

Minutes of the Literatures in English Section, Executive Committee II
Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL)

American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Conference, Philadelphia, PA

Monday, January 14, 2008, 10:30 – 12:00 pm, Marriott Philadelphia, Room 413

FINAL

Present: Sophia Lesinska (Chair), Karen Munro (Vice-Chair), Meg Meiman (Secretary), Sara Seten Berghausen (Member-at-Large), Angela Courtney, Priscilla Finley, Linda Stein, Juliet Kerico, Sophie Lesinska, Kathy Johnson, Kristine Anderson, Jaena Hollingsworth, Millie Jackson, Shawn Martin, Melissa Van Vuuren, and Faye Christenberry.

Call to order: 10:35 am

1. Agenda approval – approved as is (no changes).

1a. General announcements

- Sophie thanks everyone who contributed letters to her tenure file.
- Shawn Martin has been hired as the Scholarly Communication Librarian at Temple University, effective April 2008. He also re-announces the upcoming LES candidates: Linda Stein and Angela Courtney for President, Mary Vandenburg and himself for Secretary, and Millie and Stephanie Graves for Member-at-Large.
- Both Linda Stein and Angela Courtney and Linda Stein have written books. Angela is also working with Faye Christenberry on another book, and is working on a research project this summer with Melissa Van Vuuren.
- Angela thanks everyone for help with her tenure file, and reports that the Victorian Women Writers Project will soon get a new look. She also endorses Linda's candidacy for LES chair.
- In February Kathy Johnson will turn in the final manuscript for the literary research book she and Steven Harris have edited.
- Juliet Kerico gave a paper at a recent ALA conference about the need for MLA's involvement with WorldCat Local.
- Sara Seten Berghausen has a new little girl who's doing very well.
- Priscilla Finley thanks everyone who contributed letters to her tenure file.
- Karen Munro suggests publicizing these books and presentations via the LES listserv. Sophie will send out a call to LES-L for other contributions, and begin publicizing them.

2. LES budget

Sophie distributes copies of the LES budget to the committee. Reports that LES has money to support the fee for wiki. Shawn mentions that ACRL may not pay for services like this. Sophie will contact Adam Burling to double-check that LES will receive funding for the wiki.

3. Mentoring program

Angela reports that given the slow traffic on LES's mentor page, she didn't purchase Starbucks cards, and hasn't actively advertised the "have coffee with a mentor" since she rotated off the

membership committee. Ensuing discussion focuses on using part of this year's budget to purchase Starbucks cards (it is a \$50 commitment), the fact that LES has already set aside \$100 for the wiki, and the possibility of reserving the remaining balance for cultural events and tours, instead of Starbucks cards. Sophie will investigate this issue and report back to the Executive Committee.

4. Management of LES-L and LES-EXEC mailing lists

Millie Jackson is overseeing LES-L, and Kathy is currently in charge of LES-EXEC, but ready to hand it off to Millie. Kathy will contact Adam and arrange for Millie to take over LES-EXEC.

4a. ACRL announcements via LES-L

Given last year's objection from some LES members about ACRL posting announcements via LES listserv, Sophie contacted Mary Ellen Davis about the matter. Sophie suggests that she can look at ACRL's emails and forward those to LES-L that seem appropriate. Others suggest that this would involve a great deal of work on Sophie's part, and suggest alternatives for dealing with them (setting email to "digest" mode, deleting them, using LES's forthcoming wiki and/or blog instead). Sophie will seek Mary Ellen's advice and report back to the Executive Committee about this matter.

