

VALE Executive Committee

Minutes of the November 12, 2002 Meeting

Present: P. Chervenie, A. Ciliberti, J. Crocker, C. Daze, M. Gaunt, J. Getaz, J. Hunt, L. Ostar, D. Pinto, A. Scrimgeour, R. Sweeney, P. Tumulty

Guest: Carol Nersinger

1. Marianne Gaunt convened the meeting and welcomed Carol Nersinger, Director of the Library Development Bureau at the New Jersey State Library. Gaunt called for a review of the minutes of the October meeting and Getaz moved that the minutes be approved. The vote was unanimous.
2. Anne Ciliberti provided the budget report, noting that the member library payments are received in a timely fashion. All vendor invoices received have been paid and vendors with outstanding invoices have been notified. The salary line has been adjusted to cover the cost of hiring Dave Hoover to develop the pilot Z39.50 union catalog, as approved at the October meeting.
3. Richard Sweeney introduced a draft resolution calling for the creation of a New Jersey Digital Academic Library. He explained that the Governor's interest in moving New Jersey's research institutions into the top tier of excellence and the recent Commission's report calling for a merger of Rutgers, UMDNJ and NJIT offered an opportunity for VALE to advocate for the creation of separately funded NJ Digital Academic Library. Sweeney suggested that the rationale for this development is that excellence in research requires access to digital and print scholarly resources that should be made available statewide. He noted that many states with superior public research institutions have already developed statewide, centrally-funded libraries or consortia. He cited the California Digital Library and OhioLink as examples.

The proposed resolution was discussed at length. Several members agreed that there seems to be interest in the Governor's Office on education and literacy issues and that a proposal for funding is a timely one. Some participants felt that any proposal put forward should reflect a statewide library approach and not limited to higher education libraries, but in which higher education would be a significant element. Judith Lin Hunt played a video clip of the Governor emphasizing the need for NJ to focus on improving literacy and becoming the "innovation" state by building better synergy between higher education, the corporate world and state government.

After extensive discussion, the group agreed to work with representatives from the State Library and NJLA to develop a proposal that would focus on the significant role that libraries of all types play in science and math education. The proposal would describe the important relationship between literacy efforts and research developments, perhaps with a theme of "Science From Kindergarten to College." The proposal would not be tied to the

proposed merger of the research institutions as the specifics of the Vagelos' Commission's recommendations have not been determined.

4. Brother Paul Chervenie reported on the work of the Assessment Committee. He presented a draft of the group's proposed revised charge which was approved with the suggestion that the Committee's role as a clearinghouse for assessment information be added. Chervenie also presented the Committee's goals for the year, which will be added to the group's new website. One of the goals will be to conduct an end-user survey developed in collaboration with a vendor and mounted on the vendor's website.
5. Joan Getaz summarized plans for the Users' Conference and reported that Anne Lipow has agreed to be our keynote speaker. There will also be 12 break-out sessions, 4 developed by VALE standing committees and 8 on other topics. Six poster sessions will also be presented. The registration forms should be out later this week. Judith Lin Hunt displayed a new design for the program cover and indicated that the vendors are sending in their advertisements.
6. Marianne Gaunt reported that Greg Fallon at Passaic County Community College volunteered to scan announcements of grant opportunities and alert her to possible VALE opportunities. Two grant programs sponsored by the Institute for Museum and Library Studies and the National Endowment for the Humanities will be discussed at the December meeting.
7. Carol Nersinger reported on staff changes at the State Library. She also assured the VALE group that the State Library plans to continue to provide general database coverage for the academic libraries over the summer months.
8. Due to the lack of time, the group agreed to postpone discussion of database licensing terms until the December meeting.

Minutes respectfully prepared by Ciliberti