

**DRAFT Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting  
African American Studies Section (AFAS)  
Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)**

**American Library Association Midwinter Meeting 2010  
Saturday, January 16, 2010**

**The meeting was called to order** at 8:15 a.m.

**Welcome and Introductions** took place.

**Attendees**

Adam Burling (ACRL Staff Liaison), Isabel Espinal (Secretary), Vivian Fisher (Chair), Malaika Grant, Gennice King, Mary Mallory, Debbie Malone (ACRL Board Liaison), Bennie Robinson, Joyce Thornton (Vice Chair/Chair Elect)

**Approval of Past Minutes**

- The minutes of July 11, 2009 were approved.

**Committee Reports**

- *ACRL Report from Leadership Meeting* (Vivian Fisher). The meeting's main focus was working on new strategic plan: brainstorming ideas for ACRL to take on, and identifying key points that make ACRL unique. The ACRL plan should parallel ALA's strategic plan. The Moderator/consultant was very good. The meeting highlighted the ACRL achievements from 2004-2009 – many wonderful things were accomplished. Debbie reported that as ACRL looks at the next strategic plan, there will be focus groups and discussions and opportunities for input from members. The ACRL Leadership would like to hear from everyone, particularly AFAS members. An important question to consider is: what should ACRL do or stop doing?
- *AFAS 2010 Action Plan Update*. As of this date, Vivian got a report from Heather Martin, who will be attending the University of Alabama Birmingham career fair and will be working with library schools. Vivian will talk to the liaison at University of Maryland College Park. Akilah Nosakahare will work on the southwest. Isabel Espinal will work in the Boston, Massachusetts area. AFAS will follow up on the career fairs. We will need packets form ACRL. Debbie will help with that. If anyone would like a copy of the Action Plan Vivian can provide it. As of this year there will be no more action plans for section funding in ACRL. But funding will be available for projects. ACRL wants to eliminate the time period that sections need to wait to get funding. There is a website with information; units can apply 4 different times for funding in a year. Friends of ACRL have been raising money and have a disbursement fund. Last year they also had money and no one applied. We should let our AFAS committees know that the money is available.
- *2010 Conference Program Committee update*. Co-Chairs Leroy LeFleur and Johnnie Love have been working diligently to come up with a program for 2010. They have identified two speakers. The theme will be Digitization, Preservation and Open Access to African

American collections. Program will be at 8 am Sunday morning at the ALA June conference. The program planners need volunteers to assist. There will be a call out on the listserv. AFAS is also looking for vendors, e.g. ProQuest, to help sponsor refreshments, etc.

- *Membership Committee* (Gennice King). As of Nov 2009, AFAS has 238 members: 226 personal, 11 organizational, one corporate. Gennice reported on how many were reinstated, dropped, and renewed. Gennice has the complete list of those that were dropped and those that were reinstated and will communicate with them. Vivian wants to recruit library students to the section. We can bring more people into ACRL and this section. There are academic librarians who are members of ALA but not ACRL, who work on Afro American Studies. We discussed ideas about how to recruit into the profession through Black Studies programs nationally and locally.
- *Nominating Committee*. AFAS is looking for members to run for Chair/Vice Chair. Names can be forwarded to Vivian. Malaika asked if Midwinter will be phased out or not: Midwinter is a big commitment – that may be an issue for people to have that commitment for three years. Malaika noted that it's hard to find people to run. Debbie stated that ACRL sections are not required to meet at Midwinter. We can have virtual meetings. There is software that ACRL makes available for this. Debbie stated that the decision could be made a little after Annual and that it's possible even to have the Annual meeting be virtual. However, the consensus was that it might be good to have at least one meeting in person. Adam pointed out that October/late September is when the call goes out for meeting rooms for Midwinter. Someone asked: could there be a hybrid/mix so that it is an option to participate either online or in person? Mary suggested that ALA look into dropping the Midwinter meeting altogether: why do we continue to have a Midwinter meeting? Item was tabled to Annual: an agenda item for June will be whether the next Midwinter meeting (January 2011) will be virtual.
- *Policy and Research Committee*. No report.
- *Publications Committee*. Heather Martin sent in a report. Rebecca Hankins will schedule an online meeting. The meeting time will be announced on the AFAS discussion list. Website will be available by end of January. The AFAS discussion list has been running smoothly. Idea of posting a monthly topic to encourage discussion. AFAS Facebook group has been used for announcements to group members. Rebecca Hankins issued the newsletter in online only format in fall of 2009. It was emailed to members and posted on AFAS wiki and website. No negative comments have been received after going online only. She wants to know if anyone on the Executive committee has received negative comments. Heather Martin set up the virtual meeting. She can be a test case for the section's use of virtual meeting software.

### **Vice Chair Report**

(Joyce Thornton) Joyce would like to hear from anyone who wants to be on a committee. She is recruiting committee members right now. She has until February 15 to fill slots for the 2010-2011 term.

## **ARL Staff Liaison to AFAS**

(Adam Burling)

1. All ACRL Membership reports have been cleaned up. Most groups and sections had duplicates and the percentage went down 2% across the board because they had been previously inflated.
2. Action plans will be discontinued starting in 2012. Now there will be a Board Action Form that can be submitted 3-4 times per year.
3. Board is discussing basic services funding. No section will see any cut. Most sections will see an uptick in the number they will be receiving.
4. Virtual meetings: use Demdem software for less than 20 people, Adobe Connect for 20 or more people. ACRL has both of these available. And has guidelines.
5. Mary asked if ACRL has a goal that all meeting rooms have internet access. Adam responded that at ACRL National conference there will be wireless at every meeting. But some hotels charge too much for ALA Annual. Mary thinks that is outrageous. It's complicated for ALA. ALA is trying to have more meetings at the convention center. Sections could use their basic funds for wireless. AFAS should keep this in mind for annual.

## **Chair Announcements**

(Vivian Fisher)

1. General membership meeting taking place Saturday at Midwinter.
2. All committee meetings taking place Saturday at Midwinter.
3. Access to African American Content discussion group (Sunday). On their agenda: barriers that limit access to African American content. Making the transition from print to electronic media. One of the barriers is cost as with ProQuest historical African American newspapers, whose cost is out of reach for many libraries.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10.