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From: "Elaine Harger" <eharger@tao.agoron.com>  
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SRRT Action Council II  
June 28, 1999  
Doubletree, New Orleans  
MINUTES

PRESENT: Peter McDonald, AC; Charles Willett, AIP; Ken Thompson, SRRT Newsletter editor; Al Kagan, IRTF & SRRT Councilor-Elect; Ceci Chapple, AC; Maria Jankovska; Elizabeth Morrisett, AC; Sandy Berman, Poverty TF; Gregory R. Mullins; Kim Edson, MN SRRT; Michael J. Miller, GLBTF; Ann Sparanese, AC; Michael Nitz; Elaine Harger, SRRT Secretary; Wendy Thomas, SRRT Coordinator; Adriene Weir, FTF; Mark Rosenzweig, AC; Suzanne Tronier; Chuck Munson; Arla Jones, KS SRRT; Barbara J. Clark, CSKTF; Nel Ward, SRRT Treasurer; Mark E. Martin, AC; Theresa Tobin, FTF; Mary Biblo; Herb Biblo; Richard Hoffine; Steve Murden

BUDGET UPDATE

Nel described the reimbursement process and distributed forms. The process is: task force chair signs reimbursement form and send two copies to Nel. She will mail the forms immediately to ALA. It is important that forms be sent to Nel as soon as possible, because the ALA FY ends August 31st and all reimbursements must be processed by then. Refunds will be sent by ALA. Nel insists that people follow these procedures, because previously people haven't followed instructions and were upset when reimbursements didn't get processed.

Michael Miller noted that GLBTF collects donations at its socials, and asked if they need to provide Nel with evidence of any revenues given to OLOS. Nel said, yes, absolutely. We need to keep track of all revenues.

Wendy then reported that she, Nel, and Elaine had drawn up list of questions and requests for the BARC meeting on Tuesday. On the list are issues concerning: ALA accountability; overhead charges; notification of additional charges; need for timely budget reports; answer to the matter concerning airplane tickets purchased at the last minutes; question concerning cost of mailing GLBTF newsletter with 55cent postage, instead of 33 cents; why does ALA charge for mailings to SRRT that have nothing to do with SRRT (here Wendy explained that she has received LAMA, ACRL mail, etc. which gets charged to SRRT); how much is SRRT charged for the sale of CSK award medals; roundtables get \$1500 for programming, but SRRT had never been credited for that; what are the overhead costs for meal functions; can a breakdown of conference room charges be provided? She then asked for further questions or requests to add to the list.

Barbara had another question: CSKTF had been told that from its last book

(published 5-6 years ago) 5% of sale proceeds were supposed to go to SRRT budget. Has that happened? Also, what is the situation with sales of CSK pamphlets? Where does that money go? Nel noted that there are records for some of these sales in ledger reports.

Ken noted that on the question of postage, sometimes there are extra charges for large-sized mail. He would like clarification on charges for "subscription maintenance." What is this for? For the SRRT newsletter or other task force newsletters?

Michael had the following question: although GLBTF only has 120 subscriptions to its newsletter, ALA makes 500 copies. Why weren't they informed of this? What happens to the extra copies? The ledgers show \$8000 debit, but that is close to what the overhead charges would have been. He then asked what is expected of BARC meeting?

Wendy responded that it was difficult to even find out what the special task force was established to do, and that she simply doesn't know what to expect. Satia did inform her that SRRT must address the deficit, and has also said that the budget approved at midwinter was not acceptable to ALA.

#### 1999-2000 BUDGET

Wendy opened by saying that SRRT is in serious trouble and the 1999-2000 budget has not been accepted by ALA, what can we do? ALA says we're \$19,000 in debt. She said that after much discussion she, Nel and Elaine decided to suggest that SRRT AC rescind the budget approved at midwinter and make a new one. One request is that task forces with income not spend more than income, that task forces without any source of revenue join together to do a joint program next year with the \$1500. These two suggestions, along with the reduced newsletter frequency, might get SRRT back into balance with its budget.

Nel then added that SRRT spends about \$8000/year on administrative costs, the newsletter and a few other things we don't know about (ALA charges). She suggested that if the actions just suggested by Wendy were adopted, it could give us some money to pay back to ALA.

Barbara said that CSKTF should be making money from sale of seals. It costs \$36/1000 to produce the seals, and publishers are charged \$100/1000. What does ALA charge SRRT for handling the sales? On the topic of CSKTF, Nel noted that the annual awards breakfast tickets pay for the cost of the breakfast, but there are other additional expenses that aren't covered. Barbara said that CSKTF has been told over the past two years that it always makes \$10/ticket over any costs, and that the breakfast is profitable. Charles Willett noted that Counterpoise doesn't cost SRRT anything, and pays for itself. Michael asked about overhead costs. Nel noted that the budget code "IUT" (inter unit transfer) should be the overhead charges. Task forces who have ANY questions must indicate them.

Herb Biblo expressed concern that philosophically SRRT has apparently abandoned action within ALA as a whole to focus on individual task force activities. He said that if SRRT gives up 2 issues /year of the newsletter, it gives up an important route of communications with the SRRT membership, and becomes what ALA wants SRRT to be - fragmented. He suggested that there might be other ways to cut expenses. Theresa replied that SRRT can use the listserv and website for contacting membership, and

that information from the newsletter can be posted, although she noted that this might not be the best choice. Maria Jankovska noted that not so long ago each task force had \$500 to spend on programming, which is not such a large figure. Sandy Berman added that those task forces that don't generate revenue just expected that there were funds available. Herb said that in the past task forces got a couple hundred dollars. What can they expect to work with now?

