

**VALE Executive Committee Meeting**  
**April 25, 2013**  
**Rutgers University**

**FINAL**

Present: J. Avrin, A. Ciliberti, J. Crocker, M. Gaunt, M. Martin, C. O'Connor, P. Price, R. Sweeney, J. Toth

**1. Call to Order / Welcome & Minutes of the March 7, 2013 Meeting**

Taras Pavlovsky convened the meeting with a welcome to Joe Toth who is filling the State College/University vacancy created when Luis Rodriguez left Kean University. Toth will serve until the next election which will be held at the June 13, 2013 Members' Council meeting. Minutes from both the March 7, 2013 Joint VALE Committee Chair/Executive Committee and Executive Committee meetings were approved as submitted and will be posted to the VALE website.

**2. Budget Report**

Anne Ciliberti presented the March Activity Budget Report. The Non-Salary Account has an ending balance of \$58,192; the only March expenses were reimbursement for Drupal training to Website Committee Chair Tony Joachim and catering for the March 7, 2013 Joint VALE Committee Chair/Executive Committee Meeting. No funds were received. There was a correction to the beginning balance in the Salary Report to reflect the FY12 carryforward of \$4,813. Salaries and Benefits total \$46,884 YTD with an estimated remaining balance of \$7,000 at the end of June. The Reserve Account remains at unchanged at \$310,397.

**3. VALID Project**

Ciliberti reported that she met with Marianne Gaunt earlier in the week to begin outlining the RFP, with a deadline of May 10<sup>th</sup> for completion of the first draft. The next VOSC meeting is scheduled for June.

VOIT update: Guy Dobson has adapted a computer application that will build a composite bibliographic record from holdings held in common by the alpha implementer libraries.

Use of the Amazon Cloud service use has increased and is now billing at about \$100 / month. This level of server use will provide enough capacity for the complete load of all records from the alpha and beta libraries.

**4. Proposed FY14 Budget**

Copies of the proposed FY14 budget were distributed. Ciliberti reminded the group that the service fee is always calculated as a percentage of the prior year's database expenditure. As a consequence of the merger of UMDNJ and Rutgers and the official closing of UMDNJ on June 30, 2013, UMDNJ's service fee will not be paid.

After brief discussion the Committee agreed that the shortfall created by the loss of UMDNJ's service fee in FY14 would be made up by taking the \$2,261 from the Reserve

Account.

Overall, the group agreed to recommend to the Members' Council approval of an FY14 operational budget of \$131,000 and a service fee of 3.9%, as in previous years. The Members' Council will vote on the budget and service fee at its June 13, 2013 meeting.

At the March 7<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting there was discussion regarding splitting the Reserve Account into two categories. Following additional discussion, the Committee approved creating an Operational Reserve of \$266,000 (equivalent to two years' operating budget), with the balance of funds assigned to the Strategic Reserve.

## **5. By-laws Changes**

Several items in the By-Laws require revision and Pavlovsky noted that proposed changes must be presented to the Members' Council for review two weeks prior to the June 13, 2013 meeting. Joe Toth agreed to work with Pavlovsky on drafting revisions to the following points:

- *Article 4: Section 1: The Fiduciary Agent*

The By-Laws currently specify that the role of fiduciary agent will be filled by a volunteer institutional member. This specification should be revised to allow for other possible fiduciary arrangements, such as might occur in the future if NJEDge were to fill that role.

- *Article 5: Section 1A3: Executive Committee Membership*

The By-Laws currently indicate that the NJ State Library representative is an ex officio, non-voting member. In view of its current role as the library for Thomas Edison State College (a VALE member), the State Library representative should be an ex officio, voting member.

A second change in this section proposes that the LibraryLinkNJ representative be officially named as an ex officio, non-voting member of the Executive Committee

- *Article 5: Section 1E: Replacing a Member of the Executive Committee*

The current By-Laws indicate that the Members Council *appoints* replacements to the Executive Committee as needed. However, since the Members Council elected officers no longer have administrative responsibilities, the authority for such action should be delegated to the Executive Committee.

A fifth potential proposed revision to the By-Laws was discussed by the group when it considered adding to the Executive Committee a category of representatives called Members At Large. Richard Sweeney noted that the Executive Committee sometimes loses important experience and perspective when former Chairs are no longer eligible for election as representatives from their sectors, such as may occur upon retirement. The group agreed that there is value in creating a Member At Large category of membership which would make such former Chairs eligible for continued membership.

After discussion, the group agreed to recommend the creation of a Member At Large category limited to a maximum of three persons, elected for two-year renewable terms. They would be non-voting members.

