

**Minutes of the VALE Members Council Meeting  
Friday, September 27, 2019  
The College of New Jersey**

**ATTENDEES:** Linda Beninghove (Stevens), Cara Berg (ACRL-NJ / NJLA-CUS), Andrew Bonamici (Drew), Jeff Carroll (Rutgers), Ed Chapel (Edge), Steve Chudnick (Brookdale), Judy Cohn (Rutgers), Alison Cole (Felician), Heather Cook (Caldwell), Heather Craven (CCM), Jane Crocker (RCSJ), Daisy DeCoster (St. Peter's), Jeffrey Donnelly (Georgian Court), Marlene Doty (Berkeley), Gregory Fallon (Passaic), Marie Febrillet (Passaic student), Maryanne Fegan (Centenary), Mark Ferguson (CSE), Ana Fontoura (FDU), Evelyn Frangakis (Princeton Theological), Isabel Gray (Camden), Janet Hauge (ACCC), Sisalee Hecht (Eastwick), Ann Hoang (NJIT), Judith Lin Hunt (Montclair State), Ken Karol (Passaic), Leigh Keller (Ramapo), Melissa Lena (VALE), David Marks (Bergen), Scott Muir (Rowan), Margaret Nizolek (NJ State Library), Marilyn Ochoa (Middlesex), Edward Owusu-Ansah (William Paterson), Taras Pavlovsky (TCNJ), David Peterson (RCBC), Josh Piddington (RCSJ), Pam Price (Mercer), Jennie Pu (Hudson), Donna Rosinski-Kauz (Ocean), Jodi Shelly (Felician), Joe Toth (Stockton), Alyssa Valenti (RVCC), Kurt Wagner (Monmouth)

Dr. Kate Foster, president of TCNJ, provided a welcome on behalf of the university.

**VALE Update**

Kurt Wagner introduced the VALE strategic plan document, citing VALE's efforts to communicate VALE's value, evolve workflows, and improve communication overall with the goal of student success as the end product. Wagner reported that Open Educational Resources (OER) and open textbooks represents a signature VALE initiative, with the creation in June 2019 of the OER committee. Wagner stated that the OER committee consists of VALE Executive Committee members Steve Chudnick, Greg Fallon, and Marilyn Ochoa. Wagner announced that the next VALE conference will be collocated with EdgeCon 2020 on January 8, 2020 at the Ocean Place Resort & Spa in Long Branch, New Jersey.

**VALE Budget**

Taras Pavlovsky presented two sets of reports. One report represented the VALE FY2019 Budget Activity as of 9/9/2019 with a service fee of 4.5230%. Pavlovsky explained that VALE saved money from fringe benefits but spent on the Online Textbook Network (OTN), therefore VALE is \$550 in the black. The other report represented the VALE FY2020 Budget Activity as of 9/9/2019 with a service fee of 3.4607%.

**ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS**

Cara Berg reported on ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS's goals to be more open and improve communication. Berg stated that their recent meeting had a wellness theme, including yoga, meditation, and time management. She explained that the upcoming CUS luncheon will have a new format, and that proposals for the VALE/ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS conference will be due soon.

**LibraryLinkNJ**

Kathy Schalk-Greene reported that they will be rebidding for the delivery services, with an RFP in June for an early fall decision. Schalk-Greene announced the MentorNJ program will meet on November 7 at the Monroe Township Library, and she reported on LibraryLinkNJ advocacy, collaboration, and partnership efforts, including the onsite, on-demand professional development program for libraries. She announced that libraries may apply for a subsidy of up to \$500 and that 30 professional development sessions are given each year. She shared that LibraryLinkNJ will pledge \$1,000 to support

the VALE/ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS conference. Schalk-Greene announced that she will retire as of December 31, 2019, and that the LibraryLinkNJ board will hire an interim director to overlap for the month of December. Schalk-Greene thanked VALE for its support through the years.

### **Edge**

Ed Chapel announced the organizational name change from NJEdge to Edge. Chapel reported on Edge's recent activities, which are reflected in the report he shared in preparation for the Members Council meeting. He encouraged VALE members to attend EdgeCon in January 2020, and announced the instructional design day for spring 2020. He shared that the Edge and VALE partnership review committee meeting will be held on November 8, 2019.

### **New Jersey State Library**

Margaret Nizolek reported on the State Library's recent activities and initiatives, which are reflected in the report she shared in preparation for the Members' Council meeting. Nizolek stated that the New Jersey and Delaware teams working on the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) project met with the DPLA this week to assess the group's readiness. She shared updates about the Talking Book & Braille Center.

### **Open Educational Resources (OER)**

Greg Fallon and Steve Chudnick announced the OER ambassadors who recently attended training in Minneapolis and then designed and ran a survey, which received 33 responses. Fallon and Chudnick reported that Rutgers has saved students over \$1 million as a result of the use of OER in courses. They announced that regional OER workshops open to faculty and librarians will be held on October 18 at Ocean County College and on October 25 at the County College of Morris.

### **Tom Hilliard, Senior Advisor in the State of New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education**

Tom Hilliard thanked VALE for its role in higher education and OER. Hilliard explained that a primary part of the higher education plan is the goal for every student to have the opportunity to get a higher education credential; that a key component of this vision and plan is affordability; and that the cost of textbooks and other curricular materials must be addressed. Hilliard stated that academic librarians are on the front lines and have acquired expertise, and librarians' participation in scaling up the use of OER is invaluable. Hilliard stated that OER aligns with the student-centered vision for higher education in New Jersey, and the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education is working with VALE to get guidance for colleges to help this vision succeed. A discussion ensued regarding compliance with the New Jersey law, printing of OER and open textbooks, accessibility, and financial aid coverage for textbooks. It was stated that the VALE OER committee is working on developing a template to make it easier for colleges and universities in New Jersey to learn from each other and go beyond just compliance.

### **VALE Strategic Plan**

Marilyn Ochoa and Linda Beninghove announced that the VALE Planning and Assessment Committee is seeking feedback by Thanksgiving regarding the Strategic Plan document.

### **New Business**

Taras Pavlovsky invited the Members Council to attend a tour of the library building. Ed Chapel announced that the Edge member and partner appreciation event will take place on October 11 at Middlesex County College, and that Scott Muir of Rowan University will receive an award. Pam Price announced that OpenCon Philly will take place on November 1 at Temple University. Marilyn Ochoa shared that a form will be available on the VALE website for individual sessions with OER ambassadors.