

ACRL Chapters Council at ALA Annual Conference 2018
Sunday, June 24, 2018
Minutes

[Chapters Council Meeting,](#)

Sunday, June 24, 8:30-10am

Bayside C room of the Sheraton New Orleans.

Minutes:

1. Agenda approved (Lee Wagner, Thomas Keenan)
2. Welcome and introductions
3. Program: "Advocacy and the Academic Librarian," presented by Peter Kraus, University of Utah. This talk will emphasize relationship building and communication with elected officials who directly impact library funding, highlighting Peter's work with the Utah Academic Library Consortium (UALC) and the efforts he lead to obtain an additional \$800,000 increase to their base budget of \$2.7million. He'll discuss strategies and takeaways for academic librarians in other states.
 - a. UALC purpose: Buy consortial databases in the state of Utah and work with 2 private universities to get price breaks
 - b. Problem: Budget flat (loss due to inflation) and need more money for purchases, plus Utah Library Association (separate from UALC) shy to lobby
 - c. Prior, would use a PR model to legislator. After several failed requests and political landscape in Utah changing, realized needed a government relations mode.
 - d. Peter active in local politics, became the point person for UALC (Tip: Find someone politically savvy, give them resources, and let go of their other responsibilities)
 - e. First year, just missed getting funded, second year, swapped for college undergrad athletics at the last moment
 - f. Travelled the state and met with everyone on the higher education appropriations committee
 - g. In 2016 a number of faculty/higher ed members were elected to office, but don't assume they are an ally (they have the knowledge (good), but care about their constituents (less good))
 - h. "Asking for money from the state legislator is a heck of a lot easier than asking for a raise from your boss" -- it's a cause you believe in rather than yourself
 - i. Going into a meeting with an elected official - take one of your stakeholders with you
 - j. Be prepared that it could take a few years to get the number in your head
 - k. How to get cuts restored: The players - the Regents, Utah Legislature, Governor's Office, the UALC -- talk to people at the consortial level
 - l. Issues: Competing interests (only so much money in the pot); Comprise with regents that all asks would filter through them (priorities are decided by regents)
 - m. Work closely with government relations person at the universities and regents office and work with other lobbyists (state humanities council)

- n. All work was carried out by librarians; Peter spent all 45 days at capital hill (other people taught, cover desk shifts)
- o. Q&A
 - i. Inflation - that problem persists, so changed the direction of conversation to how much we saved (and smaller schools); making a comparison to a household budget
 - ii. Policy Core -- a lot of media training, and advocating
 - iii. Know your state reps and whether or not it's part time or full time, what committees they sit on
 - iv. When preaching to the choir, think about building the relationships, and let them know about your specific needs
 - v. Meet up around the states through the Illinois Library Association - but have varying success. It never hurts to build a relationship with a legislator, especially because the meet ups might have competing interests.
- 4. ACRL Leadership Visit
 - a. Cheryl Middleton (outgoing president)
 - i. New [equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives](#), got input from division leadership -- [looking for feedback](#)
 - ii. [Project Outcome](#) with the Public Library Association - PLA got Gates funding for outcomes - A call for field testing volunteers will come out June 26
 - iii. [Scholarships](#) for mid-career librarians are available on the conference page for ACRL 2019
 - b. Lauren Pressley (incoming president)
 - i. Implement organization change - to make libraries inclusive and equitable
 - ii. Steering committee on Organizational Effectiveness and Governance Review on how to evolve ALA (changes at the ALA impact ACRL): go if you can during Monday, 1-2pm convention center 352, 2:30-3:30pm convention center 352 -- there is no direct ACRL representation ([See PDF plan](#))
 - c. Irene Herold (past president)
 - i. Have a speaker come to your local chapter! You can focus the conversation around different topic. ACRL funds 10 visits a year -- [contact the speaker bureau](#)
 - ii. Irene stressed the importance of building relationships even without an ask (building on Peter's talk), and suggested bringing students
 - d. Mary Ellen Davis (executive director)
 - i. ACRL 2019 is in Cleveland
 - ii. ACRL [VAL Travel Scholarships](#): Funds available for librarians presenting assessment research at non-librarian conferences
 - iii. Research agenda, scholarly communication of those voices that aren't regularly heard: [Joint Conference of Librarians of Color](#)

