

Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section
Minutes of Executive Board Conference Call Meeting
December 5, 2005, 2:00 p.m. EST

Present: Michael Slinger, Chair; Suzanne Thorpe, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect; Carole Hinchcliff, Immediate Past Chair; Susan Lewis-Somers, Secretary/Treasurer; Carol Bredemeyer, Executive Board Member.

1. Call to order – Michael Slinger

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. EST.

2. Membership issues

Breakfast registration fees

After considering the possibility of charging a higher registration fee for non-ALL-SIS members to attend the Directors' and Middle Managers' Breakfasts at the Annual Meeting in 2006, the Board decided to continue charging one fee to members and non-members alike.

New grants for members

The Board decided to offer a second CONELL Grant in 2006, called the Centennial CONELL Grant. Like the first CONELL Grant, it would pay for CONELL registration and a night's hotel for another newer ALL-SIS member to attend CONELL.

In addition, the Board also decided to create two \$500 Centennial Travel Grants to send two ALL-SIS members to the 2006 Annual Meeting. Among other things, the application would ask applicants to explain how the travel grant would benefit their careers.

The Awards Committee will devise criteria for each new award and draft the applications. Board members will also contact Michael with any ideas for award criteria, such as a preference for librarians who indicate their libraries were affected by Hurricane Katrina and unable to send them to the meeting in 2006.

Carole will contact Ed Edmonds, Chair of the awards Committee, to discuss the new awards.

New member kit

Suzanne will contact the Membership Committee chair to clarify the timeline for producing and distributing the new member kit. She will also ask them to detail what will be included in the kit, so Michael may refer to some of those items in his cover letter to accompany the kit.

In a related vein, Michael will post a note to the ALL-SIS listserv asking members to contact him with the names of law school and library school students they know, so that the SIS might send them a letter with membership information.

Membership survey

The Membership Committee plans to distribute the 2006 membership survey in mid-March. They should send the final version to the Board for its approval before then.

3. Annual meeting update

There have been no recent changes to the Annual Meeting program matrix. The ALL-SIS-sponsored programs have been added. Carole will send the latest version of the matrix to Board members.

4. Strategic plan update

After determining ALL-SIS priorities and goals, the SIS will model its new plan on AALL's Strategic Directions. Michael will appoint a special committee to devise an SIS strategic plan.

5. Committee reports

Education Committee

The Education Committee has expressed some puzzlement over its role, in light of the outcome of the AALL Education Summit. It believes that its role to develop continuing education programs for the SIS may have been preempted by the Summit plans.

Suzanne will draft a new committee charge and circulate it to the Board for comments.

Suzanne will ask the Education Committee to draft a few questions to include in the membership survey asking what kinds of educational programs members would like the SIS to offer. They might also post these questions to the ALL-SIS listserv for a faster response.

Suzanne will also ask the Education Committee to solicit member information about non-AALL programs they have attended that have been especially good, such as CALI, the Internet Librarian and programs on their own campuses. They will ask respondents who have attended such programs to write brief summaries of them and to post them to the ALL-SIS listserv, to encourage other comments.

Legal Research Committee

The Legal Research Committee plans to add to its website a collection of existing legal research guides, found on various websites. The committee requested guidance from the Board as to whether it should ask the permission of any authors or institutional sponsors before posting their guides. The Board advises the committee to always seek permission before posting someone else's creative work on a website. Susan will convey that to the committee.

CONALL/Mentoring Committee

The CONALL/Mentoring Committee has agreed to draft brief biographies of newer members for occasional publication in the newsletter and the website, in order to feature newer members. The Board advises the committee to check with the Leah Sandwell-Weiss to coordinate the biographies; Susan will so inform the committee.

6. Old business

Project COUNTER

Carole will contact AALL Board Member Anne Meyers to get an update on the Project COUNTER initiative. Carole will inform the ALL-SIS Board of its progress.

Development of future academic directors

Michael will contact Penny Hazelton and Barbara Bintliff to discuss possible ALL-SIS sponsorship of another program for aspiring academic library directors, similar to the program Penny and Barbara organized at the 2005 annual meeting.

Penny and Barbara have proposed that the discussion at the next Directors' Breakfast include conversation about how academic library directors can prepare mid-level librarians to become directors.

Breakfast topics

Carole will prepare a list of past program topics at the Middle Managers' Breakfasts, to help future Middle Managers' Breakfast program planners.

ALL-SIS presence on directors' listserv

It is important that there always be someone on the ALL-SIS Board that has access to the academic law library directors' listserv, to know about discussions that may affect ALL-SIS interests or initiatives. In the past, this has not been a problem, as there has always been a director on the Board.

In anticipation of a time when there may not be a director on the ALL-SIS Board, Michael will ask the directors on the listserv if they will make a temporary exception to allow a non-director ALL-SIS Chair to join the list, whenever there is no director on the Board in a particular year.

7. ALL-SIS blog

The incoming Board discussed the possibility of sponsoring an ALL-SIS blog in San Antonio, but there was not much enthusiasm among those present to go forward with a blog. The sentiment is no different now, so Michael will inform webmaster Diane Murley to confirm that the idea is dead for now.

As an alternative way to generate discussion among SIS members, the Board will consider ways to enliven the ALL-SIS listserv discussion and to make the newsletter more interesting.

Beginning in January, Board members will take turns posting topical questions to the ALL-SIS list to generate discussion. Michael will send ground rules and a schedule to the Board.

6. Next conference call

The next Board meeting will be held on Friday, January 20 at 2:00 EST.

7. Adjournment – Michael Slinger

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:50.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Lewis-Somers, Secretary-Treasurer