

VALE Executive Committee

Minutes of the March 11, 2003 Meeting

Present: J. Avrin, Bro. P. Chervenie, A. Ciliberti, J. Cohn, J. Crocker, M. Gaunt, D. Murray, L. Ostar, D. Pinto, A. Scrimgeour, R. Sweeney

Guests: M. Brown, R. Kearney, T. Kuchi

1. Marianne Gaunt convened the meeting and Judy Avrin noted that there had been a revision to item #5 in the February minutes after they had been distributed. She will repost them. Anne Ciliberti moved to accept the minutes as revised and Bro. Paul seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.
2. Richard Sweeney introduced the Shared Information Literacy Committee's January Project Team: Richard Kearney from William Paterson, Triveni Kuchi from Rutgers and Matthew Brown from NJIT. Bill Vincenti, from Montclair State University, also a member of group, was not present at the meeting. Sweeney reviewed the charge given to the Committee and enthusiastically praised their accomplishments. The Project members presented their web-based tutorial on understanding citations as an example of a tutorial designed to be easily accessible and shareable across institutions as well as locally customized by staff without sophisticated technical skills. The Committee was impressed by the group's work and congratulated them on their success in working through the concepts and creating a prototype. Gaunt read a proclamation acknowledging the work of the group and presented each with a citation and the gratitude of the Committee.

Sweeney observed that the outcome of the FIPSE grant proposal should be known by the end of March and that if the preliminary proposal is accepted, a great deal of work will need to be done to develop a final proposal by mid-May. A server and software will also be needed as the development of the prototype proceeds. The full Shared Information Literacy Committee met that morning and confirmed its commitment to working with Sweeney to flesh out the preliminary proposal. Gaunt noted that she had spoken with Greg Fallon about monitoring other grant possibilities for the project in the event the FIPSE grant is not awarded.

3. Ciliberti presented the budget report. The final database payment was received and payment was sent for the last outstanding vendor invoice.

Avrin distributed a financial report on the Users' Conference. With one exception, all vendor donations have been received and all expenses have been paid. Fees for the Center were significantly higher than last year and the Center's director suggested working with him in advance next year on facility requirements in order to take advantage of cost saving measures.

4. It was brought to the Finance Committee's attention that the license agreement for Books In Print specifically excludes academic bookstores and university presses. VALE subscribers were informed of this exclusion and the Finance Committee met with the

Bowker representative to discuss how compliance can be ensured since some of the VALE members' bookstores are included in the campus-wide IP range provided to Bowker. Gaunt will work with the representative to prepare a letter to all VALE/BIP subscribers. After discussion, the group agreed to post the VALE licenses on a website with password protection.

5. Sweeney reported on a meeting held with Elsevier representatives. A draft of the unique title list has been prepared but it needs to be revised. Itemized invoices with prices are being prepared and will be sent to the VALE subscribers. The Finance Committee reviewed the first draft of the contract and suggested several revisions that Elsevier will consider.
6. Andrew Scrimgeour reported on a recent meeting of the NJLA Public Policy Committee. The proposed State budget for library services eliminates funds for Library Development Aid and Emergency Aid, but maintains current funding for per capita state aid, the NJ Library Network and the NJ Virtual Library. Given the fiscal crisis of the State, the group felt that overall this was a very positive budget proposal. The group also reviewed a draft statement to legislators regarding the budget proposal and suggested that some clarifications about the library programs discussed may be needed. Gaunt will convey these suggestions to the appropriate NJLA personnel.
7. Gaunt reported that the VALE Collaboration Survey has received about 55 responses. She will re-post it to both Corrado and the Directors' listserv in an effort to obtain a larger sample.

The group also discussed the inquiry about whether VALE would support attendance at conferences for members of its committees. The consensus of the group was that in most cases such support would be a financial obligation that VALE could not support. The Committee recognized that, for the most part, members' committee interests are also of professional interest to their own libraries, so support should be from the home institution, not the consortium. The group recognized, however, that there may instances when it is in the best interest of the consortium to support committee member training or conference attendance but these situations would be by invitation from the Executive Committee.

8. There was a discussion of what various institutions are doing regarding advocacy for restoring funding for higher education in the proposed state budget. Rutgers' efforts seem to be the most pro-active and Gaunt reported that a link has been created on the Rutgers' website with information about the budget cuts. The VALE consortium has no separate advocacy role distinct from its member institutions.
9. Bro. Paul reported on the Assessment Committee's recent activities. They are developing an instrument to survey VALE librarians about the value and impact of the consortium at their own institutions. Two versions will be posted, one for library staff and another for library directors which contains additional financial questions.

Bro. Paul also distributed a draft website template to be used to obtain and organize information and websites relevant to various assessment activities and goals. The purpose of the proposed website is to further the Committee's charge to serve as a clearinghouse function relative to assessment issues.

10. Jane Crocker reported that the Reference Committee met in March and Cynthia McClellan gave a general demonstration of QandA NJ from both user and answer provider perspectives. Feedback was very positive and the committee discussed at length creating a link specifically for academic questions and what the criteria and structure requirements would be. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 16th.
11. Ciliberti indicated that she had received an inquiry about whether there is a written policy governing the kinds of messages that may be posted to the Corrado listserv. After a brief discussion, the group agreed to preserve the openness of the present situation and not to develop an exclusionary policy. All posting thus far have been appropriate to consortial interests. Those posting to the list should use judgement about the appropriateness of their messages.

Ciliberti pointed out that VALE's 5th anniversary is approaching and we may want to commemorate it with a VALE personalized memento. A small calculator was suggested but there was no overwhelming support for that idea. Jane Crocker will suggest some alternatives.

12. Cohn reported that the Electronic Resources Committee would be meeting on March 13th and that Luis Rodriguez would be taking over leadership of the group. She commented that the issue of how the committee recruits members has been raised since there is no established protocol. There was consensus that committee chairs can seek nominations on the Corrado listserv and that there should be sector representation.
13. Gaunt advised that a question regarding the wording of the funding statement on the VALE web page would be discussed at next month's meeting.
14. Avrin reported that the Training Committee met on March 5th at Kean University and that they would be creating a survey to evaluate the needs as well as the available training capabilities of the membership. It was suggested that a master VALE calendar on the VALE website would be very helpful.

Prepared by: J. Avrin