

VALE Executive Committee

Minutes of the October 10, 2002 Meeting

Present: J. Avrin, Bro. P. Chervenie, A. Ciliberti, J. Cohn, M. Gaunt, J. Getaz, J. Lin Hunt, D. Murray, L. Ostar, D. Pinto, R. Sweeney, P. Tumulty

1. Marianne Gaunt convened the meeting and the minutes of the September 17, 2002 were unanimously approved following a motion from Richard Sweeney, seconded by Bro. Paul Chervenie.
2. Marianne presented the Chair's Report and announced that the VALE goals have been edited and will be posted to Corrado. They will also be made available in PDF format on the VALE website. Marianne reported that a question had been raised as to whether the goals should include statements pertaining to each of the VALE committees. After brief discussion, it was decided that the VALE goals represent strategic directions, not goals for every committee. The group also agreed to recommend that all committee chairs be asked to prepare FY03 goals for their committees. These will be reviewed by the Executive Committee.
3. Anne Ciliberti presented the financial report, stating that over \$658,000 has been received from member libraries and five vendor payments have been issued. Several vendor invoices have still not been received.
4. Marianne consulted with Dave Hoover regarding the establishment of a pilot Z39.50 academic union catalog that could be demonstrated at the VALE Users' Conference. The Finance Committee approved the expense of increasing Hoover's hours. Anne Ciliberti moved to increase Hoover's hours and to allocate contingency funds to cover this expense. Richard Sweeney seconded the motion and the vote carried unanimously. Marianne noted that the Resource Sharing Committee is already working with Dave on the project and she asked Richard Sweeney to be the Executive Committee liaison on the project. Dave will be invited to attend next month's meeting.
5. Richard Sweeney reported that the Finance Committee reviewed all vendor license agreements and the agreements have been converted to PDF format and will be available to all VALE library directors on a website with a password-protected link. Rich emphasized that some of the agreements have non-disclosure requirements, so library directors will be required to observe this restriction. A draft of the page was circulated. Judy Cohn developed and distributed a draft, "VALE Electronic Resource Licensing Agreements Preferred Terms." The Finance Committee will review the draft and consider whether it should be sent to current vendors or submitted at the time of contract renewals.

Anne Ciliberti and Rich Sweeney will develop a grid of the major points of the agreements by vendor so that libraries can easily determine what is permissible under the terms of the various agreements. This grid will be posted on the License website and protected by password.

6. The question of alumni access to databases was raised. As currently negotiated, the contracts are based on each year's FTE and extend to current students and faculty only. It was reported that Northern Lights provides an alumni access package. It was suggested that vendors could be approached regarding the possibility of adding a rider to the contract to allow alumni access. Since this is a recurring request at many libraries we might want to create an "alumni portal" with free, quality databases of interest to alumni. Judy Cohn will look into the issue of alumni access and possibly present some information at the Users' Conference.
7. Marianne reported that the publisher of Harpweek had approached her some time ago to discuss methods of obtaining financing to provide the database free of charge to VALE. Harpweek is a digitized version of Harper's Weekly from 1857 - 1912. His proposal entailed seeking funding through a non-profit organization in exchange for a banner carrying a message that would run on the top of the database. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that Marianne would confer with her legal counsel regarding the many issues involved. The Executive Committee deferred approval pending the outcome of Marianne's findings. [Following the meeting, and based on input from Rutgers University counsel, the Executive Committee decided not to pursue the banner approach].
8. Anne proposed the idea of a VALE Vendor Appreciation Award to acknowledge vendors who have been exceptionally good working partners with VALE. After discussion of various methods of recognition, Richard Sweeney suggested that Marianne draft an Acknowledgment of Recognition. Joan Getaz moved this recommendation which was seconded by David Pinto. All were in favor.
9. Marianne led a discussion of strategies for achieving the VALE goals slated for the Executive Committee. She reported on several items from a prior conversation with Andrew Scrimgeour, which included:
 - Working with campus development officers to identify funding opportunities for VALE
 - Establishing a VALE endowment
 - Identifying a volunteer to monitor grant opportunities

Marianne will post a notice to the Council listserv looking for a volunteer to monitor grant possibilities. After further discussion, it was determined that if potential grants are identified, the information would go to Marianne and then to the Executive Committee. [Following the meeting Greg Fallon agreed to be the VALE grants monitor.]

[With respect to a VALE advocacy role, Marianne agreed to follow-up with the State Library and the Chair of the NJLA Public Policy Committee on a joint strategy for a white paper/proposal on access to information resources.]

The group also discussed VALE Goal # 7, which suggests that the Executive Committee identify additional potential projects for collaboration among the members. The group acknowledged that there are already several initiatives underway. Marianne will put out a call on the listserv for additional ideas for possible VALE collaboration. Any feedback she receives will be discussed at the group's next meeting.

10. Richard Sweeney spoke about the challenges to moving ahead on the joint development of information literacy tutorials which requires dedicated resources to move forward. A few Executive Committee members agreed to brainstorm on how we might approach this challenge.
11. Richard Sweeney provided an update on the Elsevier negotiations, stating that the coverage will include as many as 100 new titles. There will be 13 new subscribing members.
12. Joan Getaz reported on the Users' Conference, noting that the deadline for breakout sessions and posters had been extended by several days. Proposals for six posters and 12 breakout sessions were submitted. Judith Lin Hunt has a student in the fine arts program who will create the program. An invitation to a keynote speaker has been extended.
13. Brother Paul Chervenik reported on that morning's Assessment Committee meeting. They reviewed their charge and have asked that it be put on the agenda for next month's Executive Committee meeting. They discussed how they can identify assessment needs in other committees and will look at other consortia's assessment efforts. The group will also investigate if a vendor is interested in collaborating on the development of an electronic end-user satisfaction survey.
14. Judith Lin Hunt reported on the Resource Sharing Committee's meeting of the day before. There was a call for additional membership and four people expressed interest. They will be looking at document delivery and will do an end-of-year survey to elicit feedback on the reciprocal borrowing program.
15. David Pinto reported on the October 2nd meeting of the Bibliographic Control and Metadata Committee. The committee suggested a survey of member library's technical cataloging staff size, structure, production and function. They also want to revisit the possibility of rejoining NACO.

The next meeting will be November 12, 2002.

Prepared by J. Avrin