor of Anthropology (previously announced for Fall 2016, but postponed)
- “WordPress for DHI Projects,” Andy Rush, Coordinator of Online Course Media Development, CIRT. There was discussion about this possibly turning into some training about the new “faculty domains” project. That project will allow faculty to have professional and/or curriculum presence online and portable, with multiple domains allowed. WordPress will probably most commonly used, but other tools are available.
- “Engaging Students in Digital Humanities Research at UNF,” (previously announced for Fall 2016, but postponed)

DHI Leadership Structure

The committee discussed the composition and role of the advisory committee. Clayton acknowledged that the committee has grown too large to function well as a decision-making body, but expressed his desire to continue to have representation from all the areas on campus that contribute to the Initiative. There was a suggestion that we keep the advisory committee as is, functioning as a consultative body, and continue to create subcommittees to make decisions and get work done.

Clayton stated his preference for keeping the word “interim” in the title of the faculty chair position, explaining that until the Initiative has more permanent existence/home and a more formal structure, it may not make sense to elect a permanent leader.

We discussed the creation of possible new subcommittees:

- A “tools” group, that could make recommendations and consider how to ensure the long-term sustainability of work created by the affiliate projects of the Initiative.
- A Social Media committee.

Clayton offered to put out a call for volunteers for both groups.

Committee Reports

- **Curriculum.** Laura Heffernan presented an update, on behalf of Aisha–Johnson Jones, chair. She reported that the minor proposal and proposals for related courses would be submitted to the APC by the end of the month. A question was raised about where the minor will be housed. Clayton mentioned that this is still not known. He pointed to a discussion that he and Aisha had with Dan Moon on this topic. There is a possibility that it could be housed in Undergraduate Studies, but more investigation needs to be done. Clayton will follow up on this.
- **Events.** Stephanie Weiss, chair, discussed the upcoming Digital Projects Showcase, Nov. 2, 2016. A decision was made to extend the deadline for submissions by one week. Deb Miller offered to craft an email, and to ask Marianne Jaffee or Provost Earle Traynham to sent to all faculty. She will include some language encouraging the presentation of projects at any stage of development. Dave Wilson asked whether we could accept proposals related to tools, and the committee decided that this was appropriate.

New Proposed Affiliate Projects

- Aislinn Kelly (English) discussed her project “The Diary of a Soldier on Wheels”
- Bob Nawrocki, Chief Librarian at the St. Augustine Historical Society spoke briefly about the project “Digitizing St. Augustine’s Civil War Years,” on behalf of Chad Kelly (History).
- Clayton McCarl discussed the project “Unheard Voices of the Enlightenment,” on behalf of Daniel Watkins, Assistant Professor of History.
- David Sheffler, Associate Professor of History, discussed the “UNF Pilgrimage Project.”

Clayton indicated that any concerns about these projects should be submitted to him by email by the following Friday. If none were expressed, the four projects would be added to the DHI website.

A question was asked regarding whether we have a formal process to propose a project. Clayton indicated that right now interested parties should simply contact him.

Possibilities for Collaboration.

- **MOCA Jacksonville.** Ben Thompson, Deputy Director (ben.thompson[at]unf.edu) discussed an application that MOCA is writing for an NEH grant proposal in connection with a digital project related to their collections. He also discussed the possibility of bringing materials from MOCA to UNF, or vice versa. MOCA is interested in pursuing unique collaborations with faculty from any discipline.
- **Saint Augustine Historical Society.** Bob Nawrocki, Chief Librarian (sahslibrary[at]bellsouth.net), discussed their collections. He mentioned that they are working on modernizing the SAHS, by cataloging and putting materials online and making them more accessible to both for their staff and the public. Two UNF students will be doing internship projects at SAHS in the spring (Chad Germany of History, and Cameron Adelsperger of English/Spanish). Faculty are invited to submit materials to *El Escribano: The St. Augustine Journal of History*.

Other Business & Announcements

- Stewart Chalk explained that RDA (rd-alliance.org) has a DH interest group and working groups that DHI members might be interested in joining.
- A suggestion was made that the DHI might create a mechanism to share our expertise with each other, and it was proposed that we add information about members' areas of specialization/interest to the DHI website. Clayton will discuss this with Andy Rush.
- James Beasley discussed his upcoming presentation at a conference, with students/former students on work they did with black baptism records to make a searchable database.
- Margaret Stewart announced the upcoming annual Media Week in October, and a panel discussion on global media issues, 10/11, 3-4pm.
- Stephanie Race announced that the last week of September is Banned Books Week, and discussed several of the events involved, including a panel and a read-aloud session.
- Clayton asked whether it is possible to create an internship program sponsored by the DHI, especially one that might serve recent alumni. The group discussed the possible benefits of such an opportunity to students interested in going to graduate school, as well as to the faculty that have already trained them to work on specific projects. Dave Wilson mentioned that something similar had been coordinated through CIRT, and that Human Resources has a category for non-paid contractors, which provides the individual an N#, email, and a formal role in which to be on campus. Clayton will follow-up on this.

Respectfully submitted by Clayton McCarl and Stephanie Weiss.