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TF By-Laws

Hello everyone!

Here are the minutes to SRRT Action Council I. Please send revisions, inclusions, etc.

Thanks!

Elaine Harger
SRRT Secretary SRRT Action Council I
June 27, 1998
Washington DC, Loews L'enfant Plaza

PRESENT: Fred Stoss, FTOE; Maria Jankowska, TFOE; Jos Anemaet, Oregon SRRT; Carol Barta, Action Council; Linda Pierce, SRRT listserv owner; Nel Ward, Action Council; Kim Edson, Minnesota SRRT; Charles Willett, AIP; Steven Harris, Action Council; Cici Chapple, Action Council; Toni Bissessar, Action Council; Ken Thompson, SRRT Newsletter co-editor; Sandy Berman, HH&PTF; Mark Rosenzweig, Action Council; Al Kagan, IRTF and Action Council; Dotty Granger, SRRT Secretary; Cal Zunt, GLBTF; Martyn Lowe, Information for Social Change UK; Lennart Wettmark, Bibliotek i Samhalle, Sweden; Barbara Jones Clark, CSK; Johnny Jacobs, Library & Information Workers Organization, South Africa; Warren Wright, CALA - Chinese American [can't make out following word E.H.]; Bonita Corliss, GLBTF; Victor Schill, GLBTF; Arla Jones, Kansas SRRT; Melissa Riley, SRRT member; Michael Miller, GLBTF; Wendy Thomas, SRRT Coordinator; Elaine Harger, SRRT Secretary.

INTRODUCTIONS

MINUTES: Minutes of SRRT AC mid-winter meetings approved.

SRRT COUNCILOR: Wendy Thomas opened discussion noting that ALA by-laws have been revised to add councilors for round tables with 800+ members. Smaller round tables, those will under 800 members, will jointly elect one councilor. A Council Committee has recommended that round table councilors be elected spring 1999 to begin terms at the end of ALA Annual Convention. Terms will be staggered and determination of length of terms for round tables will be made by lot - 1, 2 & 3 year terms. Wendy collected ALA divisions' procedures for electing division councilors and will distribute this information on the SRRT listserv.

Sandy Berman distributed a proposal recommending that AC choose the SRRT

Councilor from among elected members. The proposal also recommended that the SRRT Councilor "be expected to introduce SRRT-approved resolutions if so asked by Action Council; to vote on specific questions in accordance with declared Action Council policy, if any; and otherwise to vote according to conscience, reporting to AC & SRRT membership on significant issues & votes." In discussion questions were raised about limiting the pool of candidates to elected AC members. Also, questions raised about what constitutes SRRT policy and whether or not we need to revise SRRT by-law. Al Kagan asked about how the proposal described by Wendy came about. Elaine Harger said that was unclear, but it seemed the timing of RT Councilor elections was due to the fact that the small round tables will need some time to work out the complexities involved in the election of their common councilor.

Wendy will put information concerning this issue on the SRRT listserv. Discussion will continue for a mid-winter decision.

SRRT NEWSLETTER: Ken Thompson reported that ALA seems to be being charged a lot for newsletter, and he raised several questions. Can we advertise? Go electronic? If ads are sold, should one SRRT advertising person coordinate ads for all SRRT task force newsletters?

In regard to advertising, the GLBTF newsletter editor said that ALA says advertising raises postage rate. ALA will not allow round tables to publish own newsletters, which are official ALA publications. Al asked why should SRRT should compromise its longstanding position on advertising? Is budget really so bad that we must do it? Charles Willett noted that Counterpoise is published privately. Fred Stoss added that the TFOE newsletter is only published electronically. Need to be careful about advertisers, how would ad money be used? Dotty Granger informed us that SRRT is not now in trouble with its budget, but she does agree that we should investigate why the newsletter it cost so much. We should ask ALA why production costs are so high. Michael Miller responded to Al's concern that SRRT positions don't need to be compromised by advertising, and added that round tables might in the future be required to raise funds and so we might have no choice but to solicit advertising.

Ken noted that SRRT could do any number of things with any money saved from lower production costs and asked if the newsletter is the most important thing to spend SRRT money on. Maybe in a couple years we can go electronic, and have some print.

