

SRRT Action Council II: Draft Minutes
Monday, June 28th, 2004
Orlando, Florida

Secretary's note: Items requiring some *action* on the part of Task Forces or others are *bold and italicized*. Section headings and summary statements are in **bold**.

In attendance: Jonathan Betz-Zell, Mark Hudson, Tom Twiss, Lara Koltutsky, Ann Sparanese, Elaine Harger, Al Kagan, Dana Lubow, Cynthia Whitacre, Susan Dillinger, Alison Lewis, Mark Rosenzweig, Fred Stoss, Satia Orange, Jane Glasby, Kristin Hoyer, Jennifer Flinn, Michael Santangelo, Jim Kuhn, Mary Biblo, Theresa Tobin, Virginia B. Moore, Diedre Conkling, Terry Epperson, Sally Driscoll, Aureole M. Johnstone, Rory Litwin, Marie Jones

Due to time overrun on Membership Meeting, Action Council convened at 2:45 p.m.

Introductions: Each person in attendance introduced her/himself, with information about place of employment and position and/or membership in SRRT.

Call for announcements: none

Request for Agenda Items:

Mark Hudson has a resolution supporting Universal Health Care. Added to item 7 on agenda, SRRT Councilor's Report.

September Project, brought by Elaine Harger, added at the end of the agenda, along with the National Council of Teacher's of English Orwell project.

Ginnie Moore requests that the changing role of the Martin Luther King sunrise celebration be added to the agenda. It is taken up as the first item, since Satia is present but Keith Brown is not.

Martin Luther King Day Sunrise Celebration:

Ginnie expressed concern about a message that had come from Satia indicating that her office would not be supporting the Martin Luther King Sunrise Celebration in the same way as it has in the past, and that that Andrew (from Black Caucus) has already suggested a speaker, while Claire Lewis has a budget and will plan music. Ginnie is hoping for more coordination with other SRRT Task Forces so that other task forces will take an active role in the celebration, not just the MLK TF.

Satia asserted that the change is simply a shift to having Satia's advisory committee take over the arrangements related to the sunrise celebration, rather than Satia's office making those arrangements. In the past, her office has done most of the logistics, chosen quotations, and organized the program speakers. Boston will be the second to the last time that the Martin Luther King holiday will fall during the ALA conference.

Related to the issue of Andrew and others already having selected the program for Boston, Satia indicated that these were suggestions, and that the Black Caucus and MLK will work out the program between themselves, and Satia's advisory committee members will support whatever the groups decide. Doris Jackson, coordinator of Youth services at Atlanta Fulton County Public Library would be the advisory committee member to coordinate this year's event. Because ALA will be in Boston next year (a location that is historic in a number of ways), some had thought that a program differing from past programs where members of various OLOS groups have spoken might be in order. Such a program might be akin to the last one in California for which there was a Martin Luther King re-enactment. One suggestion for a change in the program was that Boston would be "Music of the Movement," but Doris, Ginnie, and Andrew would decide whatever they want to do, and the decision would be up to MLK and BCALA.

With some questions for clarification from Elaine, Satia indicated that Doris Jackson will do all of the things that Satia's office had done in the past: selecting quotations, writing the script, gathering individuals to speak (the leadership of groups who address equity of access that are connected to OLOS), arranging the catering (paid for by World Book), coordinating with World Book, designing and printing the program, and all other logistics of the program.

The content will continue to be in the hands of the MLK TF and BCALA, but logistics will be handled by Doris Johnson, or her successor.

Mary, Ginnie and Satia provided some historical background on the MLK celebration. Satia was one of the initiators of the original celebration, as she had organized such celebrations wherever she worked before Martin Luther King Day became a National Holiday. Ginnie has been involved in the celebration since its inception, and SRRT gave the committee a "home" when they did not have an ALA organization willing to take them in. The celebration takes place annually on the morning of Monday of Midwinter Conference, even when that day does not fall on the Martin Luther King holiday date. Recently, BCALA asked that ALA not be scheduled on the weekend of the holiday, so it will no longer fall on that holiday after two more previously-scheduled years (Boston and one other). Nonetheless, the MLK sunrise celebration will continue to be celebrated.

