

VALE Executive Committee

Minutes of the November 26, 2007 Meeting

Present: J. Avrin, A. Ciliberti, J. Cohn, C. Daze, P. Denholm, M. Gaunt, J. Getaz, J. Marcum, H. McGinn, T. Pavlovsky, D. Pinto, A. Scrimgeour, R. Sweeney

Guests: Sandie Miller and Kurt Wagner

1. David Pinto convened the meeting and asked Sandie Miller, Director of Instructional Research and Technology at William Paterson University, to provide an overview of project funded by a new Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant. She reported that William Paterson University, in collaboration with Rutgers University and NJEDge.net and with support from VALE, was awarded nearly \$1 million to create a statewide digital video portal to provide streaming video of educational materials to New Jersey colleges and universities, K-12 schools, libraries and cultural institutions. It is a collaborative effort and is responsive to the digital video needs across sectors. The committee expressed their appreciation for her efforts.
2. Pinto then asked Kurt Wagner, Information Systems Librarian at William Paterson University, to demonstrate the wiki he created to address the Executive Committee's need for an online forum to communicate and discuss ongoing issues. Members will be able to log on with a password to add items or make changes to existing reports or documents. Changes to documents can be tracked and participating members can be notified by email when revisions have been made. The group thanked Kurt and hopes to use the new tool to facilitate access to VALE draft documents.
3. The minutes of the September 24, 2007 were approved as revised.
4. Anne Ciliberti presented the September and October budget reports. All member payments have been received but several vendor invoices remain unpaid pending completion of state required paperwork. The committee approved Ciliberti's request for reimbursement of \$99.50 for the cost of the wiki. The wiki's usefulness will be reassessed each year before renewing it.
5. Pinto reviewed the proposed revision to the Finance Committee section of the Bylaws. Executive Committee members representing the three research institutions, the fiduciary institution and one other elected representative from an unspecified sector would remain as members. The proposed revision would add the chair of the Executive Committee. If one of the research library directors is chair, the membership would stay at five. A motion was approved to recommend the proposed Bylaw change to the Member Council at its February 1, 2008 meeting at Rowan University.
6. In an update on the New Jersey Knowledge Initiative, Judy Cohn reported she met with Kathy Peiffer of the New Jersey State Library's Development Bureau, Colleen Daze and David Pinto to discuss ways to provide uninterrupted database access in the event that

full funding is not restored for the balance of the 2008 academic year. Continued advocacy is critical and Howard McGinn was commended for Seton Hall University's letter-writing campaign. Norma Blake requested notification of each library's advocacy effort. Cohn will send out another message to the VALE membership urging librarians to contact the Governor and their local legislators about this important initiative.

7. With respect to the assessment project, Ciliberti reported that she had reviewed a draft of the Cost Savings Report with Judy Cohn and Richard Sweeney and submitted suggested revisions to Chris Martire at PALINET who is conducting the analysis. She hopes to have a final report soon. She also noted that the Assessment Committee has requested that each of the other VALE committees submit their responses to the Assessment Survey by December 5 so that the Assessment Committee can send its overall report to the Executive Committee in early December.
8. In an update on the VALE Users' Conference, Joan Getaz announced a record 13 poster sessions and 21 breakout sessions are scheduled. She advised that Marilyn Wilt requested approval of additional funds to cover increased program printing costs due to a higher number of ads than anticipated. Judy Avrin reported a record amount of vendor contributions.
9. The ad hoc committee on open source library systems (OLS) met and Taras Pavlovsky and Richard Sweeney provided an update. Preliminary plans are being developed to host a symposium on the topic, as provided for in the IMLS planning grant received by The College of New Jersey. Pavlovsky indicated that March is the likely time frame and that some funding from VALE may be needed to cover catering costs.
10. Sweeney recommended that the priorities listed below be included in future OLS plans. The Executive Committee approved this recommendation.
 - Universal borrowing
 - Sharing materials more fluidly
 - Statewide catalog
11. Pinto noted committee liaison assignments still needed redistribution. After some discussion, the following list of liaisons to committees and ad hoc committees was finalized:
 - a. Assessment – Marianne Gaunt
 - b. Bibliographic Control – David Pinto
 - c. Cooperative Collection Management – Colleen Daze
 - d. Digital Media – Jim Marcum
 - e. Electronic Resources – Judy Cohn
 - f. OLS – Taras Pavlovsky(?) and Richard Sweeney
 - g. Publicity – Joan Getaz
 - h. Reference Services – Taras Pavlovsky
 - i. Shared Information Literacy – Anne Ciliberti

j. Web Page – Howard McGinn

12. Pinto reported he is working on a draft of the Biennial Report with Cohn and Ciliberti. Marianne Gaunt offered the layout and design services from Rutgers.
13. A December 13, 2007 special meeting is scheduled to discuss the recommendations of the Assessment Committee and how to structure the information for the breakout session and lunchtime presentation at the Users' Conference.
14. Cohn reported the Electronic Resources Committee prepared a white paper on Vendor Relations which will be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting. One of the main themes of the paper is to find ways for negotiating with vendors so that the desired content is obtained without associated costs for less desirable content which is often bundled with the priority content. Pinto will send an email to chair Richard Kearney to thank the committee for the report and advise him that the Executive Committee will study the group's recommendations.
15. The issue of proposed changes to the library section of the New Jersey higher education regulations was discussed. Joan Getaz worked on the committee which met for the first time almost a year ago. The primary concern with the proposed changes is that in certain situations an MLS degree will no longer be required. The group needs to determine if wants to take a public stand on the proposed changes which will be available for public comment following review by the Presidents' Council on December 3. Getaz will call Beardsley, the Commission member working on the library revisions, to get a sense of the timeline for public comment.
16. Ciliberti reported that PALINET has asked VALE for a letter of support for a grant proposal being submitted to the Sloan Foundation for funds to provide regional digitization services. The group agreed that Pinto should write a letter of support but without making any commitment to use the services provided if the project moves forward. Individual library directors are also encouraged to write in support of the grant proposal.
17. A suggestion was made to have committee reports moved higher on the agenda for the next Executive Committee meeting since they're frequently eliminated due to time restrictions.
18. The next meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2008.

Prepared by: J. Avrin