Rory Litwin noted that it seems to be easier to pay closer attention to print materials, and this is important for the newsletter with is the only conduit of news about SRRT activities. The GLBTF newsletter editor, added that subscriptions to the GLBTF newsletter is one of the only ways new members become active in the task force.

Al moved that SRRT ask ALA why it costs so much to do newsletter and ask if there are any ways to reduce costs.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Berman motion to continue dual publication in paper and electronic formats.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Wendy requested that all SRRT newsletter editors draft the letter to be sent to ALA. The new ALA publications person is Christine Squires.

BROCHURE UPDATE: Wendy informed AC that the estimate for the cost of a new SRRT brochure on environmentally sound paper would be xxxxx [WENDY - I NEED THE COST BREAKDOWN, ELAINE]

Dotty moved that we will put this cost into budget for this year for 2000 copies, if Satia says we have money. Benefits far outweigh the costs.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

She added that we should ask for 3+ camera ready copies for reproduction by task forces.

SRRT ANNUAL PROGRAM: Al described the upcoming SRRT program "Social Responsibility Around the World" and introduced the speakers and guests present. Each speaker will have about 20 minutes to describe activities of their organizations. Al expressed the hope that out of this program will come some projects that can be worked on jointly.

SRRT RESOLUTIONS

"Resolution on Equal Access to Senate and House Press Galleries for Internet Reporters"

Presented by Sandy Berman, Bernadine Abbot-Hoduski and Vigdor Schriebman. Bernadine described meeting Vigdor Schriebman when she served on the Joint Committee on Printing, and characterized his reporting as very fair and thorough. Access to press galleries essential to reporters. Bernadine added that the Freedom to Read Foundation not been supportive of Schriebman's lawsuit.

Vigdor Schriebman described this very complex issue, noting that his lawsuit raises a serious issue, and saying that he attempts to cover Congress within the context of our country's cultural history. The suit asks what right does Congress have to decide who is a reporter? Schriebman noted that when the United Nations tried to license reporters, Congress raised a huge outcry, but when it comes to reportage of US political issues, Congress tries to control who reports and how information about the government gets covered. Schriebman noted that this is a threat to democracy. The suit presently is at the appellate stage. It was dismissed earlier on the grounds that there was insufficient information in original pleading.

Mark Rosenzweig noted that Schriebman's Federal Info News Syndicate (FINS) is a serious, informative, well-thought out piece of work. He noted that Schriebman's views are incisive and thought provoking, and that FINS is not all advocacy, but also some straight reporting.

RESOLUTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion to extend meeting.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

"Resolution on the Boy Scouts of America"

Sandy Berman presented resolution noting that it only calls for the elimination of BSA as an official affiliate of ALA, it does NOT prohibit any library/ian from working with BSA.

Amendment proposed to add: "WHEREAS ALA and units may provide bibliographies and other material and services to any organization with or without formal or official affiliation"

ALSC members present at AC I meeting described an AALSC discussion on the issue, noting that the merit badge bibliography that had been done was 30 years old. This supported the position of many of the resolutions opponents that the relationship between ALA and BSA is an informal one.

Mark asked, if the relationship is so informal, why does ALA want so strongly to maintain it?

Carol Reid expressed opposition to any resolution that ALA sever ties with affiliates just because they might have different political views from us.

RESOLUTION PASSED
Yes, 15
No, 2
Abstentions, 0

"Resolution on the Multilateral Agreement on Investments (MAI)"

RESOLUTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

"Resolution on Socially Responsible ALA Investing"

RESOLUTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

"Libraries: An American Value"

RESOLUTION TABLED FOR NEXT MEETING

"EBSS Program: Promoting Citizen Action ... in Electronic Age"
Motion made for SRRT to co-sponsor along with GODORT & PLA.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Michael Miller reported that the GLBTF is appointing an Ad Hoc Committee to investigate becoming a round table. Reasons given were: Members feel that GLBTF programming and other activities are at a round table level; perhaps budget woes can be dealt with if GLBTF became a round table. Concerns are:

