

**Minutes of the Literatures in English Section, Executive Committee | Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL)
American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference, Anaheim, CA
Saturday, June 28, 2008, 8:00 - 10:00 am, Hilton Anaheim, Monterey**

DRAFT

Present: Sophia Lesinska (Chair), Karen Munro (Vice-Chair and Incoming Chair), Meg Meiman (Secretary), Chris Ruotolo (incoming webmaster), Kristine Anderson, Faye Christenberry, Angela Courtney (incoming Vice-Chair), Priscilla Finley, Liorah Golomb, (incoming listserv owner), Frank Gravier, Millie Jackson, Kathy Johnson, Juliet Kerico, Shawn Martin, Linda Stein, Laura Taddeo, and Melissa Van Vuuren.

Guests: Elizabeth Dupuis (ACRL board liaison), Barbara Chen (Editor, MLAIB)

Call to order: 8:06 am

1. Welcome, introductions, agenda approval and approval of minutes

There were no changes to the agenda. Kristine Anderson asks to correct the spelling of her name in the Midwinter 2008 minutes. Sophie moves to approve minutes from Midwinter 2008 minutes. They were unanimously approved with changes.

Announcements: Sophie reminds us of today's LES Social Hour at La Casa Garcia at 5:30 pm. Sophie will be there early drinking margaritas.

2. Report on ACRL Sections Council, Leadership Council, and other ACRL issues

Sophie attended the ACRL Leadership Council meeting and Sections Council meeting. At the Leadership council meeting, members discussed the upcoming ACRL conference in Seattle and the new formula for programs; the ACRL conference will offer 20 programs, but a greater number of applicants are now allowed to submit proposals, which will be vetted by the Professional Development Selection Committee. The advantages of this new formula allow for greater collaboration among ACRL sections, and greater coordination of sections and programs.

The report from Sections Council meeting also included the following issues: (1) discussion about the migration of ACRL sections' bylaws to the ACRL's new form for policies and procedures; (2) use of listservs for political endorsements; (3) the cost of technical support at ACRL conferences; (4) LES's future relation with MLA; and (5) opening ALA discussion lists to the public.

- (1) Current LES policies and procedures do not have to be vetted by ACRL, but they must avoid conflicting with ACRL's procedures. This new form will be sent out after Annual 2008; the deadline for completing the transfer is Midwinter 2009. Kathy suggests a member from the Planning Committee be assigned to review existing bylaws and transfer to the new template, then the revised version can be submitted to LES Exec for review, and when complete, submitted to Adam Burling and mounted on the LES website.
- (2) Another issue mentioned at the Sections Council meeting is the use of listservs to endorse political candidates; doing so would jeopardize ACRL's and ALA's non-profit status. The ACRL Board of Directors will draft a brief statement to send to subscribers about this; Sophie suggests we draft our own policies about this, and suggests Publications Committee and Liorah handle this.
- (3) A third issue at the Sections Council meeting is the availability and high cost of technical support at ACRL conferences. A member of Sections Council asked ACRL to explore ways to improve access to technology at conferences. ACRL is exploring available options. Beth says some members believe ACRL should be more flexible in terms of offering more presentations online (webcasts, podcasts) for members who won't be traveling. Angela mentions the move to shorten ALA conferences, shorten the length of time for vendor exhibits, and to hold group meetings on weekend days for longer periods of time. Beth mentions that ACLR is

trying to and succeeding in maximizing the 8 am – 10 pm meeting time, but the ALA Executive Council might move their meeting from Tuesday to Monday, compressing other meetings. Beth states the ALA Virtual Task Force will look at operating costs for ALA conferences, and examine costs for making the Midwinter conferences completely virtual (online).

- (4) A fourth issue centered on the LES's future relation with MLA. LES may apply for ACRL to create a formal liaison relationship with MLA (probably on behalf of all literature-related sections, not LES alone.) If LES's application is accepted, then the ACRL Council of Liaisons calls for applicants for individuals interested in applying for the liaison role. Any chosen individual (who may be a member or LES and/or another Section) must have a membership with both ACRL and MLA., and may receive \$1500 from ACRL for attending that organization's conference. Serving as a liaison to another professional association is a three-year commitment.
- (5) A final issue is that of opening ALA-affiliated lists to allow people to determine if they want to become members. ALA is cautious about this. The benefits of opening up lists can encourage new members and lessen members' intimidation about joining, but one drawback is that this may prevent a particular section or group from doing business. Kathy mentions that LES has already provided open (read-only) access with the LES wiki. Beth states that the question is how groups can operate. Priscilla mentions that when members drop out of LES, our section doesn't purge them from the listserv.

3. Strategic Planning

Sophie distributes the chart outlining ACRL's strategic plan, LES's strategic plan, and LES's strategic plan actions [this chart was drafted by the Planning Committee in spring 2008]. Sophie suggests focusing on one strategic issue. Kathy mentions that one issue is cleaning out the deadwood in the plan, a task the Planning Committee can do by taking one item and focusing on it for rest of the year. LES could also find other parts of ACRL's plan that LES could engage with. Karen suggests that given Angela's short timeline for submitting action goals to ACRL, our group should review our goals and tasks, and that we do so at the afternoon planning meeting and at the LES Executive II committee meeting on Monday. Karen also asks Beth to help clarify the purpose of an action plan, which is for projects that require budgets (i.e., if you don't have a budget, you don't need an action plan). Beth mentions that action plan items should include significant goals such as building membership and increasing diversity. Karen says it might help to know last year's LES action plan proposals, which include re-vamping the LES website and doing a usability study (these suggestions were deferred at the time because LES didn't have a web manager).

