

## **VALE Members Council Meeting Minutes**

**June 10, 2021 | 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**Virtual meeting via Zoom**

### **Attending:**

Linda Beninghove (Stevens), Annie Chatterjee (Essex), Steve Chudnick (Brookdale), Judy Cohn (Rutgers), Heather Cook (Caldwell), Stephanie Cooper (Sussex), James Cox (Hudson), Jane Crocker (RCSJ), Daisy Decoster (St. Peter's), Sebastian Derry (SHU), Guy Dobson (Drew), Jeffrey Donnelly (GCU), Isabel Gray (Camden), Janet Hauge (Atlantic Cape), Amy Hayes (Centenary), Sisalee Hecht (Eastwick), Ann Hoang (NJIT), Rob Hilliker (Rowan), Judith Hunt (MSU), Jane Jiang (Union), Leigh Keller (Ramapo), Melissa Lena (VALE), David Marks (Bergen), Keith McCoy (LLNJ), Marilyn Ochoa (Middlesex), Edward Owusu-Ansah (WPU), Taras Pavlovsky (TCNJ), Sara Purifoy (Centenary), Dave Peterson (RCBC), Pam Price (Mercer), Donna Rosinski-Kauz (Ocean), Jodi Shelly (Felician), Vinell Spied (Pillar), Joe Toth (Stockton), Alyssa Valenti (RVCC), Kurt Wagner (Monmouth)

**Coffee and conversation:** 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.

### **1. LibraryLinkNJ update (Keith McCoy)**

Keith McCoy provided an update about LibraryLinkNJ (LLNJ) and the TOPCATS effort which was convened in 2020 to address the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on New Jersey libraries.

- Ralph Bingham will be the new Executive Director of LLNJ.
- The statewide delivery contract has been extended to the end of 2021 and will be going to the RFP stage soon.
- LLNJ will focus more effort on continuing education and connecting professionals to share knowledge.

### **2. Business meeting – Introduction (Edward Owusu-Ansah)**

Edward Owusu-Ansah welcomed the Members Council meeting attendees at 9:18 a.m. and shared that as of now, many colleges and universities are planning a full campus return in fall 2021, and some VALE meetings may be in-person and some may be virtual.

### **3. VALE update (Kurt Wagner)**

- Kurt Wagner thanked Edward Owusu-Ansah and Melissa Lena for their support in convening today's VALE Members Council meeting.
- Wagner shared updates related to position announcements and retirements.
  - Wagner wished Andrew Bonamici a happy and healthy retirement and extended a welcome to Guy Dobson, interim director at Drew University.
  - Wagner shared that Mary Ann Fagan retired from Centenary University in May, and that two co-directors will serve in the interim: Sara Purifoy and Amy Hayes.
  - Wagner shared that Krisellen Maloney has stepped down as of May 17 as Vice President of Information Services and University Librarian at Rutgers University and returned to

the faculty as Distinguished Professor. Consuella Askew shall serve in the interim, and a national search is underway.

- Wagner wished congratulations to Amanda Piekart, who has been appointed as the new Executive Director of Monroe Free Library in Monroe, New York.
- Wagner also extended congratulations to Ralph Bingham as the new Executive Director of LLNJ, and thanked Keith McCoy for his service as interim Executive Director.
- Wagner also shared that Juliet Machie has been appointed as of January 2021 as the Executive Director of NJLA.
- Wagner congratulated Jennifer Nelson as the new State Librarian.
- Wagner stated that the VALE-Edge Partnership Review Committee met on April 23 and, after some discussion, the committee agreed upon a flat fee for one year and agreed that the fee should be reviewed on an annual basis. Under the existing 2013 MOU between VALE and Edge VALE has allocated an annual flat fee. VALE continues to seek ways to alleviate some of the costs for Members.
- Wagner reported that the 2021 virtual Users Conference expenses have been sorted out with Edge; VALE is paying \$6,500 of its share, but did not have to incur costs related to video production, etc.
- Wagner is seeking candidates to take on the leadership role for conference planning that was once filled by Amanda Piekart. Hilary Westgate of Ramapo College of New Jersey will serve as co-chair, with support from Melissa Lena.

Owusu-Ansah requested that new attendees introduce themselves to the Members Council.

