

Minutes of Diversity Committee Meeting – ALA Annual, 2016

I. Call to Order, Introductions, and Selection of Recorder

In attendance at the meeting:

Juli McLoone
Margaret Gamm
Laura Hampton
Marilyn McClasley
Danielle Culpepper
Curtis Small
Kim Tully
Lydia Tang
Shannon Supple
Aisha Johnson-Jones

Recorder: Curtis Small

II. Review and approve meeting minutes from Diversity Committee Meeting at ALA Midwinter 2016

It was decided that approval of the minutes from the Midwinter 2016 Diversity Committee meeting will take place at the 2017 Midwinter meeting (Diversity Committee members will be alerted ahead of time about this).

III. Old/Current Business

1. Scholarships

There was talk about partnering with the Scholarships Committee with regard to future RBS scholarships. A notable issue is how to make the scholarship candidate pools more diverse; this is an outreach issue; we can continue to publicize the scholarship announcement on list-servs, based on the spreadsheet that was developed.

Another idea raised was making RBMS membership a component of the scholarship. Suggestion: some of us from Diversity can call in to Scholarship Committee meetings to participate and make suggestions; Scholarships is a virtual committee.

The idea of automatic mentors for scholarship recipients was also raised.

Laura Hampton volunteered to be the new liaison to the Scholarships Committee.

2. M & PD (Membership and Professional Development)

That committee is looking for a new liaison; the liaison will be attending both meetings (at Annual and Midwinter) and reporting back to Diversity (this is an informal liaison relationship). Later in the meeting Aisha Johnson-Jones volunteered to be the new liaison to M & PD.

M&PD is also looking for more mentors - the idea has been raised of putting a check box on the mentor form for people of color who want to be matched with another POC.

(The New Members Lunch is co-sponsored by Diversity and M&PD.)

(we'll probably have a room in a restaurant or be able to bring outside food-because it's on a campus; Kim Tully will let us know who's taking over)

Possible topics for joint programming with M&PD: microaggressions; generational divides in the profession; a safe space for discussion for people of color at RBMS Conference; a "speed dating" event (for members interested in writing for publication and who are seeking co-authors).

3. Conference planning report:

Danielle Culpepper has submitted a proposal for a seminar about Native American materials, involving Mike Kelly from Amherst College and a national digital platform for Native American materials; she will submit something more detailed to Seminars in the next week or so.

Besides proposing a seminar, Diversity could also suggest topics for participant-driven sessions or short papers, as well as topics for a discussion session. The call for these will go out in early August.

Other points discussed: Diversity will need a new liaison to Scholarships, but Diversity members are encouraged to go to other RBMS Committee meetings and add their voices to discussions (around issued of diversity); maybe Diversity could request more informal liaisons to committees. Also, it's important to remind leadership of various committees about attending Diversity Comm. Meetings.

IV. New Business

A. The committee welcomed new chairs Danielle Culpepper and Curtis Small, who are both beginning two-year tenures.

B. Ideas were discussed for promoting diversity at the 2017 Conference.

The main idea that was explored involved gathering diversity-oriented oral histories around the time of the 2017 conference. While the Story Corp iPhone was one suggestion (this was used at SAA), a particularly interesting idea was proposed by Lydia Tang; it would involve a program that creates a web portal by which participants can add their own stories; this might be a more manageable option than setting up a booth at the conference.

Lydia will send information about the tool and Curtis will investigate Lydia's suggestions and also reach out to SAA members involved in the SAA oral history project.

A proposal for this will need to be sent to Programming and Local Arrangements by October.