

ACRL Literatures in English Section
Membership Committee Meeting
ALA Midwinter Meeting
Monday, January 18, 2010, 8:00-10:00am
Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, Room 103

Minutes

Present:

Tammy Eschedor-Voelker, Kent State University, tvoelker@kent.edu
Jaena Hollingsworth, IUPUI, hollingj@iupui.edu
David Oberhelman, Oklahoma State University, d.oberhelman@okstate.edu
Linda Stein, University of Delaware, lstein@udel.edu
Lynda Tolly, University of California, Los Angeles, ltolly@gmail.com

Agenda item I. Introductions

Jaena informed committee that she will continue as Chair for the rest of the term (through annual of 2010).

Agenda item II. Planning for 2010 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. (general membership forum)

This year, the planned discussion for Midwinter General Membership Forum migrated to social networking.

Discussion: Possible topics for Annual General Membership Forum in DC: How many hats are LES members wearing, juggling, future of subject specialist, how to continue developing one's specialty, how you continue to learn (for people who are new to lit librarianship). Committee agreed to start with the "juggling" theme with an emphasis on 4 main areas:

- Learning the ropes: taking on more subjects for which you don't have a strong background, how to figure out what you don't know and how to learn it, learning the publishers, etc.
- Adding in management and supervisory roles
- Juggling public services, instruction, and collection development (time management strategies for managing time and attention). Issues related to approval plans, weeding, collection spaces being converted to public usage/meeting spaces.
- Advocating for digital scholarship

Agenda item III. Old Business

LES Directory

Discussion: Successful test trial of LES Directory wiki piloted with exec members. Next step is to send out announcement to LES membership that new Directory is operational and open up the directory to LES membership at large – all members can sign up for accounts. As there are still three directories, we need to verify functionality of new directory before getting rid of old ones (but need to get all directories into one place as quickly as possible).

Action items:

- Jaena will send out email announcement for all members to sign up
- Jaena will take lead on cleanup and getting other directories taken down

Survey for dropped members

Discussion: As Jaena gets a list of LES drops, committee discussed if we should proceed with prior plans to conduct an exit survey of dropped members. Do we want to use some type of freeware such as Survey Monkey to determine potential trends/causes for drops? If the number of survey respondents is less than 100, Survey Monkey could be used for free, so would surveying dropped members help us determine the cause of dropping LES (are drops due to interest in LES or economic factors such as library budget or personal budget)? Is current cycle an anomaly due to economic crisis being experienced by many institutions? Are people having to drop ALA membership altogether due to economic situation? Jaena will track down statistics to try and determine the natural flux of membership rates, but until we have a better idea if current circumstances are anomalous or part of normal trend, committee agrees to hold off on conducting survey this year.

Action items:

- Jaena will ask for statistics to see if any trends are evident
- Postpone survey for dropped members to see if drops are due to current economic crisis or part of regular trend

Conference Buddy Program

Discussion: Was it worth the energy sending out emails to select group of “new” members when there was a low response rate? Do we want to do a conference buddy program again? Seems to make more sense to send the message to les-l rather than individual emails to new members, which helps solve problem of newish members who might want a buddy not being on “new members” list. As all members of membership committee agree to serve as a conference buddy, we will

continue conference buddy program for annual but send announcement to the entire list.

Action items:

- Jaena will send out call to participate in Conference Buddy Program to LES list
- Jaena will match respondents with more seasoned LES members who have volunteered to participate

Agenda item IV. New Business

LES Job Shadowing Program

Discussion: Program involves trying to reach people in library school or other disciplines to connect them up with someone in the area and have them shadow a librarian for a day; Membership Committee's role is to help market the program and find people who want to participate. Ideas for how to get participants: send to library school admin to go out to their students. Members should be encouraged to volunteer even if they don't have a library school at their institution. Members on LES exec and other people who are willing to be shadowed, should contact Arianne Hartsell-Gundy. Arianne is already taking volunteers to be shadowed. The plan is to start with library schools and then move onto other programs (to find people who want to shadow). Question: Do we wait too long to recruit people to librarianship, how about outreach to high schools (in the future if the program works)? We don't really anticipate an onslaught of participants at the start. LES Exec is trying to get Friends of ACRL money to help pay for this program (maybe to help fund travel).

Action items:

- Jaena will help send out some of the messages to recruit participants
- Membership committee members will help identify schools or programs where marketing can be targeted

Virtual Meetings

Discussion: Most members want to move towards virtual meetings for Midwinter. LES ad hoc committee on virtual meetings to be formed. That committee will get input from IS regarding how well virtual meetings have worked for their section's Midwinter meetings. Ad hoc committee will figure out a recommendation for LES committees on the best way to do virtual meetings (ALA has been promoting Connect as a forum for virtual meetings). Impact on Membership Committee is LES could have more active members if allowed more participation through virtual meetings. Question was raised if members would still need to pay registration fee if only attending virtual meetings. If interested in being on this ad hoc committee, let Jaena or Angela Courtney know.

LES promotional video

Discussion: Strategic Initiative Action Plan Proposal was submitted and funding approved to produce one or two three-minute video(s) to promote the role of the Liaison Librarian. The goal is to interview faculty members to help promote peer awareness of Liaison Librarians. A suggestion was made to launch a website with promotional material about this project. Lynda recently took over chairing this task force from Liorah and will be meeting virtually with the task force within the next few weeks and will follow up with this suggestion to further promote/explain project on website (wiki or blog).

Other: Mentor Program

Membership responsible for mentoring program. There were a couple of forms submitted, so Jaena will figure out what to do with these submissions (most are people who want mentors). Once directory is up and running and members have updated their entries, the directory will include information about willingness to participate as a mentor.

Action items:

- Jaena will solicit mentors for the mentee applications she's received.