

- I. **May 2021**
- II. **Career Development & Services Committee (CDS Committee)**
- III. **Members**

Emma Dederick	Co-Chair, 2019-2023	Indiana University
Tim Sestrack	Co-Chair, 2019-2023	West Chester University
Jessica Abbazio	<i>ex officio</i> , 2018-2022, New Members Forum, MLStEP Advisor	University of Minnesota
Drew Beisswenger	2019-2023, Career Advisory Service	University of Arkansas
Karen Berry	<i>ex officio</i> , 2020-2024, New Members Forum	Radford University
Cate Gerhart	2020-2024, Get Involved with MLA	University of Washington
Janneka Guise	2018-2022, Career Advisory Service	University of Toronto
Grace Haynes	<i>ex officio</i> , Placement Officer	Michigan State University
Callie Holmes	<i>ex officio</i> , 2020-2024, Diversity Committee	UCLA
Lisa Hooper	2018-2022, Get Involved with MLA	Tulane University
Geo Flores	<i>ex officio</i> , MLStEP	Baylor University
Joel Roberts	<i>ex officio</i> , 2019-2023, Conference Mentoring Program	University of Memphis
Mallory Sajewski	2020-2024, Resume and Cover Letter Review Service	Interlochen Center for the Arts

IV. **Board Action Required: none.**

V. **Brief Summary of Activities**

Annual Meeting

- Career Advisory Service Coordinator Drew Beisswenger reported facilitating twelve advisor/advisee interactions during 2020, involving five different advisors. There were no requests for advisement during the early part of 2021.
- The Resume and Cover Letter Review Service completed 2 reviews during the year and 3 reviews during the online conference. Coordinator Mallory Sajewski is currently working on some updates to the RCLRS page on the MLA website to better reflect what the service does and answer frequently asked questions (for example, clarify that you can submit only a CV). She would also like to add at least one additional reviewer, preferably someone who can assist with in-person reviews at the annual meetings to better distribute the workload during our busiest time of the year. A member approached us about becoming a reviewer during the Get Involved with MLA session, and their name was sent to Mallory for consideration.
- This year's Conference Mentoring Service produced 41 mentor/mentee pairings, which was an increase from last year's 28 pairings of 56 individuals. There were 37 preconference matches this year (74 individuals), as well as 4 pairings that occurred at the last minute during the First Time Attendees Event. Since coordinator Joel

Roberts served as a mentor for two of these last-minute mentee additions, a total of 81 people participated in this year's Conference Mentoring Service.

- New Members Forum Co-coordinators Jessica Abbazio and Karen Berry believe that the First-Time Attendees Event (March 1st, 7-9PM ET) was the largest ever to take place at an MLA conference, and welcomed 110 participants from all over the world (including first-time attendees, both students and professionals, as well as returning MLA members who volunteered to act as conference mentors). The event featured a panel of speakers for about 45 minutes, after which attendees were invited to participate in informal networking at Remo tables. The networking time also provided a chance for conference mentors and mentees to meet up, and we designated specific tables as destinations for this. We encouraged attendees to move to a new table every ten minutes and observed a large amount of movement throughout the event, indicating that attendees were connecting with a variety of colleagues about different topics of interest. Jessica and Karen followed up a post-event survey which indicated mostly positive feedback, including 100% of survey respondents saying that they would recommend the event to future first-time attendees.
- MLStEP Chair Geo Flores reports that the 2020 membership drive resulted in 161 new members: 132 students, 18 emerging professionals, 11 prospective students/professionals. As of February 27, 2021, MLStEP has 702 total members: 329 students, 354 emerging professionals, 15 prospective students/professionals. At the end of May, MLStEP will be purging membership of individuals whose information indicates they have graduated at least five years ago and are listed as Emerging Professionals. This number is expected to be ~100 which will swing the percentages in the favor of students by approximately 9% points. Goals for this year include organizing and refining the group's shared documents and operating procedures; updating the website; establishing a schedule for members and officers to develop content for the MLStEP blog; planning a summer social event for membership; and surveying the membership to help with future planning. To advance communication with membership, a Slack channel has been created for students and emerging professionals to keep in touch professionally and to establish community in a less formal setting that allows for casual conversation, pictures of food or pets, and the language of Millennials and Zoomers: memes.