

ACRL Chapters Council Midwinter Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2013
8:30 AM -10:00 AM
Westin Hotel, Cascade II

In attendance:

Rhonda Huisman (Indiana), Regina Beard (KLA Kansas State), Natasha Cooper (Eastern New York), Les Kong (California), Brian T. Gallagher (New England), Gwen Gregory (Illinois), Leslie Butler (New England), Scott Garrison (Michigan), Stephanie Davis (Michigan), Sarah Steiner (Georgia), Bob Wolverson (ACRL-MS), Maggie Farrell (visitor), Karen Williams (visitor), Ryan Gjerde (ACRL Iowa), Tim Dodge (ACRL Legislative Network Coordinator), Danielle Theiss (ACRL MO), Katy Kelly (ACRL OH), Danielle Whren Johnson (ACRL MD), Caroline Fuchs (ACRL/NY)

Chair Danielle Whren Johnson introduced herself and reminded the group that the Chapters Council meeting has been shortened to an hour and a half. Attendees then introduced themselves (see above). Two guests, Maggie Farrell and Karen Williams, both candidates for ACRL vice-chair, were also present.

Candidate Williams and Farrell reminded attendees that information regarding the forthcoming election would soon be available on the website. Both candidates were visiting a number of ACRL groups together to introduce themselves in preparation for the election.

Williams thanked the Chapters and remarked that the work of ACRL largely gets carried out within Chapters. She recently learned of the low volume of voter turn-out for ACRL elections, and asked us to encourage colleagues to vote, regardless of their choice of candidate.

Farrell repeated this message, adding that participation in the election (i.e. voting) is important for the future of ACRL and to ensure the representation of academic issues for ALA policy it is imperative that college and research librarians are active and visible in ALA governance. There will likely be bylaws issues on the ballot for changes in the process by which membership dues are calculated. Currently the dues are based on the ACRL process, which the ALA Board determines annually with increases based upon the CPI. ACRL has asked that its section's dues increases be linked to HEPI. ALA Council may approve this resolution: so far the discussion has been positive. Once approved, membership will vote on the resolution. This vote is a chance for ACRL membership to have a say in how dues will be determined.

Information on the candidates will appear in C&RL News and on the website. A scheduled webcast should be available in early March. The election should take place in April/May,

and members should encourage their colleagues to vote and share the candidates' contact information.

The minutes from ACRL Chapters Council meeting at ALA Annual 2012 were corrected and approved by the members. The corrected final draft will be posted on ALA Connect.

Les Kong reminded attendees that the Chapters Council Dine-Around would be at Tulio's Ristorante at 6:00 PM. Two reservation spots were still available for anyone interested in attending.

Les also opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chair/Chair Elect of Chapters Council. Candidates may be nominated by colleagues or may self-nominate. Nominations should be sent to Kong. Duties of the Vice-Chair include organizing the Chapters Council Dine-Around and shadow the Chair; the Chair runs the meetings. Details regarding both positions can be found on the website. Danielle will send out a call for nominations, which would include the positions of Secretary (one-year commitment) and Vice-Chair (three-year commitment). Those nominated and elected must commit to attending both ALA Midwinter and Annual conferences during their term of office.

Timothy Dodge, ACRL Legislative Network Liaison updated the committee on ACRL legislative issues and processes. Attendees were asked to submit the name and contact information for Chapter legislative advocates. Dodge offered a brief explanation of the role of an ACRL Legislative Advocate, and noted that ACRL publishes a legislative agenda annually. This year's legislative agenda may have only 2 or three items, and some are "continuous." Dodge reminded attendees to make their Chapters aware of the program, whose initiative is to get more academic librarians involved in advocacy. The contact person for legislative advocacy is Kara Malefant in the ACRL Central Office. A simple application process is available online. The current program may be discontinued due to apparent lack of interest: there is usually only one librarian legislative advocate per congressional district – but this is not meant to be restrictive.

A discussion ensued as to the differences in the role between ACRL Chapters liaisons and national advocates. The bottom line is that both programs attempt to help get the word out regarding legislative issues that relate to academic libraries. Dodge will try to find out who are the ACRL legislative advocates, and distribute that list to the Chapters Council.

The meeting was then turned over for updates from visiting ACRL Executive Board and staff: Mary Ellen Davis, Steven Bell, and Trevor Dawes.

