**Mellema Program in Western American Studies (MPGB)**

**Governing Board**

Program Director: Will Katerberg | Board Chair: Benita Fredlund

A. **Major issues addressed by the board during the 2015–16 year**

   None

B. **Actions brought before Faculty Senate**

   None

C. **Other actions, not involving Faculty Senate, that the board initiated or implemented**

   1. The governing board approved the following travel-research grants:
      - Bruce Berglund (history): research in Toronto and western Canada for a comparative history of hockey (comparisons to the US, Sweden, and eastern Europe).
      - Kevin den Dulk (political science): research in Utah and California on water rights in the Western US, particularly the meaning farmers attach to such rights.
      - Mark Mulder (sociology): research in California on Robert Schuller and the Crystal Cathedral, studying religious innovation and institutionalization.
      - Ralph Stearley (geology): research on fossils related to the biogeographic history of Late Cenozoic salmonines from western North America.

D. **Issues that will continue to be before the board next year**

   In consultation with the members of program governing board, the program director is working on sponsoring a variety of public events for the 2016–2017 academic year.