Pavlovsky and Toth will draft the wording for these proposed amendments to the By-Laws and share them electronically for approval no later than May 16, 2013. This will provide time to distribute the proposed changes to the Members' Council two weeks prior to its meeting on June 13.

#### **6. Nominating Committee**

Pavlovsky asked for volunteers to serve as the nominating committee for open positions on the Executive Committee and Members' Council Moderator and Recorder. Michelle Martin and Ciliberti will identify candidates for both slates.

#### **7. VALE Programming**

Historically all of VALE's programming has been geared toward librarians. Gaunt suggested that VALE consider programming to reach faculty and increase VALE's visibility across campuses. Following discussion, it was agreed Gaunt would poll committee chairs and Executive Committee members for ideas about relevant programs for discussion at the June Members' Council meeting.

#### **8. FTEs for Renewal Pricing**

Avrin distributed a list of the FTE data used in FY13 renewals and planned for use in the FY14 renewals. However, she explained that the same FTE data is not sent to all vendors, since in FY09 some vendors agreed to minimize price increases by holding the FTEs constant. Although the FTE data has been rolled forward each year since then, having different vendors using different data is an unnecessary complication in the renewal process. Therefore, Avrin asked approval to use the most current FTE data for all renewals for FY14. The committee approved the request.

#### **9. Universal Borrowing Card**

At the March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting there was discussion of charging the VALE Resource Sharing Committee with investigating the feasibility of a New Jersey academic library borrower card. Avrin will check with Andrew Scrimgeour on the status of this project.

#### **10. Elsevier Science Direct Contract**

Pavlovsky reported that Judy Cohn will be sending a survey to current Science Direct subscribers to assess the level of interest in participating in a meeting with Elsevier representatives to discuss renewals of their licenses.

#### **11. Future of VALE**

Pavlovsky distributed a grid outlining VALE Needs and Ambitions for the Future. He and Gaunt had several productive meetings with NJEDge Executive Director George Laskaris to discuss possible relationships between VALE and NJEDge. Following extensive discussion, the committee identified only one need (the issuing of the RFP for the VALD project business plan) as a priority to pursue at this time. The Committee also agreed that one strategy for increasing collaboration might be to have an NJEDge representative on the VALE Executive Committee. Pavlovsky will talk to Laskaris about

creating a subcommittee with members of both organizations to explore closer collaboration between VALE and NJEDge.

#### **12. Adobe Connect Update**

Ciliberti reported that she and Avrin met with Paula Williams from Bergen Community College who has agreed to oversee the project. Williams has reached out to Sheri Prupis at NJEDge to review the terms and pricing of the Adobe Connect contract. She hopes to begin scheduling face to face training with VALE chairs in early June, possibly in several locations, with additional training to be conducted via Adobe Connect.

#### **13. FY14 Database Renewals**

Avrin advised that she is waiting for renewal pricing from several vendors and hopes to distribute the renewal packets during the second week of May.

#### **14. VALE Menu Update**

Pavlovsky reported the director of the sole library still accessing VALE databases through the VALE menu has not received a response from her IT people. He noted that EZproxy, which provides both user authentication and transfers IP information to vendors, is no longer free. The cost is \$495 per institution and it was suggested Pavlovsky discuss negotiating a discounted group rate with NJEDge.

#### **15. Statewide Strategic Planning**

Cheryl O'Connor reported that the Statewide Database Advisory Committee has received 15 responses from vendors in response to their RFP. She noted that the New Jersey State Library is aware of academic libraries' desire to maintain funding for Academic Search Premier.

O'Connor also reported that the Statewide Strategic Planning Taskforce has held a number of meetings since November and will be meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup> to review, prioritize and assess the feasibility of responses to suggested planning initiatives. A first draft of the new plan will be presented at the NJLA meeting in June. LibraryLinkNJ has allocated \$75K in their FY14 budget to provide funding for some of the Strategic Plan initiatives. The budget will be presented at their June 18<sup>th</sup> membership meeting. The New Jersey State Library is partnering with LLNJ on the forthcoming Maker Space Initiative with the expectation of \$50,000 each for a \$100,000 project. She also noted that the launch of the second round of mobile app grants has been delayed.

#### **16. Miscellaneous**

Pavlovsky asked that any committee updates be reported via email.

A Cooperative Collection Management Workshop is scheduled for May 9<sup>th</sup> at Rutgers.

Joe Toth will be the new liaison for the Users' Conference Planning Committee.

#### **17. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at Montclair State University following the Members' Council meeting.