

Minutes
ACRL LES Membership Committee Meeting via ALA Connect
Wednesday, January 14, 2015 – 2:00 pm Central
Chair: Liorah Golomb (lgolomb@ou.edu)

Present: Liorah Golomb (Chair), Tammy Voelker, Fred Folmer, Matt Knight, Hazel McClure, Abby Scheel, Heather Simoneau, and Jen Stevens. Absent: Kelly Diamond and Piper Martin.

Introductions

Announcements

- Kick Start the Future campaign
 - \$540 raised for ACRL Kick Starter campaign. \$95 short of being able to have a named scholarship, but still a good amount.
- Can now join unlimited number of sections w/in a division.

Debrief 2014 forum (Careers for Literature Librarians)

- Panelists included Jen Bartlett, Angela Courtney, Steven Harris, and Rob Melton. Those who attended enjoyed the program.

Planning for 2015 forum at ALA Annual

- Panel on Mentorship, featuring past or present LES Mentorship Program participants. Liorah agreed to draft a call for participation, but would it be better for Kelly to reach out to those participating in the program now to solicit participation? [Note: Liorah and Kelly drafted the call, and Kelly contacted program participants.] The best scenario would be to have perhaps 2 or 3 pairs of mentors and mentees, but we can also have participants without their program counterparts.

State of the membership (Liorah)

- Stats
 - The latest available statistics were for August. LES had 485 personal members, down 8.2% from the same month in 2013. ACRL's membership in August 2014 was down 10.35% compared to August 2013.
 - The latest (Sept. 2014) New/Reinstated/Dropped list for LES shows 13 new members, 4 reinstated, and 9 dropped.
 - Question raised: Is there a way to find out which LES members are going to ALA Annual so that we can invite them to our programs and other events individually?
- New/Dropped/Reinstated letters – redesign ideas?
 - Heather and Fred will work on drafting a new message to dropped members. The letters used by the College Library Section had some good aspects that we will take inspiration from for our letters, including linking to various offerings of the section rather than just pointing people to the website. The new ALA policy of allowing people to join as many sections and interest groups ("Communities of Practice") as they like within a division can also be emphasized to try to reengage people who didn't want to pay for more than the formerly permitted two free sections. Heather and Fred will also draft a survey to link from the message to a brief survey to determine why people left the section.
 - Hazel will work on revising our messages to the New and Reinstated members. She will stress service opportunities and other benefits of LES membership and draft a survey

asking things such as what the new/reinstated members might like to see LES do in the future.

Update on Mentoring Program (Liorah for Kelly)

- Kelly matched 5 mentee-mentor pairs since she took over the administration of the program some time after last Annual. She also contacted mentors already on the “volunteer” list to see if they were still interested in continuing. Most former mentors expressed satisfaction with the experience and wanted to continue, but a couple were concerned that not all mentees were really participating. A suggestion would be to institute periodic discussion prompts to spark communication between mentors and mentees. ACRL IS does this monthly.

Update on Calendar Project (Liorah)

- Liorah communicated with John Glover, Chair of LES Publications Committee. He identified two members of that committee who would like to work on a calendar of events of interest to LES members, and Jen and Tammy agreed to work with these Pubs members. Liorah will put everyone in touch with one another.

New Business

- Succession planning for section (e.g., co-chairs)
 - At the ACRL Section Membership Committee last fall there was discussion about how committees handle succession. Some sections have co-chairs, whereby the junior one of the co-chairs is in place when the senior member rolls off. We agreed that this would help maintain continuity. Liorah will discuss this with LES Exec at the MW virtual meeting coming up on January 21.
- Future of New Members DG
 - Given the poor showing of actual new or potential members at the New Members Discussion Group, we agreed that we would recommend discontinuing it. However, the Section should attempt other methods of attracting new members. A recommendation was made that we might offer occasional virtual forums for new/interested members on various topics.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm Central.

Minutes drafted by Liorah Golomb on January 14, 2015.