

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

**American Library Association Annual Meeting 2010  
Saturday, June 26, 2010**

**The meeting was called to order** at 8:21

**Welcome and introductions** took place.

**Attendees**

Adam Burling (ACRL Staff Liaison), Isabel Espinal (Secretary), Vivian Fisher (Chair), Malaika Grant, Rebecca Hankins, Gennice King, Debbie Malone (ACRL Board Liaison), Heather Martin, Sylvia Nyana, Joyce Thornton (Vice Chair/Chair Elect)

**Approval of past minutes**

- The minutes of January 16, 2010 were approved with a few corrections.

**Committee Reports**

- *Report form ACRL Leadership Meeting (Vivian Fisher)* – This was a follow up to a meeting at midwinter. ACRL is still working on the strategic plan. A set of suggested priorities has been drafted. An example of the issues is return on investment, that is, how to show how valuable libraries are on campuses, how do academic libraries contribute to student learning outcomes? (There is a competition for dollars between academic departments.) There is increased enrollment in community colleges: what impact does that have on libraries? Another issue is how to communicate best practices in academic libraries. Also discussed was the dues increase in the future - the earliest would be 2015.
- *Action Plan Update (Vivian Fisher)* - This is the last Action Plan. ACRL will no longer ask units for action plans, but will now accept Board of Directors Action Forms available online at [http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/resources/forms/ACRL\\_BoardActionForm.doc](http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/resources/forms/ACRL_BoardActionForm.doc) This will be a way to obtain funding for ideas that AFAS might come up with in the future. Our last action plan goal was to talk to students at library schools. In this economic climate AFAS volunteers found that many places wanted actual employers to come on campus (not grad schools recruiting students with no job guarantees), and that students complain about tables or booths where there was no actual hiring. Heather volunteered for the University of Alabama. Vivian went to University of Maryland and talked to 20-25 library school students to get them interested in ACRL and AFAS. They were receptive. It was a successful action; Vivian talked about the ALA student rate, which many students did not seem to be aware of. Yet the cost for library school students of attending conferences is still a barrier. Sylvia discussed the problem of minority staff who can't afford to attend conferences either. Thomas Weissinger talked to students at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Isabel discussed past successful efforts at UMass Amherst. Sylvia says she does this recruitment in her classes. Many students

don't know what a librarian is. Sylvia talks about the transferability of librarian skills. Debbie thinks that the UMass efforts would be good to talk about to the ACRL Leadership. Isabel can submit a report to Vivian about the successful effort at UMass. Isabel thinks the section should continue this effort as an ongoing priority for AFAS. This will be an agenda item for midwinter.

- *Conference Program (Vivian Fisher on behalf of LeRoy LaFleur)*. 8-12 noon. Heather has done a wonderful job putting all the information online. Need volunteers to pass out information and everyone to pass the word.
- *Membership Committee (Gennice King and Sylvia Nyana)*. As of May 2010, 235 personal members, 11 organizational members, one corporate member. Total of 247. In May 2009 had 259. Sylvia sent out welcome letters to new members, dropped letters, and welcome back letters. Gennice was happy to see that people were responding to the letters (e.g. oversight on their part, financial situation). Gennice encouraged them to keep up via the website.
- *Nominating Committee*. For 2010-2011: Rebecca Hankins (new Vice Chair); new Secretary is Shauna Colier; Malaika Grant is new Member at Large.
- *Policy and Research Committee*. No update. Midwinter possibilities were a great discussion but no report on progress. Question about issues of helping AFAS members do publications. Can AFAS help members to get articles and books published? Can AFAS help members go through the tenure process? Coauthoring is something AFAS can help with. Publications and research by AFAS members in the past: Rebecca Hankins, Carmelita Pickett, and Thomas Weissinger did a presentation on serials in African studies and the problem of accessing black studies scholarship; Carmelita did a comparison of Black Studies journals and Women's Studies; Thomas was looking at the citation record of Black Studies journals and looking at the impact of Black Studies serials; Rebecca looked at black feminist writers and lack of access to their materials. They all submitted a panel proposal to ACRL for the 2011 conference and will find out in August if it was accepted. Isabel asked if AFAS has a guaranteed slot for sections to host conference programs, and the answer was no. Other organizations do this. We get a slot at ALA, but not at ACRL. We should try to get a slot at ACRL conferences, especially since many AFAS members get denied proposals at ACRL. Perhaps Joyce and Rebecca can look into changing this in the future.
- *Publications Committee (Heather Martin)* – AFAS publications consist mostly of: website, newsletter, listserv, Facebook.
  - Website: Heather switched the website to WordPress software because there were problems with ALA content management software. The learning curve for the ALA software was deep and now they are looking for a new content management system. The AFAS site is at <http://afasacrl.wordpress.com>. It is easy to post updates because it's on blog software. It occasionally displays ads. Heather is willing to maintain it until ALA chooses its new software at which point AFAS can get a new person to do the website. Adam thinks this is a good approach. Joyce has talked with a few people interested in this assignment.
  - Newsletter: Rebecca edited the spring issue of the newsletter, now posted on the website and the wiki, and announced on Facebook. To save money, the

newsletter has gone completely online; no one on the Executive Committee has received any comments or complaints about this change.

- Listserv: There are about 100-150 members on listserv; there haven't been that many postings. Not too many postings on different topic; most are about AFAS business. Maybe the moderators could do a call for topics and do a posting every 2 months to get conversations started.
- Facebook: page is updated by Harry Murphy and Heather, has about 80 people on it. Also has a wiki but does not have much activity on it.

Someone asked about posting minutes; Isabel can post the minutes to the wiki. Heather asked about the relationship between the Publications Committee and the Policy and research: ALA sometimes sends the Publications committee info about publishing books – should those go to Research and Policy? Consensus was that the two committees should work together. Whoever is on Publications should pass info on to whoever is on Policy and Research. Vivian suggested wikis as a way to help AFAS members to have a publishing venue. Malaika pointed out that it makes such a big difference to have a mentor to help a new librarian in the field discover what they might have to say.

#### Other/New Business

- *Virtual meetings.* A way to get involvement from members who have financial hardship to attend both midwinter and annual. ACRL and ALA have software for virtual meetings. And it has gone well. The best option is the choice to committee members of a hybrid meeting that could be both virtual and physical. Joyce will do a poll of committees to see which ones are interested in having hybrid meetings for Midwinter 2011. Sylvia thinks she might participate virtually in the future because of conflicts with other travel. Adam says there is less incentive to come. Some sections have done all virtually: (possibly) EBSS and LPSS.
- *Committees.* Joyce wants people who are ready and willing to work on committees. Has someone for the program Committee.
- *Budget and funding.* Adam – each section will get \$1000 if have 200 or more members, then an additional amount based on membership in the section. AFAS would receive \$1039 under this model, which would be an increase. ACRL is running at a deficit. So it helps if every section does not spend all its money because it goes back to ACRL.
- *Acknowledgements by outgoing Chair.* Vivian sincerely thanked each and every one who agreed to be on committees. Hats off to Heather for her many contributions; to Rebecca for publications. Sylvia for all the membership letters. Malaika and Isabel for the minutes. Gennice for her work in membership. Thank you thank you thank you from the bottom of her heart. She also thanked Proquest for the breakfast at the Annual Program.
- *AFAS and AAMES.* Sylvia brought up conflict in scheduling between AFAS and AAMES (Asian, African, and Middle Eastern Studies Section). Adam said that the chairs of these two sections could talk about how to fix the conflict, could try a “co-location request.”

Meeting adjourned at 9:53.