#### **4. VALE Budget (Taras Pavlovsky)**

- Taras Pavlovsky reviewed the VALE FY2021 Budget Activity Report as of May 31, 2021.
- Pavlovsky shared that the service fee was kept the same this year, emphasizing that VALE is trying to keep the service fee down for Members.
- Expenses were down throughout FY2021 (for example, there was no travel on the part of the VALE Program Manager and no catering) and the budget was underspent for professional services and consultants/website maintenance. For memberships, the budget was overspent (i.e., Edge, OTN), and, as of May, the budget remains underspent.
- For the Users Conference, the budget is overspent by \$3,500.
- For databases, VALE processed \$4,001,746.88.
- The projected End of Year reserves balance is \$289,7198.64.

It was noted that Joe Reardon of Edge and Margaret Nizolek of the New Jersey State Library are unable to attend this meeting.

#### **5. ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS (Alyssa Valenti)**

Alyssa Valenti shared the following updates:

- The ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS organization has issued two newsletters this year.
- The New Jersey chapter of ACRL is featured in the ACRL chapters council newsletter.

- The ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS organization met with SCARLA (Rutgers University student chapter) in February and discussed how the organization can work with students.
- The ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS organization hosted a conversation with Jen Nelson in April to discuss pathways for how the state library and academic libraries can work together, and they are aiming to conduct a similar event with Juliet Machie in fall 2021.
- Throughout the spring, the organization coordinated with NJASL through writing letters in support of school media specialists to fight proposed cuts to librarian and school library media specialists positions.
  - Jane Crocker suggested that VALE should consider helping with advocacy for school media specialists/librarians.
- The e-board of NJLA-CUS put together a survey asking New Jersey librarians about their thoughts related to the perceived high costs of the ACRL conference. Valenti extended thanks to Romel Espinel of Stevens Institute of Technology for his help in drafting the survey and letter.
- The assessment committee and reference committee conducted a learning analytics and assessment workshop.
- Wellness Wednesdays are being held once per month, and are inspired by 2021 VALE users conference speaker Tracie Hall.
- Gary Marks of William Paterson University of New Jersey conducted a civic engagement workshop in April, and the organization would like to make it a yearly event.
- The bylaws committee is looking into updating and streamlining the organization's name.
- The organization is evaluating its membership structure and considering options.
- The work of the antiracism task force continues.
- Hilary Westgate will serve as the incoming president, following Alyssa Valenti.

## **6. Open Educational Resources (Rob Hilliker and Marilyn Ochoa)**

Rob Hilliker and Marilyn Ochoa shared the following updates and information related to Open Educational Resources initiatives:

- OSHE plans to send a survey this month to each college/university.
- The OER ambassador program has been reinstated by the VALE Executive Committee. The ambassadors are: Megan Dempsey of Raritan Valley Community College, Muhammad Hassan of Kean University, Lily Todorinova of Rutgers University.
- An OER summit is being planned for the coming year.
- The OER Open Textbook Collaborative grant is not a VALE project, but the goal is to make it a statewide collaborative program.
- The VALE OER committee website features a link to request training from OER Ambassadors; information may be found at the following links:
  - <https://middlesexcc.libguides.com/OTCProject/home>
  - <https://vale.njedge.net/initiatives-services/oer-open-educational-resources/>
- The project's office hours at <http://bit.ly/discussOTCNJ> are available on Thursdays at noon and the office hours are open to everyone.

## **7. VALE Elections (Melissa Lena and Joe Toth)**

Pavlovsky explained the proposed budget for FY2022, including the following points:

- The proposed budget includes a service fee of 3.7108%.
- The amount VALE will pull from reserves will increase, at approximately \$38,014.
- Edge's fee will be \$24,690; this is committed for one year.

A discussion among the Members Council ensued regarding the VALE budget model, use of reserves, and the Members fee.

The election results indicated that there were 31 votes in the election; the budget passed and the Executive Committee election winners were: Taras Pavlovsky of The College of New Jersey, Marilyn Ochoa of Middlesex County College, and Ana Fontoura of Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Linda Beninghove was re-elected as VALE Members Council recorder.

## **8. Additional discussion**

Janet Hauge of Atlantic Cape Community College extended thanks to Melissa Lena for organizing and hosting monthly meetings during the pandemic. Lena asked if there was interest in continuing the meetings, and many Members responded in the affirmative.

*Minutes prepared by L. Beninghove*