Wendy responded that SRRT has dues income, that if any task force raises any money we have that, and that also there is supposed to be \$1500 for programming each year from ALA. Now that we know ALA takes 5%, charges \$7000 for the newsletter, plus overhead for conference rooms, then SRRT really has nothing left over. She added that one other task force will be meeting with BARC - EIMERT. Nel agreed with Herb's concerns about the direction of SRRT, but want to make it clear that this is a short-term problem. SRRT just needs to "pay off the credit card."

Greg Mullins raised the question of membership dues, and suggested having a reduced rate instead of free membership for students. Mary Biblo agreed that SRRT dues are really low. Al said that it's important to get student members into SRRT and free dues are best. He did suggest that when we get this financial mess straightened out, we should probably raise dues. He reiterated that whether or not SRRT has overspent, it is not our fault because ALA would never give us information. We should get Betty Turock to help with BARC. Barbara said that it is her impression that the BARC representative doesn't think the situation is all SRRT's fault, expressing hope that the dialog SRRT will have with BARC will work situation out, and suggested that SRRT probably won't have to pay back \$19,000.

Mark Martin said that the problem is rooted in ALA bureaucracy and the ALA accounting office, adding that SRRT has never gotten good a response from ALA headquarters. He suggested that, as far as next year's budget is concerned, if we know what revenues will be next year, the task forces should just divvy that money up.

Fred Stoss reported that the Roundtable Coordinating Committee discussed finances and many other roundtables want information too. The idea of having ALA provide conference cost estimates prior to conferences came up at the meeting. He cautioned, however, that no one will be getting any financial information from ALA for several months because ALA is installing a new accounting system.

Sandy requested that we move on, decide what funds task forces will have so that they can plan. He noted that it was 3:30, and suggested that we divide up the money that will be available between all the task forces.

Wendy replied that one suggestion from AC officers was that any task force that has any revenue go ahead and spend it.

Herb suggested that SRRT raise with ALA Treasurer Bruce Daniels the whole matter of bookkeeping problems. Ken calculated that if we can expect \$12000 membership income next year, if the newsletter at 2/year costs \$4000, with conference rooms at \$1000, and overhead at \$1000, then in a worst case scenario SRRT task forces would have \$6000 to spend. Michael Miller asked if presenting a budget that would contribute nothing to the deficit, would be acceptable to BARC. Nel said she thought it would work

well. Michael added that if there is a deficit to pay back, we need to insist that it be paid back in increments. Charles noted that revenue for Counterpoise doesn't go to ALA, but comes to him.

MOTION: Task forces that generate revenue (GLBTF, FTF, CSK and Counterpoise) will make a good faith effort to present a balanced budget for 1999/2000 FY, the other task forces (AIP, TFOE, IRTF, HH&P, and MLK Holiday TF) will be allocated \$500 each. APPROVED

MOTION: Extend meeting to 4:15. APPROVED

#### DISCUSSION CONCERNING ALTERNATIVES IN PRINT TASK FORCE

[Minutes below by Michael Miller]

Wendy provided some background information on this topic. AIP submitted a request for Midwinter '99 booth reservation. Permission was denied, and the issue was to be discussed at Annual '99. Booth reserved regardless. Treasurer, Ward holding reimbursements until conflict resolved. Coordinator requested information from AIP (Willett). Meeting June 26 (Sat.) with AIP and Action Council officers discussed financial and administrative change possibilities. Reimbursements will go through. New encumbrances denied until questions on administrative and financial difficulties are presented to Action Council. Willett responded with an explanation of Counterpoise processes noting a fiscally supportive routine. Thomas restated need to have AIP address issues previously mentioned. Miller asked for clarification of issues.

1. Resolution of reimbursement of unauthorized use of booth
2. Financial relationship with AIP Counterpoise and Crisis Press should be declared.
3. Proposal for assurance for following SRRT budget process.

Cost of booth \$900 - Proceeds from activities at booth \$2000. AIP did not have the budget coverage for booth.

Meeting extension - Thomas moves to extend 15 min., extended.

Morrissett proposed close guidance for AIP. Litwin proposed a change in leadership of AIP. Berman put the leadership issue back to the Task Force. Willett agrees to write a statement regarding item two above. Suggested a statement regarding all three items above. Ward pleads for a collective AIP effort on this task. Conflict of interest re: \$\$\$ as "owned" by AIP vs. Counterpoise cited by Herb Biblo.

MOTION: Morrissett moves, Peter McDonald seconds that AIP and Willett, along with the participation of Action Council at large, will work to resolve the above 3 issues in the next six months while SRRT continues to pay Counterpoise's budgeted items.

Edson, questions about consequences if the above resolution is not met citing budget concerns. Thomas cites implicit realization of the goals and follow-up action.

MOTION PASSED WITHOUT OPPOSITION.

NEW BUSINESS

Al Kagan moved the Resolution on Militarization of ALA...MOTION APPROVED

Wendy moved approval of new task force: Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Task Force, MOTION APPROVED

Al moved the Resolution on Spectrum Pamphlet, resolution to be made into a letter from SRRT Action Council. MOTION APPROVED

Fred Stoss reported that the Round Table Coordinating Committee is investigating the conference programming proposals that have been proposed by ALA.

Nel asked that task forces give her their new balanced budgets now or send them to her via the mail.

New Officers

Nel continuing as treasurer

Sec'y, Elaine Harger continuing

Coordinator Fred Stoss

Adjourned APPROVED

Meeting adjourned, 5:00pm

Minutes submitted by Elaine Harger, September 12, 1999

Elaine Harger

49 Osborne Terrace

Newark NJ 07108

973/623-7642 home

212/569-0290 ext. 404 work

eharger@tao.agoron.com