

Immersion Program Committee

ALA Midwinter 2015 (Chicago, IL)
Business Meeting Agenda
Sunday, June 29, 2014
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers, Parlor F

In attendance: Elin O'Hara-Gonya (Chair), Anne Zald (Ex-Officio Member), Beth Woodard (Ex-Officio Member), Kelly McBride, Bethany Tschaepe

1. Welcome & Introductions

Chair welcomed those able to be present [due to snow].

2. Volunteer to take notes

Bethany Tschaepe volunteered.

3. Announcements from the Chair

Stephen has been replaced since accepting Immersion Faculty position

4. Report from the Immersion Faculty

- There are 4 new members added to the Immersion Faculty
- Currently 6 programs are scheduled:
 - Classic (Teacher track) at Seattle University in August
 - Assessment – Early November
 - Intentional Teacher – Early November
- Working on promoting for a program at ACRL
- Upcoming 2 regional programs: University of Alabama – Teacher Track and Teaching with Technology with 3 Immersion Faculty. Singapore – 4 Immersion faculty attending.
- Currently there are 3 inquiries for a Regional program at University of Illinois Chicago, Indiana University, and Memorial University in Newfoundland.
 - The pros and cons of regional programs were weighed: con – less frankness and openness among coworkers; pro – more opportunity for change to be implemented.
- Faculty are asking ACRL for funding to have a retreat to work on curriculum development for possibly new tracks: Scholarship of Teaching & Learning and Practical Management (more management focused than leadership as focused in the Program track)
- With 1 faculty resignation, they have 16 total faculty and are trying to develop more capacity for cross track observation

- Possibility of taking a break for the Fall programs to avoid faculty fatigue and to build interest
- Teaching with Technology – there is a big demand for this track and is intensive to teach requiring an 8 week commitment from faculty. Currently only a few faculty teach this making it difficult to work around their schedules.
- Question came up on offering the classic Teacher Track online because of so much demand. Faculty question how truly immersive an online program can be and if it would take away from the community building that takes place during the Immersion experience.

5. Immersion Planning

- Suggested a Q&A session online should be institutionalized to help promote programs
 - John Watts video “How Immersion Changed My Life” could be used as a template from past participants in the different tracks to be used for promoting the less applied to tracks
- Discussion of opening to school librarians and public librarians. Past participants in Assessment have included school librarians and the Immersion program translated very well.
- Discussion of cross promoting programs to Emerging Leaders, LLAMA and the New Professionals Section.
- Kelly McBride brought up adding videos to the Immersion website to make it more personable
- Hall of Fame on Immersion Website with “Contact Me” option for past participants and possible video testimonials.
 - Suggestion of possibly Faculty videos informing possibly participants of what to expect. Anne and Beth will take back to the faculty to get input.

6. Ongoing projects & Teams

- Decided to modify Letters of Reference application instructions rather than amend rubrics to include performance-based criteria. Application instructions for the Letters of Reference will now read the following:
 - Teacher Track
 - **Reference one.** (Librarian Applicants) Letter from your director or current supervisor who can address the commitment of the institution to information literacy, your role in that process, and confirm that the applicant is ready and motivated to implement what they have learned at Immersion. The Director/Supervisor must also describe what they are going to do to help the candidate succeed in implementing what they have learned at Immersion.
 - Program Track
 - **Letter One:** Letter from your library dean, director, or current supervisor who can address the commitment of the institution to information literacy, your role in that process, and confirm that the applicant is

motivated and positioned to enact change to the institution's information literacy program.

- Intentional Teaching Track
 - Text will change from “**References.** Applicants must submit the names and contact information for two professional references.” to **Reference:** Letter from someone who teaches in applicant's program and can address the applicant's capacity and willingness to participate in a learning community upon returning from Immersion.
- Decided to put the Immersion usability survey on the back burner until changes to website were in effect.

7. ALA Annual 2015 Conference Program Planning

- Not necessary due to rejection of ALA 2015 Conference proposal “Bringing Immersion Back Home.” Will resubmit a proposal again in 2 years.

8. New Business

- Asked about applicants for Teacher Track who have 10+ years experience and if maybe we should encourage them to apply to Intentional Teaching
 - Anne wouldn't want to limit Teacher Track to just new instruction librarians, those with more years of experience might have not had the opportunity to understand what learning is. Intentional Teaching is more about developing your teaching philosophy once you understand the principles of learning.

9. Adjourn