Who would be the ALA liaison; would GLBTF gain more credibility. Kim Edson noted that GLBTF is not unhappy with SRRT, but the decision is based in organizational needs. Michael affirmed. Sandy noted that this is an honorable development, SRRT has started several round tables EMIERT, GODORT are predecessors. Mark noted that in unity is strength, and said he would hate to see SRRT forces split up without some compensating attempt to retain the "umbrella" of what SRRT stands for within ALA. He added that this development could constitute major breakup of SRRT. Michael noted that some GLBTF members want to stay in SRRT, and added that we don't know if Council will approve round table status. Sandy said that no matter what happens GLBTF needs to know that "this is home." If GLBTF does become a round table, there should definitely be an exchange of liaisons.

Meeting adjourned 12:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Elaine Harger, 7/10/98

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From: "Elaine Harger" <eharger@tao.agoron.com>
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Subject: AC II Minutes
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X-To: "SRRT Action Council" <srrtac-l@ala.org>
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Hello again!

And here are the minutes for Action Council II. Ditto request for changes, corrections, additions, etc. etc.

Many thanks!

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SRRT Action Council II
Washington DC, Radison - National Ballroom
June 29, 1998

PRESENT: Martyn Lowe, Information for Social Change, UK; Mark Rosenzweig, Action Council; Al Kagan, IRFT and Action Council; Elke Hirtz, AKRIBIE, Germany; Raimund Dehmlow, AKRIBIE, Germany; Charles Willett, AIP; Johnny Jacobs, LIWO, South Africa; Lennart Wettmark, BIS, Sweden; Jos Anemaet, Oregon SRRT; Kim Edson, Minnesota SRRT; Sandy Berman, Poverty TF; Jessamyn West, SRRT Newsletter; Ken Thompson, SRRT Newsletter; Nel Ward, Action Council; Kristin Carlson, FTF; Veronda J. Pitchford, FTF; Rory Litwin, AIP, Progressive Librarian; Steven Harris, Action Council; Ceci Chapple, Action Council; Barbara Clark, CSK; Carolyn Garnes, CSK; Bonita C. Corliss; GLBTF; Wendy Thomas, SRRT Coordinator; Frauke Mahrt-Thomsen, AKRIBIE, Germany; Renate Obadalek, KRIBIBI, Austria; Arla Jones, Kansas SRRT; Carol Barta, Action Council; Ann Sparanese, IRTF and Action Council; Chuck Munson, AIP; Fred Stoss, TFOE; Elaine Harger, SRRT Secretary.

Introductions

TASK FORCE PROGRAMMING: Elaine Harger reported that in putting together the flyer announcing SRRT programs for annual conference that there was some overlap of SRRT programs, uneven numbers of programs, and asked if there might be ways we can avoid conflict. This has been an ongoing matter of concern for SRRT and we have attempted to coordinate scheduling but not

with too much success. Charles Willett questioned the use of the words "conflict" and "we," and asked why this matter was being raised. Nel Ward doesn't see any problem with overlapping programs, noting that the more programs SRRT task forces have, the more exposure ALA members get to SRRT ideas. Carolyn Garnes asked how we support fellow task force activities when our programs overlap? She added that programming at ALA overwhelming anyway and wondered if we should contribute to that. Steve Harris suggested that task forces should inform each other about schedules, but noted the need for flexibility.

Barbara Clark informed AC that CSK is planning a series of programs for the CSK 30th anniversary next year. She hopes that schedule conflicts will be minimal. Sandy Berman noted that the Hunger, Homelessness & Poverty TF is putting all its resources into annual pre-conference program on Friday, so its "traditional" Saturday timeslot from 2-4 is free. Barbara said that CSK will note that and take advantage of the free slot. Bonitta Corliss noted that the GLBTF general membership meeting was happening as AC met and felt that was a problem. Wendy Thomas suggested that we set AC and SRRT membership meetings as no-conflict times for all task forces. We must insist on that. Each task force chair must post on listserv "traditional times" when they want "no conflicts."

A decision was made that task force chairs will write down the number of major programs and "traditional" timeslots for planning purposes. Carol Barta would put schedule on a calendar.

