

ACRL Chapters Council Meeting Notes

Meeting 8am to 10am, Sunday June 24, 2012

The meeting began with an update on the Chapters Council email list. Members will now be able to leave the list more easily once their terms have expired.

Voting for an incoming vice chair/chair-elect and secretary took place. Les Kong (unopposed) was elected to serve as vice chair/chair-elect, and Cardine Fuchs (unopposed) was elected to serve as secretary.

The findings contained in the Report of the ACRL Chapters Council Survey Working Group from June 2012 (chaired by Amy Eklund) were discussed. The Chapters Council has repeatedly asked ACRL for more funding (current level is one dollar per member) and has been denied. The survey was intended to come up with alternate funding and to gauge the value that chapter members perceive national ACRL to have in relation to the chapters. Overall, the survey showed that:

- People would like the process for obtaining the allocated funds to be easier and clearer. The parameters for getting the money were noted as confusing.
- Chapter members need to be better informed of the availability of this funding, so that they will be more likely to use it. Much of it is going unused.
- Some people said that they'd appreciate more instruction when they are new to Chapters Council. The time during which new members were oriented was cut from the Council meetings when they went from four to two hours. Virtual meetings of this group were suggested, in order to gain more participation from both new and established members. A potential mentoring system for incoming participants was also suggested. The Chapters Council needs volunteers to help design an orientation program for new members.
- Rickey Best suggested that we could also do more to build perceived value and the ties between national and local ACRL chapters. He suggested that perhaps instead of increasing monetary allocations, that ACRL could instead allow states to show ACRL webinars for free or for a discounted rate. States could host in-person viewings of the webinars with value-added elements such as discussion. Mary Ellen Davis (ACRL) was amenable to this suggestion, and suggested that a pilot program be established before a proposal be put forward to ACRL. Best is seeking volunteers for this.

Joyce Ogburn (ACRL President, 2011-2012) gave a report of ACRL doings during the past year.

- Seventy-five webinars were offered in the past year, to over 1000 participants.
- The "Value Initiative" group, which seeks to define the value of academic libraries in today's world <http://www.ala.org/acrl/aboutacrl/directoryofleadership/committees/acr-val> has continued work. They've applied for an additional IMLS grant to support this initiative.
- A report called "Futures Thinking for Academic Librarians: Scenarios for the Future of the Book" was recently released.

Stephen Bell (ACRL President Elect, 2011-2012) also reported.

- He's attended several state chapter conferences and sessions as a speaker. (Perhaps Georgia could retain him for an event.)
- With regard to the ACRL strategic planning program, they're working on a plan with three strategic areas, and they are working hard to stay on target and meet all goals.
<http://www.ala.org/acrl/aboutacrl/strategicplan/stratplan> Part of the plan relates to branding, which is a shared goal amongst many ALA groups.

Mary Ellen Davis (ACRL Executive Director) reported.

- The ACRL conference will take place in 2013 in Indianapolis from April 10 to 13. They've already had about 600 proposals for sessions. It's not too late to submit Cyber Zed Sheds or posters.
- ACRL will be offering training to help library employees set standards that will help demonstrate the value of academic libraries to the larger university and general community. You can hire an ACRL representative to come work with your institution on this topic, if you're interested.
- ALA is hiring a new person to work on program coordination. The job offer has not yet been made.

Tim Dodge gave a Legislative Liaison update. Members of any ACRL chapter may apply to be legislative advocates. Every congressional district should have one, but not all do. Interested individuals should contact Kara Malenfant. <http://connect.ala.org/user/28482>

The meeting was adjourned.

-Respectfully submitted by Sarah Steiner, June 27, 2012