

**Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
African American Studies Section (AFAS)
Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)**

**American Library Association Annual Meeting 2011
Saturday, June 25, 2011**

Attendees

Joyce K. Thornton (Chair), Rebecca Hankins (Vice-Chair), Shauna Collier (Secretary), Lisabeth Chabot (ACRL Staff Liaison to AFAS), Rochelle Ballard, Vivian Fisher, Gennice W. King, Heather Martin, Akilah Nosakhere, William Wellburn

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m.

Welcome and introductions took place.

Approval of past minutes

- The minutes from 2011 Midwinter Executive Committee were approved with a three corrections.

Committee Reports

Chair (Joyce K. Thornton)

- Joyce mentioned that she sent an email to all 85 members who would be attending the conference and some did respond that they couldn't make it to ALA this year.
- She received an email from Adam Burling about having the Constitution and Bylaws revised to reflect the new name and to adhere to the new ACRL format.
- The new charge for the proposed merger of the Publications and the Policy and Research Committee had been completed.
- Joyce then passed around the call for candidates from the 2012 ALA Nominating Committee and said they were seeking candidates for the 2012 ALA election.
- Memo from Adam regarding ALA Connect was read.
- Joyce ended her report by thanking Akilah and Rebecca for making all the arrangements for the reception later in the evening at the African American Museum in New Orleans.

Vice-Chair (Rebecca Hankins)

- Rebecca reported that she and Gennice attended the ACRL Leadership Council and discussed the creation of new Discussion Groups within ACRL. Some of the highlights: ACRL could possibly move some inactive sections to a Discussion Group (DG) and sections could move existing discussion groups to ALA Connect. There are about 70 different groups and ACRL is looking to phase out and combine some. There will be no funding from ACRL for the DGs but there's more flexibility with them because ACRL is not as rigid with governance. Also, a member is not tied to a particular section when joining a group, they can be separate.

- There was a suggestion for a possible DG for AFAS to address different aspects of African American literature. Also, ACRL plans to focus on three areas of excellence: (1) value of academic libraries, (2) student learning and instruction, and (3) scholarly and research environment.
- Rebecca also mentioned that ACRL was to vote on the matter the following Monday.

Membership (Gennice W. King)

- Gennice reported that between September 2010 and April 2011, she sent out 41 welcome letters to new members; 23 “welcome back” letters to reinstated members; and 53 letters to dropped members. As of April 2011 we have 260 total members compared to 244 in April 2010. Student membership also increased from 29 in 2010 to 39 in 2011. Support staff is up 3 from last year, and this year we had 2 members to retire.
- Gennice also added that student membership by the month increased over the past year, and Rebecca wondered if it could be attributed to Spectrum.

Nominating (Vivian Fisher)

- Vivian reported that she along with Akilah, Sylvia and Bennie met to try to get a roster of people to run and spoke to the difficulty of getting people to run for office.
- There was a suggestion to target those on tenure track and not near retirement, and also target new members and student members. Malaika Grant and Gennice King were candidates for vice-chair, Aslaku Berhanu for member-at-large, and Dalena Hunter for secretary.

Conference Program (Rochelle Ballard)

- Rochelle reported that she submitted a proposal for a 2012 program on the HBCU Library Alliance that will cover the history and accomplishments of the Alliance and is thinking the program will be about 1.5 hours. She said she will make sure it’s an update since AFAS has done a similar program before.
- Rochelle also added that she didn’t request a program budget because the HBCU Library Alliance has a grant that includes travel, but several members felt that she should still request a budget for those costs that may not covered by the grant such as printing, shipping, Internet connections, etc. It was noted that the audiovisual budget will come out of the ALA budget.
- Rochelle also said that she is looking at possible co-sponsors such as RBMS or maybe BCALA.
- Lisabeth said that AAMES (African, Asian & Middle Eastern Studies Section) may also be interested in co-sponsoring a program with us since their 2012 program proposal was not accepted.
- Rochelle wrapped up her report by suggesting that we nominate the 2013 and 2014 Program Committee Chairs in advance to give them ample time to plan and submit program proposals, since the deadline to submit them is in early May. Normally we appoint committee chairs in December and if the Program chair doesn’t attend Midwinter then there is little time to adequately plan a competitive program and submit a proposal in time for the May deadline -- which is firm.
- Lisabeth said it is okay for a two year appointment and suggested that we bring the successors on early to get them involved in the process and to help generate ideas. For example she said we could have a chair, chair-elect, etc., and get them all involved in the program planning process.