Mary expressed concern that Ginnie's role in the event is being taken over. Satia responded "under no circumstances do I mean to indicate that anyone other than Ginnie should take the lead." Council has determined that BCALA has to be included, and as a result the two are working together. "There is no turf." Satia emphasized the group effort, and said "if you want to change the structure, you need to fight with BCALA."

Ginnie suggested that the different task forces of SRRT should become more visible in the sponsorship, to have the task forces and therefore SRRT more visible in the event.

Satia emphasized that the sponsors of the event (MLK TF and BCALA) can invite any of the people that they want.

Ginnie stated that she hadn't been aware of how much Satia was still going to do, but now it's clear.

Diedre Conkling suggested that *each task force let Ginnie know if their task force would like to be involved in the MLK Sunrise Celebration.* Ginnie agreed with this suggestion.

Discussion on Finances:

Satia Orange and Keith Brown were invited to attend this meeting in order to discuss the shift of money out of SRRT accounts and into EMIERT accounts following the Coretta Scott King Task Force's move to EMIERT. Satia said that Keith was invited and given the time of the meeting, but that since it is this late he will probably not be attending. Aureole Johnstone (SRRT treasurer) says that she will go to treasurer's forum at 5:30, and will talk to Keith at that time

Aureole distributes the document labeled BARC #14 from the Budget Analysis Review Committee. This document indicates that on April 24, 2004, BARC was requested to approve the transfer of task force (now to be called the "Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee of the Ethnic and Multicultural Exchange Round Table"), to approve the transfer of the asset balance of \$166,668 from SRRT to EMIERT, and to approve the establishment of the CSK Book Awards Endowment Fund of \$49,999. A second page provides background on the move.

Aureole did not receive document in April when it was created.

Satia said that when group moved, there was an agreement that 10% of the CSK profits would go to group, but they would touch nothing from SRRT, but this was a paperwork process. Satia said that the process was handled wrong; there was every attempt to support SRRT, even going through change. "They did not ask SRRT to leave, they just withdrew." Everything was left up to finance at that time. They made plan for moving money by executive board. It is revenue of CSK shifted to someone else.

The history of SRRT being in budget debt because CSK was charging less than the seals cost. When that was re-negotiated, CSK started making money. At that point, a deal was made that 10% of revenue would go to the round table. **So whatever revenue comes in this year, 10% will go to SRRT.**

Aureole: If it were possible to *communicate to the CSK chair that any upset was over the process*, where we looked at the minutes and we were not reminded of that specifically, so it was confusing and therefore distressing.

Satia: Some sort of response will come, for sure.

Al Kagan reads from Jan 10, 2004 minutes: "Carol McCullough...said the move would not be complete until some sort of agreement could be made with EMIERT about funding and SRRT. Rory mentioned the complexity of the budget cycle, which was every two years. Carole said this was a concern as CSK [would not want to] leave SRRT in a financial bind." It seems to me that this would be completed now.

It was pointed out that Paragraph 1 & para 3 of the "Background" section of the BARC document talk about the 10%, and that these are points that need to be part of the motion itself, not the Background.

Satia agreed to ask Keith to re-issue and re-format the document so that the information about the 10% arrangement would be in the motion, not in the background.

Satia indicated that we (Aureole?) should hear from Keith and Mary Ghikas.

Elaine expressed concern that we don't want SRRT to be left unable to cover expenses that have already been promised for this year. Taking this amount out might leave too little?

Satia: I was sure that it wouldn't hurt. We might want to take programs and put them at the ticket level. That means you have to plan it early. But this won't impact more than the 10% because CSK wasn't going to let you spend more than that, anyway.

Rory: The other point is that we have operated under the understanding that we are in control of our funds. You've come and told us that the TF don't have their own funds, but now you're saying we don't have their accounts.

Satia: By your agreement to the 10%, CSK would have had a problem if we'd spent more than that amount, so in fact they did control that percentage of their revenue because they generated so much money. Under normal circumstances, it is RT money, not TF money, but in this case, you agreed to the division of funds.

Aureole emphasized that it is important that she receive all BARC documents in which SRRT is involved.

