

HISTORY OF ART DEPARTMENT MEETING

Monday, October 6th, 2025 | 2:30 P.M. | Arts 333

Attendance: Jason Weems, Aleca Le Blanc, Susan Laxton, Johannes Endres, Jeanette Kohl,
Sonja Sekely-Rowland, Breana Lepe

Chair's Announcements (Susan):

- Personnel News
 - Jeanette Kohl has been promoted to a Professor of AHS
 - New FAO John Medina
 - Liz Kotz and Fatima Quraishi are no longer here at UCR
- New Projector INTS 1128
 - Possible new classroom for AHS faculty, no new screen
- Liz Watkins visit
 - She will be revisiting UCR and has ideas for new funding opportunities for graduate students
- New Courses
 - Approval requires written exams to avoid AI usage in exams
- New Faculty Lines
 - Openings for 2 new VAP hires

New Business:

- No new business

Graduate Studies Report (Jason):

- 2024-25 Outstanding Teaching Assistant — Alexandre Saden
- Departmental Travel Grant Awardees (awards granted spring 2025)
 - Xinqian Zhang, Carrott award
 - Emily Citino, Brink award
 - Rebecca Allen, Forster-Hahn award
- Graduate Recruiting for 2025-26
 - Jason and Iselda will send out an email blast for conferences, at least covering SoCal
 - Jason and Iselda will participate in the Grad Division/History of Art Open House (Oct 15, 10am, Zoom)
 - Another recruiting event TBD in early November, solely based within the department
 - Please reach out to your contacts for both MA and PhD students; we will send general emails to major programs
 - NEW Priority Consideration deadline: Dec 15; we will still hold our standard University deadline (Jan 5) as well.
- UCR/External Fellowships for current students
 - Grad Div call for fellowships and grants has gone out; several different kinds of awards
 - Please look at email from gradawards@ucr.edu and another by Iselda sent out on September 18th

- No conflicts concerning or overlaps for fellowships requiring departmental nomination
 - *Note: Speak with faculty advisor for mentoring on quarterly award opportunities as there are concerns in accepting fellowships
- Susan and Jason are exploring the possibility of a grant writing workshop in Spring
- General issues
 - A few AMEs are still not complete
 - Grad Div is becoming much more strict on deadlines for various things towards graduate students and faculty (at least this is what they've announced)

Undergraduate Report (Aleca):

- Academic advising
 - As mentioned in previous communications, we have 75 AHS majors, with 25 new students (15 Transfers and 10 Freshmen).
 - Working with Veronica to make sure the courses we offer don't conflict with one another in time. This has been one of the biggest obstacles for students, especially those wanting to graduate.
 - Working with her this quarter to clean up the catalog (which classes fulfill different period requirements, etc...)
 - Discussed her ability to spend some time in our department - she's going to send me some dates. We'll need to find a desk or office where she can work. Students really enjoyed open office-hours she held last year & have expressed wanting more of that.
- Art History Undergrad Association (AHUA)
 - New officers are fantastic & very motivated.
 - Sandra Martus, Kira Iokibe, Maya Serna
 - Weekly meetings and/or events on Monday evenings
 - Tabling on Wednesdays by the Bell Tower
 - Events
 - Walking tour of campus to show students where our various classrooms
 - ArtsWalk downtown last week
 - study socials - reserved room in the library
 - I am continuing to use Canvas site to communicate with undergrad majors
 - Last year, they organized Zoom events with Susan & Jeanette - What is a Junior/Senior Seminar? - the quarter before they taught 192. They've expressed interest in wanting to make this a standing event each quarter--before registration begins, so you can expect to hear from them (or me).
 - Basically, they want to spend more time with us
- AHS Curriculum
 - More on this next month
 - Aleca wants faculty/lecturers and those involved to think of ideas for undergrad/major outreach and rewarding participants in perhaps trips, publishing opportunities, and more

VRC Report (Sonja):

- (Please see the attached file in the email.)
- Sonja is currently on her own with Diego's absence for a few weeks, please be patient
- Graduate students, please submit updated biographies and photos especially with new cohort, please email Iselda with this information at your earliest convenience ... this is for the UCR Art History Graduate Students website :
<https://arthistory.ucr.edu/graduate-students/>

Graduate Student Report:

- We have yet to have our first GSA meeting as it is scheduled for tomorrow at 2 PM. We are currently working on nominating positions for Vice President, Secretary/Event Coordinator, Treasurer, Online Content Liaison and Campus GSA Representative.

UCR ARTS Report:

- October 11 is big fall opening for 2 exhibitions 6-8 PM
 - Emily Citino, *Between Seeing and Feeling* (GO SUPPORT!!)
 - Stereograph viewers were installed for *Shaping the Imperialist Imagination*
 - Transgresoras, Latinx using Mail Art for Totalitarian govt (Chancellor is guest of honor)

Upcoming Events:

- None other than UCR ARTS listed in last section