Two related suggestions were to have a member of LES attend the Southeastern Atlantic Modern Language Association conference, and to have a LES member attend the Modern Language Association conference. Other ideas Kathy mentions include hosting a pre-conference, creating a recruitment video, and asking for reimbursement for attending conferences. Angela points out that when EBSS wanted to improve the way they held meetings, they developed a tipsheet for running effective meetings, which was adopted by ACRL and ALA; LES's action plan could be something as simple as a pathfinder for holding effective meetings. Kristine mentions the LES wiki, and Angela suggests putting this in. Beth states the importance of clarifying precisely which part of the ACRL strategic plan that LES will focus on, and is focusing on, and to explain its pertinence to the plan (e.g., justifying why members should be reimbursed for conferences, and assessing the benefit of sending someone to a conference). Karen and Sophie encourage everyone to think of budget-oriented ideas for LES's action plan.

Break for ten minutes. Meeting resumes at 9:10 a.m.

4. New MLA Discussion group/building informal liaison rapport

Liorah and Shawn have agreed to work with Jim Kelly on forming an informal task force within LES to address the issue of LES's connection with MLA (Jim had originally suggested a discussion group within MLA). Barbara Chen states her commitment to assisting LES in the effort to create a task force, and outlines the process for forming a discussion group within MLA: 35 members of LES have to sign a petition supporting this, while also justifying a need for the group and citing evidence of interest. The deadline is March 15 of the year preceding the year the discussion group would convene (e.g., LES would submit their petition in 2009 in order to start in 2010. However, Barbara mentions that the 2010 convention will actually be in 2011 because the MLA convention dates will be move to the first Thursday after January 2.) Once the petition is sent to the MLA program committee, they review it and make a recommendation to the MLA Executive Council, who

ultimately decides on the fate of the discussion group. Barbara will be happy to voice her support for this to Rosemary Feal, Executive Director of MLA. Liorah suggests we use the Midwinter 2009 conference to gather signatures and push this along, since members of LES, WESS, and SEES have to belong to MLA, and since WESS is also interested in participating. After some discussion about LES's commitment to hosting a program at MLA conferences, Sophie moves to create a task force to explore both the establishment of a LES-based MLA discussion group, and the establishment of a formal liaison relationship with MLA. Kristine seconds the motion. Liorah and Jim Kelly will lead the task force, will include WESS, and will also work with the Council of Liaisons to begin making suggestions and brainstorming. Beth suggests that when filling out the liaison form, the task force state their case. Sophie offers to work with Sarah Wenzel, Chair of WESS, to begin drafting the document. Karen suggests that given both LES and WESS's interest in liaising with MLA, we should have just one relationship of literature librarians with MLA. Sophie echoes this, stating that this task force can be an umbrella group encompassing relevant ACRL sections that can liaise with MLA, and can work on creating a discussion group. Sophie will email Sarah to follow up with this. Karen moves to extend the life of this group to end of Annual 2009, so that it can continue to operate after Sophie rotates off as chair of LES. Sophie seconds motion. Motion approved.

5. Committee Chair and Discussion Group reports

Program Committee: Julie Kerico mentions details about the 2008 Annual conference program co-sponsored by LES and ARTS, entitled "Reading Pictures: The Language of Wordless Books," which is an historical and modern look at sequential art.

Publications Committee: Linda Stein and the committee couldn't be more pleased with the new blog and wiki. The blog has been doing well, thanks to Leigh Ann Palmer, and Linda hopes to use this as a venue for mentors and for LES members who have published. New information about LES website changes are on the wiki as well. Shawn thanks Chris for her work, and mentions that the migration content issues seem to have been resolved. Karen will talk with Chris about the LES website redesign.

Membership Committee: Priscilla Finley reports that membership numbers are down, but only a fraction of a percent. Today's discussion at the General Membership Forum will be on critical theory; the committee identified five LES members to give others an overview about and advice for working with faculty and students engaged in critical theory. Monday's committee meeting will tackle the mentoring program, and how the wiki can contribute to this.

Planning Committee: Kathy states their first goal is to transfer LES's bylaws to ACRL's policies and procedures form. Their second goal is to get input from others about ACRL's strategic plan.

Nominating Committee: Kristine Anderson says the committee will come up with names to nominate for the upcoming vice-chair, chair-elect, secretary, and member-at-large. If we know of someone who wants to volunteer, let her know.

Reference Discussion Group: Melissa says their meeting will be tomorrow, where they'll discuss online modules and learning objects, bibliographic control, and other issues.

Collection Discussion Group: Faye reports her group will discuss the issue of selecting primary literature. Anthony Mavricos from Blackwell and Jennifer Hudson from YPB will share ideas for ways they can help via future products and approval plans. Her group will also talk about collection and funding issues for leisure reading and graphic novels.

Bibliotes: contact Laura Taddeo if we want to contribute articles.

New Members Discussion Group – Frank Gravier will lead a free-form discussion, noting the different topics that come up in other groups.

Liorah reminds everyone of the MLAIB discussion group in half an hour.

6. New LES webmaster Chris Ruotolo

Sophie welcomes her. Chris says it's a tough system to operate, but she's learned the basics, and she's looking forward to giving the site a fresh coat of paint.

7. The future management of les-l and les-exec mailing lists.

Liorah says she'll be managing LES-L and LES-EXEC mailing lists.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.