

Action Council I Minutes  
ALA Annual Meeting 2006  
New Orleans

Present: Susan Dillinger, LaJuan Pringle, Ann Sparanese, Tarnel Abbott, Alison Lewis, Herb Biblo, Mary Biblo, Rory Litwin, Mark Rosenzweig, Carol Gulyas, Mary Sue Brown, Melissa Riley, Diedre Conkling, Theresa Tobin, Jim Kuhn, Katharine Phenix, Jonathan Betz-Zall, Elaine Harger, Marie Jones, Ginny Moore. AK

Agenda approved, with amendments.

Added to agenda: IFRT representative, Madeleine Albright protest, Budget Distribution, and Announcements.

Motion to approve, as amended: Jonathan.

Second: Carol

Vote: pass unanimously

### Introductions

#### IFRT Representative

Presented IFRT idea for program, "Intellectual Freedom in a Time of 'War'" (scheduled for Saturday at 1:30 at Annual 2007 in DC) and asked for SRRT co-sponsorship. Said that members of SRRT could be part of the planning committee; Carol volunteered to serve on that committee.

Motion: Rory moved that SRRT co-sponsor this program (in name only, no financial support)

Second: Jonathan

Vote: Unanimous

SRRT booth schedule circulated around table and Elaine requested that people sign up.

Elaine reported on her presentation at ACE Conference (Association for Communication Excellence in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Life and Human Sciences). This organization wants to create a SRRT-like group within the organization. Elaine said she thought this opportunity represented "a wonderful extension of SRRT's work." A full report of her participation in conference will appear in the newsletter.

### Resolutions

#### Resolution on Darfur

LaJuan presented this resolution, requesting SRRT endorsement. A different version of the resolution was distributed on the listserv, but Sandy Berman's version (distributed at the meeting) was determined to be more appropriate, as it focused on the librarian's role in informing people.

Following discussion that involved wording of resolution and paths of action regarding the resolution, Theresa suggested that LaJuan take the resolution to Membership meeting and present it there. That course of action was agreed upon.

Resolution on the Connection Between a "Preventative War" on Iran and Libraries  
LaJuan presented this resolution to be approved by SRRT. Discussion of issues of language and content were addressed. After some consideration of tabling the resolution until Monday (in the interests of time), it was determined that changes could be agreed upon quickly at this meeting.

The following changes were made:

First Whereas: change "is threatening" to "has threatened"  
Remove second and third Whereas clauses.

Motion to approve resolution as amended: Susan  
Second: Al  
Vote: Passed unanimously

Resolution on Support for Freedom to Form Unions: The Employee Free Choice Act  
Diane Fey presented this resolution for our support.  
Advice was offered for structural changes that would ease passage of this resolution in council.

Motion to endorse in principle: Al  
Second: Carol  
Vote: Passed unanimously

Resolution to Support Overtime Pay Protections

Diane Fey presented this resolution for our support. This resolution mirrors 54.10 of the policy manual, applying the principle to APA.

Motion to endorse in principal (again, based on organizational issues with the document): Susan  
Second: Jonathan  
Vote: Passed unanimously

Resolution Condemning the Actions of President George W. Bush and Calling for His Immediate Removal or Resignation from Office

Nancy Foley presented this resolution.

Discussion: Resolution needs to be re-worked; it is not viable at this time, in this format. Therefore, tabled until Monday.

Susan distributed budget forms to all present, asking that task forces go over the budget and make sure that everything is correct. Reimbursement forms have been sent to taskforce coordinators by e-mail. Any questions, ask Susan.

Statement Concerning Madeleine Albright as the ALA Keynote Speaker

Ask for approval of this statement, which will be distributed outside the doors of the Opening General Session, where Albright is to speak.

Unanimous vote.

Ethics Statement

Elaine had been asked to speak on a panel regarding the ALA Code of Ethics, and asked for guidance regarding what she should say in this talk, and suggesting that we support the idea of having a process of censure. Should there be procedures for "enforcing" ethics? Policy 9.6 refers to a censure process, but that process has never been developed.

Discussion of the concept of censure ensued, generally indicating that an actual process of censure would not be to our benefit (could be turned against those who disagree politically), would be difficult to enforce, and is not analogous to other professional organizations that have licensure.

Other suggestions regarding what Elaine might propose: library schools infuse ethics in the curriculum; put workplace speech resolution ideas into the ethics policy.

Announcements:

AI announced that a group protesting the Bush Administration at Laura Bush's talk will meet at the back of the ALA membership meeting to make posters.

The SRRT membership meeting will take place, although the group as a whole will move (after meeting) to attend the ALA membership meeting.

Meeting adjourned 12:27.