Bell reported to the Committee on his activities as 2012 President of ACRL, including a continuation of committee appointments for the upcoming year. Bell also talked about a number of task forces that have emerged, including the Cooper HR Task Force with Debbie Mallone as Chair. Cooper had asked ACRL to review the process for job descriptions for

academic librarians to make sure they are current. Another is the 75th Anniversary Task Force in preparation for 2015, which will likely tie into what happens at the national conference and upcoming ACRL publications. Chapters were encouraged to think about what they could do locally to engage members in this conversation/celebration. Bell sees this as a great opportunity to get members engaged and for publications. The Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education Task Force will be working on revised standards as needed to reflect the needs of 21st century learners. This task force will also reach out to external stakeholders such as educational psychologists and centers for teaching and learning.

On another note, the Leadership Council is working on rethinking the ACRL brand, with a focus on how we can better send the message that we are higher education association for librarians, that the work we do speaks to the higher education enterprise, and so we need to be part of that conversation. We need to develop our identity, with an appropriate tag line.

Bell has made and enjoyed many Chapters visits (Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, New England, Arkansas, Metro NY, Michigan, Illinois, Alabama, Eastern NY) and is looking forward to the upcoming Kentucky visit which will hold a joint event with SLA. Probably the most fun of these visits is the opportunity to meet members and hear what's on their minds. Some have large groups, others have smaller groups, so it is a challenge to bring them all together. Where are the opportunities for engagement? How are they engaging their members? Some Chapters offer a scholarship(s) to attend events, and Bell applauded that idea.

Bell asked what he could do to help with engaging membership. He understands that some Chapters face a greater challenge than others, particularly those that are associated with a largely rural/suburban population.

Dawes remarked that during the year as vice-president of ACRL, he has the opportunity to learn what will need to be done over the next three years. He thanked Bell and Davis for mentoring him, noting that much of his time has been spent on appointments to ALA-level committees, but that work was nearly wrapped up. The appointments are made based on the ALA volunteer form. February 15 is the closing date to volunteer for an ACRL committee. Already appointed are the members of the 2014 Presidential Program Committee. Dawes talked about the need to teach financial literacy (as a part of literacy), noting that student loan debt has surpassed credit card debt. This committee will aim to try to help students become more financially literate. The 2014 ALA Conference will be in Las Vegas. Dawes looks forward to speaking engagements and Chapter visits.

Urged by a question from attendees, Dawes was asked if ACRL is working with Provosts to incorporate financial literacy on campuses? Dawes said that one of the things being done was money smart week, in which academic libraries partner with other organizations, both on campus and from the business community, to help campus members understand fiscal responsibility. He stressed our roles as educators and partners on campus, but challenged

us to think about how librarians could bring more to this effort. Money Smart Week will take place on April 20-April 27, 2013, but check the website for more details as they emerge. The Chapters Relations Office will offer webinars for tools on what libraries can use around program-planning on campus. A toolkit is also available.

Davis reported to the Committee as the Executive Director of ACRL. She reminded attendees that the ACRL national conference would be in April 2013 in Indianapolis. Registration for the virtual conference will open on February 25. In regards to the ACRL Chapters resolution: ACRL has moved to offer Chapters two webinars at no cost. ACRL is looking at how we can help one another, and hopes that the webinars will engage Chapters' members. Chapters may charge a small fee as a way to get money to support other initiatives. The webinars are also a good way to promote ACRL national. Davis cautioned about charging too much money since then attendees could just pay for the webinar themselves. The NE Chapter already hosted a webinar from the University of Rhode Island. There were 11 attendees, including library school students. Most of the attendees were from Rhode Island College. It was a good venue to encourage non-members to join ACRL. They plan to offer a second one in April in the Boston area. Those Chapters making use of this program will have access to the archived webinar. If a Chapter wanted to have access to an archive for a webinar that has already taken place and in which they did not participate, that access would count as one of the two free webinars. Please contact Kasey with any questions. Davis suggested that once a Chapter has chosen and participated in a webinar, they might consider repeating the archived version at a conference or pre-conference.

The Maryland Chapter is taking advantage of the March 22 webinar, and is making it free to Chapter members but charging \$10.00 for non-members as an incentive to join the Chapter.

Davis asked if there was any other ways that ACRL could be helpful to the Chapters. She mentioned that Chapters officers can request slides about ACRL membership.

The ACRL Value of Academic Libraries Initiative had received a second grant this fall. Davis encouraged attendees to be aware of the application materials and that the program was competitive. Davis encouraged attendees to see if their institutions might be able to put together a team. The purpose is to bring librarians and non-librarian campus partners together. The core purpose is that academic libraries must align ourselves to our institution's mission and stakeholders, to have them see that libraries contribute to academic success, to the action learning process. There is no cost to those institutions that are chosen to participate. The only costs would be face-to-face costs. To find out more about the Assessment in Action Grant see the ACRL Insider blog or email Kara Malefant or Mary Ann Davis.