5. Committee reports

- Priscilla Finley, Membership Committee. They've updated and revised welcome letter for new members, attended an ACRL meeting about recruitment and retention, and discussed plans for the program, which include retaining the mentorship option and broadening it to include coaching, peer relations, and as a venue for linking up with writing partners. Priscilla will talk with the Publications Committee about using the wiki to facilitate this, using the LES membership list and the wiki as a two-pronged approach. The committee's idea for the 2008 General Membership program centers on the connection between film and literature.
- Juliet Kerico, 2008 Chair of the Program Planning Committee. They are currently in the publicity phase for the Anaheim conference.
- Linda Stein, Publications Committee. They discussed obtaining and organizing help for the wiki (e.g., the new webmaster), organizing the information, and creating links between the LES blog and the newsletter. They also discussed the LES bibliography, which Faye has agreed to link to the MLAIB discussion group's website. Regarding the wiki and blog task force leaders, Karen Munro suggests they could have a standing spot on the Executive Committee agenda but not be ex officio, since that group is already getting big. Linda says since we're on one-year trial, we don't want to have to worry about by-laws. Shawn suggests we consider how to organize these positions, and that before he rotates off in June 2008 he can get input from the new webmaster during her "spring training" period. Linda says she's been getting requests to join the Publications Committee; Karen asks that if we know of members who want to join any LES committee, we should encourage them to not only fill out the ACRL form but also contact her, because she can solicit more information from them about their interests and preferences. (Currently she can only see what information people provide via the ACRL form.) Sophie passes around a thank-you card for Vince for his work on the wiki.
- Kathy Johnson, Planning Committee. Her lively group discussed making ACRL's strategic plan and LES's strategic plan more transparently related to each other. Kathy suggests a table form showing each plan, to make it easier to see how the goals line up, to use it as current and historic document for committee and section reports, and to build institutional memory within LES. Having this table form will also provide the incoming LES chair with more lead time to get involved, since this will prevent the LES vice-chair from Kathy will show the draft of the LES Strategic plan to everyone by March 15th. Karen

suggests putting the planning documents and committee meeting minutes on the wiki, if they can be public, to provide a permanent place for planning documents. Other Planning Committee news includes LES developing liaisons with MLA, WESS, SEES, and vendors; the first step is to identify professional organizations. The committee also discussed creating a calendar that could be placed on the wiki for LES events, reminders for applying for ACRL conferences, and other pertinent matters. The committee closed their meeting with a discussion of cultural events, tours, culinary tours, and "other joyous things" for the conference in Anaheim. Stay tuned for an outburst from the Planning Committee around March 15th.

- Melissa Van Vuuren, Reference Discussion Group. They had 26 attendees at 8 am, much to everyone's delight, and discussed training students for literary reference, how librarians are using information literacy guidelines, and what librarians are doing with chat reference.
- Faye Christenberry, Collection Development Discussion Group. They had 33 attendees who discussed budget constraints, the effective use of collections, and e-books. Laura will continue the topic of leisure reading collections. This group will swap times with the Reference Discussion Group at the annual conference.

6. LES Strategic Plan (Planning Committee)

6a. Past chair of Planning committee as ex officio member

- Kathy Johnson noted that this assignment is already in the LES web document "Past-Chair Functions and Responsibilities," item 3.

6b. Strategic planning and role of chair elect

- At Midwinter 2008, ACRL leaders encouraged all Sections to provide intentional formal support for the Chair Elect well in advance of the time when he or she takes office. The new officer needs this support and lead time in order to submit a thoughtful Strategic Plan, which is due a couple of weeks after assuming office.

6c. Change to bylaws

- No change to LES Bylaws is needed to accomplish either 6a. or 6b. Kathy Johnson noted that if a proposal on the spring 2008 ACRL ballot passes, Sections will no longer need formal Bylaws, but only procedural documents.

7. LES plans at 2008 ALA Annual Conference

7a. Collaboration with Western European Studies Section and Slavic and Eastern European Section.

- Since membership among sections overlaps, Sophie suggests a closer collaboration among these sections, which could include co-sponsoring pre-conferences and general meetings about topics relevant to all three sections (e.g., inviting smaller digital publishers like Oxford and Cambridge to talk with everyone). Sophie encourages us to submit other ideas for collaboration, especially for forging stronger ties with ACRL and ALA, so that we could have someone representing all three sections. Shawn reports that WESS is considering hosting an international conference in Oxford, and this could be one opportunity for collaboration. Currently LES will collaborate with Arts section of ACRL for the Anaheim conference.

7b. Social hour in Anaheim

- Sophie apologizes for social hour snafu at this conference because sports bar didn't take reservations, and suggests for the Anaheim conference, we draw on the knowledge of local members. Sophie will begin seeking out a Mexican restaurant and make reservations for 30 people. Non-eaters can drink margaritas, and Sara encourages Sophie to start this aspect of the social hour, too.) Kathy suggests a speed-dating format for the social hour, except everyone can talk about literature.

Meeting adjourned 11:46 am.