

VALE Executive Committee Meeting
March 8, 2011
Middlesex County College

FINAL

Present: A. Ciliberti, J. Cohn, M. Gaunt, A. MacRitchie, N. Madacsi, D. Murray, T. Pavlovsky, D. Pinto, L. Rodriguez, A. Scrimgeour, R. Sweeney, A. Unver

1. David Pinto convened the meeting immediately following the combined meeting of VALE committee chairs and the Executive Committee. The draft minutes of the February 4, 2011 were reviewed and amended to indicate that the committee chairs will receive the user conference evaluation information. The minutes were approved as amended.

2. Taras Pavlovsky provided an update on the VALE OLS project and reported on a conference call that Pinto, Marianne Gaunt, Anne Ciliberti and he had with three representatives from the Kualu OLE project on March 1. He also reported that the VALE OLS Steering Committee (VOSC) had voted unanimously to recommend joining the Kualu OLE build project.

In the discussion that ensued, Pavlovsky explained that during the conference call the two-year cost to join the Kualu OLE project was clarified to be \$330,000, a sum higher than previously understood. Other costs, such as membership in the Kualu Foundation at \$24,500 each year, are also required. While some of the case contributions might be offset by assigning dedicated staff to the project, membership requirements also include some amount of volunteer staff time to serve on OLE councils and work groups.

In addition to the significant financial and staff burdens, other concerns about joining the project were expressed. These include the fact that a great deal of effort will be required to prepare the policies and holdings of the VALE libraries in advance of joining a shared system and that there are only 16 months left of the 24-month project, after which the OLE organization may change. Gaunt noted that two consortia are already represented in the OLE project, so that consortial concerns will likely be addressed by the current build partner institutions.

After extensive consideration, Richard Sweeney made a motion to thank the VALE OLS Steering Committee (VOSC) for its work and recommendation but the VALE Executive Committee believes the levels of financial and staff commitment required to become a Kualu OLE build partner are not sustainable at this time. The vote on this motion was unanimous. Pinto will convey VALE decision's not to participate to the OLE representatives.

3. Ciliberti distributed the March 1, 2011 budget report and indicated that the Non-salary balance is \$50,000.85. As a follow-up to her email sent to the Executive Committee on February 7, she explained the discovery and correction of an error in the Non-salary account. In September, the FY10 carry forward funds of \$75,828.75 should have been transferred from the Non-salary account to the Reserve account. This transaction was posted in the Reserve Account and the account balance was increased to its present level of \$218,411.53. However, due to a typo in the Business Office at William Paterson University, the carry forward funds were never

debited from the Non-salary account; the transaction was completed by pulling funds from another account with an account number one digit different from the VALE account. Thus, the Non-salary account had been inflated by \$75,828.75 since September. This became evident in February, after all vendor invoices had been paid and the reported balance of \$125,829.60 was noted as being too high. The University's Business Office corrected the error on February 7 and the \$75,828.75 was debited from the Non-salary account, leaving the correct balance of \$50,000.85. Ciliberti apologized for not having observed the error earlier.

4. The group discussed several issues concerning VALE's relationship to the NJVid project and to the NJEDge. Pinto invited Jane Hutchison, chair of the VALE Digital Media Committee, to join the conversation.

As background to considering an inquiry to join VALE's streaming video contracts received from an out-of-state consortium, Hutchison explained the procedures for providing discounted digital media offerings to VALE members. These procedures are less labor-intensive for VALE than the database offerings because the participating libraries work directly with the vendors/distributors for ordering and invoicing, once the discount level is negotiated by the Digital Media Committee.

In considering the request to participate in VALE-negotiated contracts, members of the Executive Committee noted that increased participation would likely lower the costs for VALE libraries, although the level of additional discount could not be estimated. The group debated whether an "associate" member category could be created for this purpose but not extend to full VALE membership privileges.

The group decided to research the size and nature of the inquiring consortium and how an associate member category is defined and organized in another local consortium. Based upon this new information, a vote will be taken at the April meeting.

5. Pinto reported on a second conference call between members of the Executive Committee and representatives from NJEDge. Because the IMLS grant funding that created the NJVid project concludes in March, NJEDge needs to develop a sustainable business plan in order to continue the NJVid service. Since NJEDge works primarily with institutions' CIOs, the shared cost of the NJVid and other "cloud" services are likely to be charged to members' CIOs, not the libraries themselves. Gaunt proposed that a Memorandum of Understanding be developed at the appropriate time to delineate and clarify the roles and responsibilities of NJEDge and the VALE libraries.

6. In view of the changes in NJVid and NJEDge's proposed "cloud" repository service for streaming video and other formats of content, Sweeney asked the group to consider some thoughts on extending the NJVid concept to become a Next Generation NJ Digital Library. He emphasized that the development of a statewide scholarly digital repository will require that the roles and responsibilities of libraries and NJEDge be carefully articulated and preserved. He noted, for example, that librarian competencies include cataloging, intellectual property rights management and content licensing, while NJEDge staff members have infrastructure and networks skills. If the New Jersey institutions move in this direction, an organized strategy for creating a new statewide digital library will be required.

This discussion concluded by agreeing that the committee would carefully review Sweeney's proposal and a possible Memorandum of Understanding drafted by Gaunt. An ad hoc group comprised of Sweeney, Judy Cohn and Jane Hutchison, will draft a proposal for consideration at the April meeting.

7. The group briefly reviewed a new draft provided by the Electronic Resources Committee of VALE's Electronic Resource Licensing Agreement Preferred Terms. Cohn explained the purpose of the document but because it was received late, the group agreed to discuss it "online" and be prepared to vote on it at the April meeting.

8. Cohn reported that the Electronic Resources Committee was conducting further work on its analysis of general periodical index products and that it requested clarifications from the Executive Committee on its expectations relative to the analysis.

In the discussion that followed, it was generally agreed that determining one recommended product was a difficult task because content relevance to curriculum and price issues vary from library to library. After consideration, the committee agreed that the ER Committee should develop a general analysis of the products, supplemented by a variety of scenarios that would take into account various environmental factors such as curricular offerings and subscription to other products by each vendor which affect price. The group also agreed to ask Pinto to discuss the nature and purpose of this project with representatives of the NJ State Library.

9. Since the next scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee (April 19) may conflict with a religious observance for members, the group agreed to conduct an online poll to determine if the date should be changed.

10. The possibility of creating a snow date for next year's User Conference was postponed awaiting further information from the Busch Campus Center.

11. Luis Rodriguez reported on the recommendations of the ad hoc committee on the VALE annual report. In summary, the group (Avrin, Ciliberti, Madacsi and Rodriguez) recommend that the report be issued biennially, with limited numbers in print and online by pdf. The report should be short, but preserve the database use and financial analyses and significant accomplishments of each committee. More action photographs and user quotations would help add interest. A brief executive summary should also be prepared and announcement via a press release would be advantageous. The group also recommended that the responsibility for the Report be transferred to an editor and editorial board from the Chair of the Executive Committee who already has significant responsibilities. The ad hoc group favors an open call on the VALE listserv for editor and editorial volunteers to prepare the next report that would cover fiscal years 2009, 2010 and 2011. Ciliberti made a motion to accept the ad hoc group's recommendations in their entirety and the vote carried unanimously.

12. Ciliberti also made a motion to postpone other agenda items for consideration online or at the next meeting and called for adjournment. All present concurred.

Minutes prepared by Ciliberti