Reception (Akilah Nosakhere)

- Akilah reported that the reception was to start at 6pm that evening and that there were a few activities planned for it, especially since she realized that it was also the 30th anniversary of AFAS.
- She asked publishers to donate some of the top titles in African American studies and was wondering whether to raffle some of them during the reception as door prizes.
- Akilah said she also had a poster made with photos of well-known African American librarians and scholars over the years, and was thinking that some of the books could also possibly be given as prizes to guests for those who identified the most number of people on the poster, and then the poster itself could be given as a final raffle.
- Joyce again thanked and commended Akilah and Rebecca for all of their work on the reception.

ARL Staff Liaison to AFAS (Lisabeth Chabot)

- Lisabeth started her report by congratulating us on planning a great event that evening and taking advantage of the African American history and culture that New Orleans is so well known for and offers.
- Lisabeth also spoke more about the ACRL Leadership Council and how the discussion groups and interest groups might change, and also mentioned the three areas of excellence that Rebecca spoke of in her report earlier. Lisabeth also spoke of the planning ACRL has at the section level and said that we should think about how AFAS could make a unique contribution as a section. Lisabeth also added that a new section requires 100 signatures and that the section must then maintain that number in membership. If the membership drops below 100 then the section should meet to decide whether to continue as a section or become an interest or discussion group.
- William asked Lisabeth what was driving this new direction for ACRL and what was ACRL looking for in terms of the future of AFAS? Lisabeth responded that ACRL was looking at membership, meetings and programs, and that AFAS should build its activities and programs around the areas of the ACRL objectives.

Old Business

- The merging of the Publications and Policy and Research Committees – Joyce passed around a copy of the old charges of both committees, and the proposed charge for the new combined committee—The Publications and Research Committee. Suggestions were made to change some of the wording for the new charge adding that the Publications and Research Committee is responsible for assigning someone to do the program report for CR&L News.
- Virtual Meeting for Midwinter 2012 – all present agreed that it would be best to have both a virtual and an onsite meeting for the next Midwinter meeting in 2012, especially since more members are not able to travel to conferences for various reasons. ALA has free software that could be used for the virtual meeting.
- African American Subject Funnel Project – Joyce said that she tried to contact the last person in charge of the project and found that she had retired. Discussion ensued about how the project started, guessing that it may have grown out of a Discussion Group. Joyce said that it has been dormant for a while but it seems that the project is now complete. Members agreed.

- Access to African American content Discussion Group – Elaine and Kathleen are waiting to get the reports. The name of the group was changed to be more inclusive. It was mentioned that they did have face-to-face discussion groups and Vivian said she will find out.

New Business

- The 2011-2012 new officers were announced. Rebecca Hankins chair; Gennice King, vice-chair/chair elect; Aslaku Berhanu, member-at-large; and Dalena Hunter secretary.
- Governance Procedures – The Procedures were last revised in 1992. Joyce passed out new revisions and said that we could compare them to the Bylaws and to send her any comments and suggestions within the week so she can submit them to ACRL.
- Liaison to the Association for Study of Afro0American Life and History (ASALAH)

The form was reviewed and approved

Heather will post on the listserv

The committee will review applicants and make a decision quickly in that we're already late in getting the name submitted.

Announcements & Last Things

- AFAS Liaison to ASALH (Assoc. for the Study of African American Life & History) Joyce mentioned that ACRL does provide funding for travel to the ASALH conference so that it will allow ASALH to see more librarians involved with their organization. Joyce then passed out the Liaison Application form. AFAS makes the selection and then we let ACRL know whom we chose. We have three committee members – chair, vice-chair and chair of the research publications committee, to vet the liaison applications. The deadline for applications is July 15, and Heather said she would put the information on the website and send an email announcement out to the membership.
- Last things – Akilah outlined the program for the evening. There will be 5-7 minutes for the welcome and introduction of the officers, then talk about the 30th year history of AFAS, recognize the founders, etc., and will mention the ASALH Liaison program, as well as extend an invitation to non-members to join AFAS. Akilah will be the MC and is planning to ask Stanton to talk a little bit about the history of AFAS. Akilah also mentioned some of the other African American related programming at ALA, such as the showing of the film Treme, and that Lee Hampton of the Amistad Research Center at Tulane University invites everyone to stop by the Center while in town.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m.