

M&PD Committee Minutes
ALA Annual Meeting, Anaheim
Saturday, June 23, 2012
10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Disneyland Hotel – North Exhibit Hall Room GH

Members present: Katie Henningsen (acting in place of Katie Carr), Melanie Meyers, Kasia Leousis, Garth Reese, Danielle Culpepper, Kathryn Brooks

Guests present: Meghan Constantinou, Fernando Peña, Melissa Nykanen, Nina Schneider, Elspeth Healey, Tory Ondrla

Minutes by Kathryn Brooks

1. Welcome and introductions

All present introduced themselves.

2. Selection of recorder and finalization of agenda

K. Brooks agreed to take the minutes and the agenda was accepted as is.

3. Housekeeping: committee membership

K. Henningsen gave a short report that RBMS membership numbered 1,742 as of February 2012. This is a 6% decline from the previous year. T. Ondrla mentioned that this fluctuation was not unusual.

4. Buddy Program Report

K. Leousis reported that there were 13 requests and an equal amount of volunteers, with an additional volunteer from M&PD for the 2012 RBMS preconference. Midwinter had 3 buddies. A survey was given to the buddies after the 2011 preconference with the results passed around during today's M&PD meeting. 80% of buddies reported the highest level of satisfaction (very pleased). One pair was never able to meet in person, and 100% said they would like to become active RBMS members. However, the buddy program did experience some technical issues that remain unresolved, including the failure of the online buddy forms to work. Meeting attendees commented on the variety of options available for RBMS newcomers now.

5. Careers in Rare Books and Manuscripts: Frequently Asked Questions

Henningsen reported that Eva Guggemos was rotating off the committee and called for volunteers to take over her responsibilities updating the M&PD site and F.A.Q.

6. Committee Website

See above.

7. Educational Opportunities Directory

D. Culpepper sent message to a list of 60 institutions with 1/3 responding with updates, which needs to be added to website.

Action item: Culpepper to check with Heather Cole about updating the website.

8. Scholarship Committee Liaison – no report

9. Diversity Committee Liaison

K. Henningsen reported that she is in the process of working on a survey of the RBMS membership and has been in contact with the chair of the Diversity Committee to see about possible questions to add to the 1997 edition, and they were in the process of wording those questions.

10. RBMS Member Survey

K. Henningsen and K. Brooks elaborated on their progress with the survey and the group discussed ideas. The 1997 survey had a low rate of response, and the group considered options for increasing this number. Some suggestions weighed: a survey in paper format vs. electronic through a paid subscription service, using prizes to get more responses. M. Nykanen from the Budget and Development Committee offered support.

11. Book Fair Liaison

M. Myers reported that the RBMS banner was making progress around the country. The group discussed the possibility of new and different items to use as handouts at the book fairs, such as an RBMS postcard with a link to our website. Booths frequently run out of the “Your Old Books” handout, and it was noted that the ABAA booth always has more.

12. Letters to new members

K. Henningsen reported on behalf of K. Carr that 81 letters were sent to new RBMS members, and that this number is based off of three months of data – February, March, and April – so information for the following months is not included.

13. Mentoring Program report

A letter drafted by K. Carr to potential mentors was passed around for comment. The letter will also be sent to committee members for additional comments. K. Henningsen reported that making a plug for the RBMS mentorship program at the professional development discussion group resulted in six people approaching her. A possible revision of the list on the mentorship page was proposed. The mentorship program was also discussed at the unconference session during the preconference. The group discussed a tiered approach to mentoring, such as students having recent graduates with full-time positions as mentors, with the latter having mid-career mentors. It was mentioned that everyone on the Executive Committee should be a mentor. RBMS had 80-something first-time attendees, so mentors are much needed for active recruitment.

Action item: Tory has list to give to Katie of new RBMS attendees.

14. Liaison reports: ACRL Professional Development Coordinating Committee, ACRL Membership Advisory Committee

K. Henningsen: Nothing to report as meetings will take place after M&PD.

15. New business

Call for volunteers: G. Reese accepted the educational opportunities work, E. Healey volunteered to work on M&PD website and F.A.Q., M. Constantinou and M. Nykanen volunteered to work on the survey.

T. Ondrla reported that the new member mixer at the preconference was at capacity (60), which was filled by online registration with 5-6 on-site registrants. She noted some confusion with registering for the mixer, since some thought it was the same as the orientation or included. She reiterated that all members are encouraged to attend the mixer. **Action item:** Clarification on future registration form.

A more active role of M&PD in the brown bag lunch was posited.

Inclusion of the mixer in registration of scholarship recipients was proposed. As this would increase the cost of the scholarships, the group considered the possibility of a sponsor for the new member mixer. T. Ondrla mentioned that there could be a lower price to attend the mixer next year if the catering service excluded alcohol.

The prospect of a buddy scavenger hunt was mentioned, with a handout for the contest. T. Ondrla added that there was a new member bingo card available for use.

The addition of a question for buddies on the preconference evaluation survey was considered.