

Distance Learning Interest Group Business Meeting  
Georgia Libraries Conference  
10-4-18

**Present:**

Mary Ann Cullen (chair)

Jason Puckett (vice-chair/chair-elect)

Emily Thornton

Samantha Paul

A total of 11 participants. (I didn't get everyone's names.)

**Agenda/Notes**

1. Update on Bylaws - GLA passed some bylaws this year that will take effect in 2019. This mostly involves requiring an option for online elections, which ours already do. Our bylaws will need to be tweaked to conform to any changes. Also the Interest Group Council is working on a standard list of bylaws for interest groups. It is not yet determined if these will be required or optional. A task for next year is to adapt our current bylaws if required/desired.
2. Reflect on this year's accomplishments and activities
  - Surveyed members for input about 2018 activities. Most said they wanted more communication and webinars. Highest rated topics were instructional design, engaging online learners, and accessibility. We tried to address these in the course of the year.
  - Set up List-Serv. There's been a problem with people signing up (confirmation emails tended to go in junk mail) and engaging in discussion once signed up. A possible solution is signing them up by default (they could opt out) and making it clear that this will be the official means of announcements.
  - Draft and pass new bylaws. Included online voting.
  - Funded webinar series. First (and so far only) webinar was Joelle Pitts. It was well attended. The archive is on the Interest Group website. Discussion indicated a continued interest in webinars.
  - Ga. Libraries Conference sponsored session: *Can We Chat?* Panel about Virtual Reference. Participants were Jason Puckett from Georgia State, Samantha Paul from Valdosta State, and Beth Thornton from Athens Tech. Mary Ann Cullen was the moderator. Eleven people attended, not including the panelists and moderator. This seemed to be about average for the conference sessions.
  - Created Distance Learning Track (recommended sessions) for Georgia Libraries Conference. Consider including such a track in the conference program next year.
3. Talk about activities and priorities for next year.
  - Promote discussion of distance learning topics (ideas)
    - i. Facebook or other social media

- ii. Hybrid webinar where there is a speaker followed by breakout sessions or prolonged guided discussion.
    - iii. Real-time virtual meetings or shared online activity via Webex
  - Webinar topics (ideas)
    - i. How to update/overhaul videos without remaking them
    - ii. Accessibility (collaborate with accessibility interest group?)
    - iii. Dual enrollment
    - iv. Podcasting
    - v. Video creation
    - vi. LibGuides CMS orientation
  - Social activities? Consensus was that social would be a by-product of educational activities and that we did not want to plan any purely social activities.
4. Election
- Emily Thornton from Brenau was elected vice-chair/chair elect.
  - Samantha Paul from Valdosta State was elected secretary
  - Jason Puckett, who is current chair-elect, will assume the role of chair.

Transition will be official at the GLA Midwinter meeting according to our current bylaws, although we may decide to make the change on Jan 1 as recommended in the standard Interest Group Bylaws.

~Mary Ann Cullen