

VALE Executive Committee

Minutes of the April 16, 2001 Meeting

Present: J. Avrin, A. Ciliberti, John Cohn, Judy Cohn, J. Crocker, C. Daze, J. Getaz, M. Gaunt, M. Martin, P. Rigby, A. Scrimgeour, R. Sweeney

1. Marianne Gaunt opened the meeting with a discussion of the budget proposal that had been distributed to the committee. The basic proposal for FY02 includes the addition of a service/membership fee, a switch to EBSCO's Academic Search Premier as the core general database, and that state funds, pending approval by the State Legislature, be used to subsidize two core databases only. A spreadsheet presenting an overview of the impact of proposed changes was discussed at length and recommendations were made on clarification of the information if it appears that members report difficulty understanding it.

Other budget items:

The decision has been made to switch access to PsycINFO from locally loaded tapes to web access through EBSCO. This change will eliminate the need for Site Search maintenance costs as well as the salary for one part time technical person. There are two months of Site Search maintenance remaining.

This year's VALE Users' Conference had an attendance limitation imposed as a result of space restrictions at Alexander Library. It may be necessary to pay for a larger venue. Joan Getaz will pursue other locations. There are also plans to update the brochure.

A contingency balance has also been built in to the budget and could be used for funding Council programs.

William Paterson University will continue to be the fiduciary agent for VALE.

VALE will continue to offer Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe to the membership through Palinet. It will not, however, be subsidized by state funds.

There was discussion of the Service/Membership Fee each institution will be assessed. The charge will be 2.6% of the previous year's database costs, with a minimum of \$100 per school.

2. The extra VALE server will be offered for sale to the membership through a sealed bid process. Rutgers staff will coordinate this project.
3. Paul Rigby reported that progress is going well on the User Survey. There were several questions regarding the scheduling of weekends and obtaining a sufficient number of weekend surveys.
4. A proposal for a VALE Virtual Reference Service was discussed. There is a high level of interest in pursuing 24/7 reference coverage through collaborative efforts. Jane Crocker

described Gloucester County College's participation in a cooperative reference program (primarily web reference) with 10 libraries in south Jersey with plans to expand to central New Jersey. Rich Sweeney has been in contact with LSSI regarding their Virtual Reference software and will speak with them to schedule a demonstration at the next Executive Committee meeting in May.

Marianne agreed to draft a charge for a new virtual reference committee and Jane Crocker has agreed to chair.

5. John Cohn raised the issue of planning for the future direction of VALE. The group agreed that it is time to re-examine the original vision, which dealt primarily with databases, and they discussed various ways a planning process might be carried out. Marianne Gaunt, John Cohn, Marilyn Martin, and Anne Ciliberti agreed to put together some proposals for consideration at the next Council meeting.
6. John Cohn reported that the Council is on target with preparing nominations for those seats on the Executive Committee which are up for re-election.
7. Rich Sweeney reported that the Elsevier group will meet on May 30 to examine duplicate journal titles and make determinations on which titles to drop and which to add.
8. Fourteen institutions have expressed interest in IEEE and Rich Sweeney will continue discussions to determine pricing.
9. The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on May 14, 2001 at 10:00 A.M. at Alexander Library.