



Application to Host the 20th Annual Vagantes Conference in 2021

Name of University: University of Wisconsin-Madison

Name of Departments to be involved: Art History, English, History, and German, Nordic, and Slavic (GNS)

Name of Programs to be involved: Medieval Studies

Statement of Interest: The University of Wisconsin-Madison is greatly interested in hosting the 20th Annual Vagantes Conference in 2021. There is both a strong faculty and graduate student interest in Medieval Studies on our campus. The members of the Graduate Association for Medieval Studies (GAMS) will be taking the lead on organizing the conference.

The Medieval Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has consistently acquired grants from the Borghesi-Mellon Workshops in the Humanities, administered by the UW-Madison Center for the Humanities, to support hosting various lecture series around important topics in medieval studies. For example, during the 2019–20 academic year our lecture series and workshops have focused on the issues of race within medieval studies. Past speakers have included Madeline Caviness, Geraldine Heng, and Paul B. Sturtevant.

The University of Madison-Wisconsin is fully prepared to host the Vagantes Conference in 2021. As the state capitol of Wisconsin, Madison is extremely diverse with a wide variety of hotels and restaurants. The university is located in downtown Madison and the center of campus connects directly via State Street to the Capitol Square. Traveling to Madison can be accomplished by either flying directly into Dane County Regional Airport (MSN), flying to Mitchell International Airport in Milwaukee (MKE) connected via a direct bus to Madison, or by flying to Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD) connected via a direct bus to Madison. To further support the university's ability to accommodate the size of Vagantes, the University of Wisconsin-Madison will be hosting the Byzantine Studies Conference in October 2019.

Funding: GAMS has made verbal agreements for funding with the department of Art History and the Medieval Studies Program. Due to the time restriction for this application, we will be contacting the departments of English, History, and German, Nordic, and Slavic to also provide funding over the next month. In addition, the University of Wisconsin-Madison has university funds that we intend to apply for that can be applied to hosting Vagantes, including the UW Anonymous Fund which supports proposals from the arts and humanities on campus and grants from the Associated Students of Madison. Outside of the university, we will apply for funding from the Medieval Academy of America. Given the multiple funding sources available and the previous success of GAMS and our supporting departments in obtaining funding, we anticipate

no issues successfully fundraising the estimated \$10,000 necessary to properly host Vagantes in 2021.

Student Representatives:

Tania Kolarik, Art History, University of Wisconsin-Madison (tkolarik@wisc.edu)

Claire Kilgore, Art History, University of Wisconsin-Madison (ckilgore@wisc.edu)

Sarah Friedman, English, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Alex Ukropen, English, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Kyle Smith, English, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Tirumular (Drew) Narayanan, Art History, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Charlotte Whatley, History, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Faculty Advisor: Thomas Dale, University of Wisconsin-Madison

We agree to the following conditions:

1. The conference will be free and registration will be open to the general public.
2. The conference will run from a Thursday-Saturday in or around March.
3. The conference will include a keynote by a faculty member from our school on the opening day and a final keynote by a faculty member from the future host school.
4. The conference will conclude with a final banquet.
5. Our school will send a faculty member to serve as a keynote at the current host school. We will provide the current host school organizers with the speaker's name and contact information no later than November 15, 2019.
6. Three graduate students from our school must agree to serve as abstract submission readers in November in the year the conference is hosted and in the following year. The abstract submission review committee is comprised of members from the past host institution, current host, and future host institution.
7. The host institution representative from our school must agree to serve a three-year term on the Vagantes Board of Directors.
 - a. *Year 1:* the position of Future Host Institution Representative on the Vagantes Board of Directors begins as soon as the new host institution is named (c. June). Conference preparations begin.
 - b. *Year 2:* the position becomes Current Host Institution Representative in May and continues for one year. Conference preparations continue; hosting the event occurs in or around March.
 - c. *Year 3:* in May the Current Host Institution Representative becomes the new Chair of the Vagantes Board of Directors and serves in that capacity until the following May. The Chair is primarily an advisory role. The Chair ensures a smooth transition to the new host institution and supervises the operations of the Vagantes Conference on Medieval Studies and its governing body.
8. The host school will feature the Vagantes Conference on Medieval Studies seal logo on the conference program and other print and electronic marketing materials.