At this point, Rory points out that we have more than an hour's agenda, and much less time than that.

Fred agrees to table his *book idea for the next meeting*.

Al Kagan moves to extend the meeting until 4:30; Aureole Johnstone seconds. Vote passes, with one opposed.

Letter in support of the United Talmud Torah Library

In response to a firebombing of a school library in Montreal by anti-Semites about which she has written an article, Elaine has drafted an "Open Letter to the Children of United Talmud Torah School." Elaine expressed that she thinks it would be a good idea for SRRT to speak directly to the children in the school. If we think it appropriate, we can take action to send the letter out and have each of us make a commitment to buy CSK award-winners for their new library.

Elaine solicits suggestions, changes.

Fred declares the letter "outstanding" and the original piece Elaine wrote "full of compassion." He suggests that the final product should be shared more broadly, in American Libraries, for example, so that others can participate. He says that the issue is too important to have SRRT be the only venue.

Rory wonders if we are setting precedent for commitment to school library, and a variety of speakers provide reasons why it does not, or why such a precedent is not objectionable (it doesn't say SRRT will pay for books, but is an invitation for others to send them; it wouldn't hurt if we did set a precedent respond somehow when such events happen; there is some debate as to whether this is a first time for this kind of bombing of a school or whether such hate crimes happen all the time).

Elaine proposes that SRRT and Action Council be invited to send books to the group. Elaine would make a list of CSK books from which members could select and then mail their books to the library. Action Council would commit to purchase one book each.

Jonathan firmly states his opposition to sending books that the library has not requested and may not need. He suggests that we correspond with the library and find out what they need.

Elaine responds by indicating that if they have a copy already that they can give it away, but that she is trying to make the process as easy as possible for everyone involved. It seemed appropriate to choose CSK books, considering our affiliation with them in past years.

Fred Stoss moves that we accept Elaine's letter as written to be sent to the library and a copy will be sent to American Libraries as a letter to the editor as a response to the news that appeared in AL.

Elaine is primarily interested in it coming out from SRRT, and it needs to be in newsletter. It's not that important it be in AL, and I'd be more comfortable not making a big deal out of it.

Fred withdraws his motion.

Elaine moved that **SRRT AC endorses this open letter and sends it out under the name of SRRT.**

Fred seconded.

Discussion about changes to document ensues, resulting in the following change to the third-to-the-last paragraph on the front of the letter:

"Sometimes books are burned by people who are very sad and angry because something bad happened to their families and friends. Some who don't like what they have done call them evil, terrorist, villain, coward. Some who may like what they did could call them hero, patriot, good brave. That may sound very strange, but it is true."

Discussion on specific wording was cut short due to lack of time; **Elaine agrees to make changes, as appropriate.**

After discussion about various objections to sending the books, Rory asks that we remove the language about the donations, but important points made in the letter about Martin Luther King might then be left dangling.

Elaine summarizes by saying that she will change the language to indicate that the CSK award is very important to SRRT and if they would like these books, to let us know.

The motion passes unanimously. SRRT Action Council endorses the Open Letter, and it will be sent out under the name of SRRT.

Financial Report:

Aureole reports that there have been no budget revisions requested since January, so the numbers remain the same. She distributes information regarding programs and a new reimbursement request form.

Bylaws Revision:

The draft proposal for bylaws revisions is distributed. Because there were problems with the minutes from Midwinter, this document needs to be voted on again. It will go on the ballot in Spring. The bylaws committee consists of Elaine Harger, Mark Rosenzweig, Marie Jones, Rory Litwin, with Norman Horrocks as advisor.

Jonathan moves acceptance of changes indicated in the document titled "Bylaws – Draft Proposal for Revisions" for approval by the membership at the Spring election. Elaine seconds the motion.

Fred indicates his appreciation of the plasticity of the vague wording in the phrase "and shall be reviewed every three years with consideration given to the group's representation at SRRT meetings and reporting in the SRRT Newsletter" since affiliates sometimes have difficulties coming to meetings, but that can be taken into account in the review process.

The motion passes unanimously.

Councilor's Report

No report because council did not get to resolutions.