- iv. ACRL provides each chapter with two free webcasts per year, which they can broadcast at up to six sites to facilitate access
 - 1. Comments that it's irregular on when webinars are announced -- even if there could be topics
 - 2. Expanded the number of remote logins in response to geographic concerns
- e. Chapters Council Elections
 - i. Leslin Charles will continue as Chapters Topic newsletter (previously a pdf format, now a libguide format)
 - ii. Ryan Gerdy will continue as the listserv administrator
 - iii. Ed Rock introduced Ali Larsen, candidate for secretary, who could not make it
 - iv. Lisa Nickel, candidate for vice-chair, had the floor -- highlighted how much she appreciates working with her local chapters in every state she's lived in and looks forward to leading ACRL Chapters Council
 - v. Members voted to accept the ballot as-is (by acclamation)

[Chapters Council Working Group](#)

Sunday, June 24, 10:30-11:30am

Southdown room, Sheraton New Orleans.

Minutes

- Brainstorming how ACRL Chapters Council can better work with ALA and the ALA Chapters Forum
 - Is your academic group and/or state association doing advocacy? If so, what does that look like?
 - Example: State legislative day, advocacy group with an academic librarian, statement of supports, consortium staff that advocacy, University Advocacy (library as part of universities), Library consortium advocacy, legislative liaison
 - Important note to research laws of a state employee (at a public university) before lobbying
 - Consider topics in common with public libraries - privacy, academic freedom, censorship
 - But HOW do work this back up to ALA? What does an academic librarian message look like? How do we see ourselves? (Which is a similar idea/issue of how we fit into ALA)
 - What are our goals and objectives of the ACRL Chapters?
 - Need to be informed about what ALA is doing (Side note, Planning budget assembly meeting at 1pm at ALA: Kim will be attending and can be report back for the group)
 - Recommendation to have ACRL Chapters Council create talking points for academic libraries; and suggestions/opportunities for how to get involved -- Put on legislative list for events, authors, alums, renovation,

- Create advocacy best practices on the newsletter -- Peter Straus could use material he was typed up
- Tips for working with your political representatives:
 - Think about midterm elections about the libraries in their district (even if you can't talk to the candidate, set up a time to talk to their chief of staff)
 - go to open houses for candidates;
 - make sure that everyone in your groups know the message
 - Send physical letters to your elected officials (more responses than phone and emails);
 - be kind on the phone
 - Work with the librarian liaison to the government/public policy programs that have internships (government document librarian)
 - Use your alumni office to see who is working where
- We agree that we want to send talking points, suggestions, and best practices to our chapters and want to engage with ALA so we can continue information sharing
- Diversity, equity and inclusion: Best practices about making our meetings more accessible (accessible in terms of representation, availability)
 - What platforms to use (ALA uses Zoom); virtual meetings
 - ACRL years create funding issues for many chapter representatives
 - Strong support from group to make midwinter a virtual meeting
 - Note that affordability means inclusion -- often only mid-career librarians can afford to attend Midwinter and ALA Annual every year
 - Easier to recruit/get attendance at our ACRL Chapters Council meetings if we had a clear purpose and mission with the group (potential impact). In other words, not only why chapter representation important, but why this meeting is important
 - Reach out and invite new career people as ex-officio member (NMRT, spectrum scholars) -- reach out to regional groups wherever ALA Annual is being held (see also the student to staff program)
 - Better marketing / awareness at local level of how chapters are aligned with ACRL, especially because our naming conventions are all different.

Submitted by Natalie Burclaff, ACRL Chapters Council Secretary 6/27/2018