VALE Executive Committee

Minutes of the April 21, 2009 Meeting

Present: J. Avrin, A. Ciliberti, John Cohn, Judy Cohn, Colleen Daze, Andrea MacRitchie, Birthe Nebeker, C. O'Connor, T. Pavlovsky, D. Pinto, A. Scrimgeour, R. Sweeney, B. Whitham

1. David Pinto called the meeting to order and asked for a review of the minutes of the March 10, 2009 Executive Committee meeting. Since there were no corrections, the minutes were accepted as distributed. A draft copy had been posted to the VALE website and will be replaced with a final copy.

2. Copies of the minutes of the March 10, 2009 meeting with notes pertaining to closed session business were distributed and discussed. Pinto explained that an "official" copy of the minutes of meetings at which personnel issues are discussed will be kept in the VALE office, but it will not be posted on the website.

3. The minutes of the Joint Meeting of the VALE Executive Committee and the VALE Committee Chairs on March 10, 2009 were reviewed and accepted with the following corrections:
   a. Colleen Daze was present at the meeting
   b. The name of digital media vendor was corrected to be Intelecom
The document will now be shared with all Committee chairs and posted on the website.

4. Anne Ciliberti reported on the VALE finances and reviewed the April 1 budget report. She noted that all vendor pledges for the Users' Conference have been received and that all invoices received have been paid. She anticipates a carry forward of about $25,000.

5. Pinto reminded the group that the FY10 VALE budget that was reviewed and approved at the March meeting will be presented for approval to the membership at the June 4, 2009 Members' Council meeting.

6. Pinto stated that VALE's application to be a host site for the ACRL program on scholarly communication was submitted and that awards are to be determined by April 24. He noted that it is a highly competitive program, with about 48 applications competing for 8 awards.

7. Richard Sweeney reported on several recent developments pertaining to open access publishing of scholarly materials. A number of universities have pledged to retain their faculty's scholarly output in local repositories, thus making it available to other researchers without

barriers of cost or limiting copyright restrictions. He urged that VALE monitor these developments and look for opportunities to support open access publishing. Pinto agreed, suggesting that the issue be revisited following the ACRL program, should it be funded.

8. Pinto requested a review of the VALE Committee Guidelines, revised to include the suggestions from the joint meeting with committee chairs. The changes were accepted. The group also reviewed and accepted the draft VALE Project Form prepared by Judy Cohn and agreed that it should be included in the Guidelines. Judy Avrin will insert the form, distribute it to the chairs and have it posted on the website.

9. Revisions to two committee charges were brought forward for the group's consideration. The Digital Media Committee's revised charge was approved with minor amendments and the Assessment Committee's proposed new charge was also approved. The committees will be notified by their liaisons.

10. Bruce Whitham reported on the Drupal website project, stating that the work is underway. The consultant is on board and Whitham anticipates a fuller report at the next meeting.

11. Pinto requested a review of the draft proposal to seek non-profit status. He explained that when approved, the document will be available to the VALE members to share with their presidents in an effort to obtain their endorsement before a formal presentation is made to the Presidents' Council. In the discussion that followed, several suggestions for improving the draft document were made. These included broadening the rationale for seeking non-profit status beyond just the OLE project and explaining why other current organizations (such as NJEdge) are not suitable alternatives for the expanding role envisioned for VALE. Judy Cohn volunteered to work with Ciliberti on revising the document to accommodate the suggested changes.

12. Andrew Scrimgeour reported on a successful meeting he had with former Governor Thomas Kean on possible fundraising initiatives for VALE. There may be opportunities to approach foundations and local private philanthropists interested in the collaborative success of VALE.

13. Avrin distributed the draft of the FY10 database pricing packet. The information will be sent to directors a bit later than in the past due to delays in pricing caused by the Palinet/Solinet merger. Responses to requests for flat pricing increases were unexpectedly positive with 8 of 12 VALE vendors agreeing to no increases with respect to their own published content. In addition, several vendors will bill using last year's FTEs. State funding of Academic Search Premier remains unknown at this time but the understanding is that support for it remains a high priority of the State Library. There are four new databases on the list but after discussion the committee

agreed to eliminate one due to complexities of the offer. There will be a new pricing model for Wiley InterScience (formerly a UTL shared access model) as a result of their acquisition of Blackwell journals. The new model will be based on Core Collections with each library's current Wiley and Blackwell titles becoming their Core. Additional titles may be added only as part of collections.

13. Sweeney and Taras Pavlovsky provided an update on the OLE (Open Library Environment) project. Sweeney summarized the timeline for future development, stating that the current design phase is scheduled for completion by July 2009, with the build phase to follow. The build phase will need financial support from libraries, since the Mellon Foundation has pledged only 50% of the cost. The target date for release is 2012 or 2013. In the discussion that followed, Sweeney and Pavlovsky agreed to consult with Rutgers staff on how VALE might financially support the build phase of the project. They noted also that the VALE representatives to the project have suggested that next year's Users' Conference adopt OLE as a theme and that relevant VALE committees be charged in FY10 with beginning preliminary work on policies and database issues to prepare for early participation when the system is ready for prime-time. The group agreed to review these suggestions at the June meeting when committee charges for FY10 are under discussion.

14. Pinto provided a report from Marianne Gaunt on some subscription-based electronic voting options. After discussion, it was agreed that VALE will continue to use email for voting that occurs beyond the paper ballots at the June Members' Council meeting. Email votes will be submitted to Avrin, since she is not an elected member of the group.

15. Judy Cohn presented a draft survey which she, John Cohn and Marianne Gaunt developed to obtain feedback from VALE members in advance of a strategic planning initiative scheduled for the June 4 Members' Council meeting. The survey, intended as an online survey to be conducted in May, seeks input on five goals outlined in Gaunt's keynote address at the January Users' Conference. After discussion on how best to achieve agreement on the goals and how to ascertain priorities among competing interests, Judy Cohn agreed to seek input from Jeanne Boyle, chair of the Assessment Committee.

16. Pinto raised the need for a Nominating Committee and Ciliberti and Judy Cohn volunteered to organize this year's elections.

17. The possibility of organizing a VALE pod for participation in the RAPID Interlibrary Loan program was brought forward by Pinto. He believes that many libraries will be interested in joining a local pod; a total of seven or eight are required. Scrimgeour volunteered to ask the Resource Sharing Committee to help identify interested libraries.

18. Ciliberti requested up to $200 to support travel expenses for panelists and other incidentals for a workshop being planned by the Shared Information Literacy Committee in June. The program will bring together librarians from middle and high schools with those from higher education to discuss "cradle to grave" information literacy concerns. Workshop participants will be charged $15 to cover the cost of refreshments and lunch. The request was approved, with the stipulation that panelists from VALE libraries be excluded from travel reimbursement, since expenses from participation in VALE programs should be reimbursed by the attendee's home library

19. Pinto reported the Bibliographic Control and Metadata Committee is planning a survey of cataloging practices among VALE libraries to be followed by a national survey. In the discussion that followed it was agreed the survey of VALE libraries could proceed but before it goes national they should get VALE approval.

 Minutes prepared by Ciliberti