Davis was asked if there might be a slightly more formal way to connect chapters to this process to bring it to a regional way? What information could be shared in the Chapters? Davis is open to suggestions or brainstorming. Bell reminded attendees that their region

may have a participating library, and perhaps they could do a Chapter program to show how they are using what they have learned in the process.

An update on the Value of Academic Libraries Initiative would take place today at 1:00 PM. All were encouraged to attend.

Davis was asked to share/announce about the grant at the library assessment conference, including the teams that have been selected. The information will be posted on ACRL Insider blog, as opposed to the listserv. Chapters should check the blog for calls for appointment, elearning webcasts, and some of the thinking of the ACRL governance.

Bell noted that last year ACRL approved standards of libraries in higher education, which are not the same as the simple standards of 80s, but rather relates to the institution's mission how we demonstrate value. Training is available on standards, including webinars & workshops, and consultations. There is a curriculum that can be customized. Consultants are also available for program assessment review in preparation for accreditation review.

How to strengthen the relationship between ACRL and Chapters through a non-monetary way? – Built into the ACRL budget is up to 10 officer visits (4 more than previous years). The budget should be approved in June, and Davis is not anticipating any push back on this line item.

Bell noted that not all Chapters are aware that ACRL officers can come to a Chapter meeting for free as part of their leadership responsibility. These can be repeated after a four-year cycle.

The Chapters Council was commended on their current project of developing an online orientation for Chapters leadership. A Virtual orientation component can be worked out with Kasey.

Update on Pilot Program of ACRL Webinars – Danielle Whren Johnson gave an updated on the pilot program of ACRL webinars. At the Chapters Council meeting in Anaheim it was noted that when Chapters ask for additional funding from national, we were always turned down. ACRL agreed to consider investing in other ways for ACRL to provide more support, particularly by providing free access to ACRL e-learning for Chapters, with the hope of two per year. These would be freely available to the Chapters from October through October. The webinar must be viewed in a group. The program was never codified or formalized. For the moment, it is a pilot program. ACRL needs to see what the Chapters are getting from the program. A draft of the proposed resolution was distributed for discussion.

A list of available webinars for this program can be found on the ACRL website. Please contact Kasey Kinson to obtain access for your Chapter. The choices are frequently updated, so check the website. If a Chapter chooses to run the same webinar twice, it would count as

their two webinars. The New England Chapter has taken advantage of this program with the copyright webinar. There were about 11 attendees, mostly from Rhode Island. Some were not members of ACRL national.

There will be an assessment component after Chapters have participated in the pilot webinar program.

The current survey needs to be edited to include "students", number 3 should be reworded. This follow-up survey will be sent to one officer per Chapter. An additional question will be added: Did the webinar help in Chapter recruitment. A free-text comment/suggestion box will also be included.

Whren Johnson also gave an update on the creation of online orientation sessions for new Chapters leaders. Chapters Council business is hard to conduct at ALA midwinter and annual, particularly since the meeting time has been reduced to one hour and thirty minutes.

Many Chapters do not have representatives attending Chapters Council meetings.

Whren Johnson contacted each Chapter, but not all have responded. Ideally, the online orientation would take place as new officers take over their positions. The majority of officers start their terms in January, but not all. The terms of office vary from Chapter to Chapter. The goal is to offer the online orientation for at least twice per year. Whren Johnson will contact Kasey Kinson for details about when/how often to have these online sessions, and will begin to move forward with this right after the midwinter conference. There should be no real issue with cost since ACRL already has online meeting software, which could be used for this purpose. An archived version of the orientation would also be made available.

At the Chapters Council Working session at midwinter 2013, the topic to be discussed is mentor development (the creation of a network of seasoned Chapters leaders as a resource for incoming Chapters leaders). A Toolkit will also be created. Currently there is a PDF document on ALA Connect that is about 20 pages. This is not an efficient way to share information. The Toolkit would be a more user-friendly-version, perhaps in the form of a wiki. The Toolkit would be rolled into orientation.

Under new business, a proposal was made to change how Chapters members unsubscribe to the Chapters listserv so that an individual could unsubscribe. There should be one officer from every Chapter on the list. There were no objections to this proposal.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:05 AM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Caroline Fuchs, Secretary, ACRL Chapters Council