Mark Rosenzweig suggested that task forces should focus programming responsibly, and asked if we could try to minimize rather than proliferate programming. Kim Edson replied that if attendance at programs is good, then we should have no limit on the number of programs. Issues, energy and attendance should drive programming levels. Sandy noted that an AIP program had 100 in audience, most were not SRRT members. Nel Ward noted that Library Journal highlighted 6 SRRT programs in its list of programs not to miss. Carolyn Garnes asked about the budget ramifications. How much does ALA charge us for rooms? Veronda reinforced the idea that SRRT needs a philosophy of programming that is open and flexible.

SRRT BUDGET: Dotty Granger distributed SRRT budget "cheat sheet" and section from Round Table Handbook on budget. She then reported that the OLOS office seems to have traced the 1996 SRRT "deficit" to the CSK breakfast. Documentation from ALA's warehouse should be forthcoming to confirm that impression. SRRT's budget now is okay, but ALA is taking any excess to cover the deficit. While we owe ALA money, we're not in as dire straits as others task forces have been. Some, in fact, are on probation for budget problems. Satia believes SRRT is sincere in straightening up the budget process. Wendy described the "cheat sheet" and "frequently asked questions" sheet, both designed to assist task forces in budgeting.

Carolyn asked if we have an opportunity to establish a payback process. Dotty said that ALA's strategy is to take whatever funds are left over at end of fiscal year and apply to deficit payment. She added that SRRT needs

to plan a process to set aside funds for future plans. Carolyn asked that it be stated for the record that the CSK TF is making a concerted attempt to pay back deficit. Elaine asked if we know how much ALA has taken so far towards the deficit. Wendy said that we need to get more info about exact deficit and how much they are taking. Dotty asked if we could plan to pay back \$1000 per year. Wendy noted that we must adhere to our resolution from mid-winter, not to participate in any payback plan until we have full documentation on deficit.

Dotty brought discussion to a close by noting that she's moving off AC, so AC needs to select a new treasurer. Wendy added that thanks to Dotty and Satia's efforts SRRT is in much better place financially than ever before.

MAILING LIST POLICY: Wendy opened discussion noting that questions concerning SRRT's policy regarding access to mailing lists were raised when the Alternative Press Center asked if they could have SRRT mailing list for fundraising purposes. Subsequently, Wendy learned that ALA has a procedure for obtaining mailing lists and one can get an entire list, or division list, or round table. There is a charge and a copy of whatever is being distributed must be submitted with the request for a list. ALA members can indicate that they do not wish to have mailings from outside organizations. There is a check-off box on the ALA membership renewal form. Cost for a list ranges from \$80-90 for 1000 names.

Al Kagan asked if SRRT can give our list to APC. Wendy explained that we don't have one, and if we want one SRRT must pay for it.

Al moved that SRRT ask ALA for a copy of SRRT's membership list and also ask that ALA not charge ALA units for at least one copy/year for their own lists. List should include all SRRT members, and copies will be given to each task force chair.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Jessamyn West noted that there are two lists, one of all SRRT members, another of all members who are willing to receive mailings. Charles asked if we can use SRRT lists for any mailings. Wendy cautioned that lists should be for internal use only.

TASK FORCE BY-LAWS: Wendy noted that SRRT constitution states that all task forces are encouraged to have by-laws and that AC must approve by-laws. Wendy noted that it is not a good idea for only some task forces to have by-laws. SRRT needs to know what purpose of each task force is, what administrative structure is, what officer responsibilities are. Presently, by-laws are in place for only GLBTF and CSK.

Ceci Chapple asked, if SRRT constitution does not even allow for membership at task force level, how can by-laws be required. Barbara Clark noted that by-laws can hard to do, but are very helpful with distribution of responsibilities. If officer's duties are described in by-laws, one can simply copy and send to members who might be interested in participating in task force activities. Bonita noted that by-laws can help figure out what a task force's priorities are, and assist people in the future for

continuing work of the task force. It is important to try to put on paper a reflection of what the structure and purpose of a task force is. Steve Harris argued that having no written guidelines allows tremendous freedom. He noted that AIP structure is anarchic and task force members like it that way. Would a paragraph-long mission statement be acceptable in lieu of full by-laws. Wendy said, "absolutely!" Mission statements, by-laws could be posted on SRRT website. Mission statements by mid-winter would be fine.