SRRT ACII  
Annual Meeting 2006  
New Orleans

Present: Laura Koltutsky, Marie Jones, Susan Dillinger, LaJuan Pringle, David Eifler, Terry Epperson, Al Kagan, Mary Sue Brown, Jonathan Betz-Zall, Theresa Tobin, Diedre Conkling, Rory Litwin, Mary Biblo, Herb Biblo, Fred Stoss, Carol Gulyas, Ginny Moore, Ann Sparanese

Agenda change: Darfur Resolution passed at membership meeting, so does not need to be addressed at this meeting.

Agenda approved unanimously.

Minutes from Annual presented. Spelling corrections made.

Motion to accept: Jonathan

Second: Al

Vote: Passed unanimously

Task force reports

Information Policy and the Public Interest and Alternatives in Publication

Rory reported on the joint task force meeting of the two groups on Saturday morning. The groups are discussing the idea of combining task forces because: a) the areas of interest overlap; b) the two groups each have a limited range of projects that one group could do; c) IPPI might not be viable without Sam Trosow.

Title of new group: Alternative Media Task Force

Carol distributed information on this proposed organization.

Feminist Task Force:

Theresa announced that the Feminist Task Force has changed "Women's Night Out" to take place on Friday of every conference (adding the program to Midwinter; in the past it has only taken place at Annual). The name of the event has also changed to "Feminist's Night Out"

FTF is working on a joint research project with WSS and COSWL, analyzing the gender ratio of speakers and presenters at ALA conferences. A preliminary report on that research should be available at Annual.

The historical issues of *Women in Libraries* are being scanned, and a full archive will be posted to the FTF website in the near future.

Taskforce on the Environment:

Fred reported on program "Preparedness Matters"

Fred expressed concern that TFOE was not involved in the EPA library issue, and discussion ensued regarding how to take ALA to task over this issue. The SRRT Newsletter is one forum. Fred and Elaine will put together a letter, and will work on a meeting with Fiels.

#### Hunger Homelessness and Poverty Task Force

Fred reported on program, website, and work with OLOS advisory subcommittee on Poor People's Policy (see Satia's input on this group, below).

#### International Responsibility Task Force

LaJuan reported on their work with the Darfur resolution, which went to ALA membership, and the Iran resolution (a SRRT-only resolution). Related to the Darfur resolution, they will be working with BCALA and will be creating a bibliography. Discuss Albright and Bush protests. Are working on fundraiser with photos of libraries around the world on notecards. Possible program, "Propaganda American Style." Program this year was successful.

#### Martin Luther King Task Force

The Multicultural Exchange program went well, although they need more participation.

#### Freedom to Read Foundation Report

Terry Epperson reported on this organization's work with specific cases and legislation, including Beard v Banks (related to prisoners' rights to information), Chiras v Miller, DOPA, Net Neutrality, Patriot Act renewal.

Laura asked if there was any discussion of the ACLU case in Florida, and Terry said that there was none.

#### Committee on Professional Ethics

Diedre reported on COPE. She has sent changes to the Q&A to the listserv. She would like feedback on the changes that have been made, particularly whether they fulfill the needs of SRRT.

Theresa notes that we are lucky to have Al as our counselor and Diedre also on council to work with ALA committees to get these things done. The group expressed its thanks.

#### Budget

Susan asked if there were any questions regarding the budget she distributed on Saturday. The budget is tight--can anyone "give back" funds to cover expenses?

- FTF will not use all its money. OK to use \$75 to cover expenses
- TFOE will not use all of the money allotted for the conference; maybe \$100 rather than \$500.
- Carol predicts \$1300 in revenue from the FSB, but will need to give an additional honorarium not in the budget.
- MLK will not use all budget

#### Fundraising

Carol reports that AIP has successfully raised funds with a relatively low ticket price for the Free Speech Buffet (ALA administrators had suggested charging more). Theresa warns, however, that the FTF has learned from experience that you can't count on income being so high, because you are tied

into whatever the hotel charges for catering, and those charges can vary widely between venues.

IRTF is looking into collecting photos from libraries and having notecards printed.

Another suggestion was to make SRRT T-shirts to sell to members. A variation on this theme was to "bring your item, we'll iron on logo."

Satia Orange answered questions

Discussed the purpose of the Poor People's Policy subcommittee (chairs Fred Stoss and Michael Santangelo), delineating the difference between its role of providing resources specific to providing library services to poor people, as opposed to the HHPTF broader goal of informing about issues of poverty, generally. Satia praised John's website, and said that it provided a wonderful set of resources.

The Poor People's Policy document has been translated into Spanish, but Satia needs an electronic copy of the document so that she can run it by people in REFORMA (Theresa noted that there are professional translators in ACRL/WES that could be used). Satia has asked John not to post the document until it has been reviewed.