SRRT Website

Rory announced that Katia Roberto is resigning as listowner of srrtac-l. It is a pressing matter that we find someone to take on this role. *Call for a volunteer to become listowner of SRRTAC-L.* No volunteers come forward.

Fred emphasizes the need to use task forces as "leadership incubators." *Task forces should post the call for volunteers to their task force listservs*, letting the task force members know that we're looking for volunteers in a number of capacities.

Rory: There has been interest in setting up a discussion list for action council. I have spoken to ALA governance about open meeting requirements. We could open such a list (for read-only, or not), to all members, but we would not be required to do so.

Mark Hudson suggests that we use the SRRTAC-L list in that way, since that's what it was set up for.

Marie Jones spoke against the idea, indicating that a separate list would simplify keeping track of important messages that need to be attended to, as opposed to the sometimes heavy traffic on the SRRT list. It would be difficult to always pay attention to the SRRT list and to find the important AC messages amidst general conversation.

Al moves to extend to 4:35. Elaine seconds the motion to extend the meeting. The motion passes unanimously.

Resolutions

SRRT Resolution Calling for the End of Travel Restrictions to Cuba

Ann sent a motion to AC, to be presented by Al, "SRRT Resolution Calling for the End of Travel Restrictions to Cuba." This is a SRRT-only resolution.

Resolved clauses:

Be it resolved that SRRT of ALA urges librarians to file comments with OFAC through www.treas.gov/offices/enforcement/ofac/comment.html opposing the restrictions (deadline: August 16, 2004)

Be it resolved that SRRT urges librarians to write to Secretary of State Powell, local representatives and senators, and Senator Kerry opposing all restrictions on travel to Cuba.

And be it resolved that SRRT supports the travel challenges being organized in July 2004 by Pastros for Peace Friendship Caravan, the Venceremos Brigade, and the African Awareness Association and urges librarians to join the Librarians Travel Challenge in the Summer of 2005.

Al moves. Aureole seconds.

Speaking in favor of the motion: Fred (there are a number of scientific societies that have done similar things); Aureole.

Motion carries unanimously.

Resolution on Health care

Move to extend to 4:40, Mark Hudson. Second: Aureole

Mark H. brings proposal submitted by the Maine Chapter Councilor Melora Ranney Norman, asking SRRT to endorse this resolution in principle.

Resolved clauses:

Therefore be it resolved that the ALA endorses the Health Care Access Resolution and such related measures as House Concurrent Resolution 99 and Senate Concurrent Resolution 41 directing Congress to enact legislation by October 2005 that provides access to comprehensive health care for all Americans and

Be it further resolved that the ALA will use every means available and join with other organizations and coalitions in efforts to work toward national health care reform.

Mark Hudson moves to endorse this resolution in principle. Jon seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

Fred announces that he has forms for Annual Conference 2005, and we need to get them to the OLOS office as soon as possible—long before the deadlines is best.

Executive Session

Action Council moves into Executive Session at this time in order to welcome new members and name new officers. Discussion ensues as to why this is happening in Executive Session, as opposed to during open Action Council. Rory says that it is what Fred had done; Fred affirms. Elaine and Al object to the practice: there is no bylaws statement about it, and it seems “illegal” to appoint officers without members present, even if they are appointed by Action Council. **Rory says that he will not have an Executive Session at Annual next year; instead, he will schedule the appointment of officers during the open session.**

Incoming members of Action Council are welcomed: Dana Lubow, Rory Litwin, Mark Rosenzweig, and Ann Sparanese.

New officers are named:

Although Elaine had expressed interest in the position of Coordinator when Rory thought he would be unable to continue, she opted out when Rory changed his mind. Rory agrees to take the position for one more year.

Aureole suggests that we publicize the open positions more to make sure we get people to volunteer. Fred repeats his concept that task forces act as leadership incubators. Rory reminds everyone that these positions come out of Action Council only, so people have to be on Action Council before they can be officers.

Michael nominates Rory as Coordinator. Aureole seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

Elaine nominates Aureole as Treasurer. Michael seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

Michael nominates Marie as Secretary. Elaine seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

Aureole moves to adjourn. Al seconds.
The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

-Submitted by Marie Jones