TASK FORCE REPORTS

Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual Task Force

Bonita reported a successful breakfast, and program on youth. Planning for 30th anniversary. Raised idea about task force going for round table status.

Coretta Scott King Task Force

Barbara announced CSK Award breakfast on Tuesday, by-laws in works, request to publishers for support of breakfast, CSK needs to be known nationally. Will begin scheduling CSK business meetings during all-task force meeting. CSK and BCALA pre-conference with local area children reading from CSK winners was a great success.

Feminist Task Force

Veronda reported that annual Sunday breakfast features writers from independent presses, women's night out every Monday night social, this year at Sister Space. Ceci added FTF thinking about pre-conference on racism in 2000.

NEWSLETTER

Jessamyn announced deadline for next newsletter July 15th. Need task force reports.

TFOE

Fred reported that programs suffered from poor attendance because ALA didn't publish them in program. Sierra Club has requested TFOE to participate in project on environmental education. Maria Jankowska and Patty Owen new co-chairs. TFOE working with YALSA and other ALA units on programming.

HHPTF

Sandy announced a new book "Poor People and Library Services" published by McFarland, editor Karen Venturella will contribute any royalties to task force pre-conference. Saturday program very successful. Next year, OLOS subcommittee on Poor People's Policy putting on pre-conference on poverty issues with big-name speaker. Sandy invites any task force to co-sponsor. TF put together brochure for recruitment. Members attended picket and rally of Kensington Welfare Rights bus tour ending at United Nations where they will deliver a statement and petition that US violates human rights.

AIP

Charles reported on three programs and free speech buffet. Programs very good, Chris' standing room only, outsourcing program attracted many

Printed for Al Kagan <akagan@uiuc.edu>

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deal with legislators. One suggests drafting a parallel document dealing with international issues on the grounds that if she took an ALA statement that mentioned the United Nations to Kansas people wouldn't support it. Much anti-UN sentiment in Kansas. Mark asked if it is a proper SRRT response to this document to change it? Or do we want to have another response?

Sandy moved document as amended. Seconded by Charles.

Fred moved to table. Seconded by Steve.

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AKRIBIE meets end of October 17, 1998; then Feb/March 1999

KRIBIE meets informally

SRRT meets Jan/Feb, and June/July

LIWO teleconferences

BIS board meets in August

Info for Social Change meets informally

All present expressed interest in MAI issue, Cuba projects, the Gaza Health Science Library project, and the Project on Media Ownership. We will follow-up with communications on each.

[AL - WHO WAS IT WHO SUGGESTED THE LETTER BELOW? I DIDN'T MAKE A NOTE OF WHO IT WAS. ELAINE]

June 29, 1998
Washington DC

An Open Letter to Nancy John, Chair
International Relations Round Table

We as representatives of progressive/radical library and information groups are disappointed that the International Relations Round Table Reception for International Visitors is being held at the World Bank. We appreciate the spirit of the reception for international guests but we feel that, given the role of the World Bank in international affairs and its policy of structural adjustment, the choice of venue is inappropriate to the ALA theme of Global Reach, Local Touch.

Chris Atton

Raimund Dehmlow, Arbeitskreis Kritischer Bibliothekarinnen, Germany

Elke Hirth, Arbeitskreis Kritischer Bibliothekarinnen, Germany

Johnny Jacobs, Library and Information Workers Organization, South Africa

Martyn Lowe, Information for Social Change, England

Frauke Mahrt-Thomsen, Arbeitskreis Kritischer Bibliothekarinnen, Germany

Renate Obadalek, Arbeitskreis Kritischer Bibliothekarenen, Austria

Ulrike Retschitzegger, Arbeitskreis Kritischer Bibliothekarenen, Austria

Lennart Wettmark, Bibliotek i Samhalle, Sweden

cc Barbara Ford
Robert A. Seal, IRC Chair
Library press

Meeting adjourned 6:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Elaine Harger, 7/10/98