Satia also clarified travel arrangement process for speakers. Tanga can make arrangements and charge directly to appropriate SRRT charge line; she can make hotel and air arrangements. E-mail Satia regarding any problems that happened this conference, cc-ing Tanga and Susan.

Questions about errors in the printed program for this conference should be sent to Satia, as well.

Elaine expresses concern over the TFOE's lack of involvement in the EPA closing issue, and Satia encourages the group to send a message to Fiels, with a copy to the president. Be sure that Satia gets a copy of any communication, as well.

A new person will be coming on board in the OLOS office. Amy Stone ([astone@ala.org](mailto:astone@ala.org)) will be in charge of the website. Contact her via Elaine.

Our membership e-mail list is less than half the current membership of SRRT. Tanga and Amy can help us develop this list. Elaine wants to meet with Tanga regarding this.

Fred suggests that we use the new "ALA online communities" site to communicate in order to enhance our communication ability. Satia responds that we can have someone from ALA come to present on this topic.

Election Process and Committee

In SRRT Action Council elections this last year, there was no committee, and there were a few snags (although with write-in candidates, it all worked out). Call for volunteers for Nominating Committee. Mary Sue, Jonathan, and Laura volunteer.

Herb points out that SRRT needs to engage in the electoral process of ALA, as well.

Fred moved that 2 additional newsletters be added, Spring and Fall, at a smaller size, perhaps a single page folded.

Carol seconded the motion.

Susan expressed budgetary concerns; would prefer to discuss this at Midwinter so could be on the 2008 budget, but others indicated that the concept of extra issues that include election news should be separated from budgetary considerations. It is vital that all of SRRT know the election issues and candidates.

Theresa suggested a friendly amendment that we add one additional short issue and deal with the fiscal implications at midwinter. The friendly amendment was accepted.

Vote: Passed unanimously

Rory reminded us that in January we may need to ask for money from Task Forces.

Herb and Mary Biblo offer to contribute \$100 to that issue.

#### Bylaws

Al points out that the bylaws on our website are not complete. The Web Manager has the changes that need to be made and has agreed to make them.

#### Brochure Revision

Have only a few hundred copies left. We will need to establish a committee at Midwinter for the next revision. Copies of the current brochure are available at the exhibition hall. We should try to have these at all our programs.

Laura suggested that we have a .pdf version of the brochure on our website.

#### “Emerging Leaders 2007”

Leslie Berger has asked if SRRT wishes to bring a new librarian(s) to the conference with this program. Theresa said that FTF may be willing to sponsor someone we know. It was generally agreed that we have not budgeted for this, so SRRT as a whole cannot sponsor anyone, and that the selection process is unclear.

#### SRRT officers

Marie's position of secretary needs to be filled, as she is rotating off of Action Council after this conference. After a bit of arm-twisting, Mary Sue volunteered for the position.

New AC members are: Susan Dillinger, Mark Hudson, Erik Estep, and LaJuan Pringle.

#### Resolution Affirming Network Neutrality

Ann Sparanese brought this resolution, and read the resolved clauses to the group.

Move to support in principle: Mary Sue  
Second: LaJuan  
Vote: Unanimous

Draft Resolution on EPA Libraries

Fred brought this resolution, which GODORT and FAFLRT have endorsed. Read resolved clauses.

Motion to endorse in principle: Mary Sue  
Second: Ginny  
Vote: Unanimous

Draft Resolution on Saving Federal Libraries

Fred presented this resolution.

Motion to endorse in principle: Mary Sue  
Second: Jonathan  
Vote: Unanimous

Draft Resolution Concerning Advocacy for Federal Library and Information Programs

Fred presented this resolution.

Motion to endorse in principle: Jonathan  
Second: Mary Sue  
Vote: Unanimous

Draft Resolution on the Federal Research Publication Access Act of 2006 (FRPAA)

Rory brought this resolution from ACRL.

Motion to endorse in principle: Theresa  
Second: Rory  
Vote: Unanimous

Resolution endorsing HR676 for Single Payer Universal Health Care and S2772, the Health Partnership Act

Motion to endorse in principle: Ann  
Second: Susan  
Vote: Unanimous

Mary encouraged individuals to run for council. She had petitions in hand.

Elaine expressed the idea that New Orleanians have asked us to “bear witness” to what we have seen in the city, “tell our story; we’re still suffering.” What kind of statement can we make and how?

Support for the idea is strong, with suggestions as to how the statement should be made offered. Ultimately, it is decided that a letter to the New York Times should be written, that Al should read it at Council, and that it should be sent to a local New Orleans paper.

Motion made: Fred

Second: Jonathan

Vote: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned: 4:35