

ACRL LES Virtual Participation Committee

**2014 Annual Convention Meeting
Las Vegas Convention Center, N219
Monday, June 30, 2013, 8:30-10am PDT
Amanda Rust, Chair**

1) Introductions

Present: Amanda Rust plus one potential new member.

2) Announcements

Since most members of the group couldn't make it, Rust decided to make the meeting optional and work further over email (as seems fitting for the Virtual Participation Committee). One potential new member briefly stopped by to ask a few questions, so Rust briefly described the work of the committee and encouraged him to join.

3) Report back from Exec: process for scheduling meetings through Chair

- a. Discussion**
- b. Recommendations back to Exec?**

To be addressed by the committee via email.

4) Goals and plans for 2014-15

- a. Upkeep of wiki pages**
- b. New items?**

To be addressed by the committee via email.

Adjourned at 8:50am.

Report submitted to LES Exec, in lieu of meeting.

Virtual Participation is moving into more of a maintenance mode. Thanks to David Oberhelman's great work when founding the committee, we have a survey of membership on communication preferences that generally show a Virtual Midwinter is acceptable — even if people prefer face-to-face meetings, most note that funding precludes two meetings a year. Aline Soules and Exec helped out with

that survey, too, so thank you to them.

We're now using ALA's Adobe Connect software, which is free, and ALA provides a great amount of support for this. They have a staff person dedicated to logging users in and testing the software, and even schedule a practice session ahead of time. This has been a great service from ALA, and with so much support it doesn't seem like we need to worry about spending money on any other service, unless ALA changes something on their end.

These are the items VPC has finished:

- Additional tips and support, if needed, for discussion group online meetings. These are the most difficult, since monitoring chat and speaking online with 40-50 people is hard. We've created a [wiki page](#); feedback is welcome.
- Clarification on ALA rules for virtual meetings. We've created a [wiki page](#) linking to appropriate policies; feedback is welcome.

And we're still working on:

- Process for scheduling meetings with ALA. At one point in time, Rust heard that ALA prefers sections route all meeting requests through a single person. However, Rust had also floated the idea to Exec that Committee and DG chairs schedule directly with ALA, so we will need to verify that ALA would prefer it all go through one person instead. If so, maybe Exec could make that a formal part of being the Virtual Participation Committee Chair, just so whoever has the position knows to schedule the meetings.
 - A smaller part of this issue handling how to accept all the different meeting requests. The Virtual Participation Committee may look into creating an online Google Form for this, just for easier tracking and less email back-and-forth. Yes, we would create a form to fill out another ALA form.
- The calendar to increase local and regional connections between LES members, where people can note which conferences or meetings they are attending and look for other LES-ers going to those same meetings. David Oberhelman has offered to be the VPC representative for this joint project between Virtual Participation, Membership, and Publications.
- Long-term (1-3 years): perhaps re-survey the membership, just to make sure Virtual Midwinter is going well.

Report submitted by Amanda Rust via email, 7/3/2014.