



VALE Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 3, 2022 | 1pm-3pm

virtual via Zoom

Present: R. Bingham (LLNJ), J. Cohn (Rutgers), A. Fontoura (FDU), J. Hauge (ACCC), R. Hilliker (Rowan), A. Hoang (NJIT), L. Keller (Ramapo), M. Lena (VALE), D. Mizzy (MSU), M. Ochoa (Middlesex), E. Owusu-Ansah (WPU), T. Pavlovsky (TCNJ), D. Rosinski-Kauz (Ocean), K. Wagner (Monmouth)

Absent: J. Machie (NJLA), M. Nizolek (NJSL), E. Chapel (Edge)

1) Call To Order / Approval of Minutes

- Wagner convened the meeting and welcomed Leigh Keller who will fill the vacant State College/University sector seat for the remainder of the July 2020-June 2022 term.
- Minutes of the February 4, 2022 meeting were approved.

2) Treasurer's Report (Pavlovsky)

- Pavlovsky presented the financial report.
- A draft of the FY23 budget will be available asynchronously soon.

3) Vice-Chair's Report (Ochoa)

- Ochoa, Wagner, and Lena met with Committee Co-Chairs to review the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan and its objectives. Of the 19 action items, only half have been achieved. This was due to the pandemic and the uncertainty of VALE's future fiduciary agency.
- Ochoa and Lena will continue to meet individually with the Committee Chairs to identify major priorities.
- Wagner noted that there have been interruptions, but that the Strategic Plan is a living document. He thanked everyone for their activities and efforts.

4) Program Manager's Report (Lena)

- The monthly informal check-in discussions continue to be well-attended. The next one is March 23rd.
- As part of their conference sponsorship benefit, VALE will host a McGraw Hill webinar on March 25th. Registration for that will go out next week.

5) VALE / Edge Partnership (Wagner)

- At the last VALE/Edge partnership update it was noted that there were divergent opinions between Edge and TCNJ on whether VALE could continue its business as a product reseller with TCNJ as the fiduciary agent instead of Edge. Since then, lawyers for both sides have concluded that VALE member business could legally continue under current NJ procurement laws in a VALE-TCNJ MOU.
- Wagner contacted the NJ Office of the State Comptroller, who referred him to the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education. He is waiting on a response from Eric Taylor, Director of Licensure.
- In February, Wagner informed Dr. Steve Rose, President of NJEdge Board of Trustees that the attorneys for Edge and TCNJ concluded that VALE could continue operations under TCNJ. Dr. Rose will bring this to the attention of the President's Council.
- Pavlovsky is working on a draft MOU with TCNJ's attorney, and noted that VALE may or may not want to seek outside counsel. The anticipated timeline for the transition would be January 2023. The MOU will need to be reviewed and approved at a TCNJ board meeting.

6) Purchasing & Licensing (Cohn / Hoang)

- The full committee met on February 16th and discussed the responses from the *FY23 VALE E-Resources Offerings Survey*.
- Kanopy was purchased by OverDrive, and they are looking into offering consortial subscription pricing; but it is not yet available. Lena will attend a Kanopy Virtual Town Hall at the end of the month to learn more.
- No new licenses have been reviewed.
- ConsortiaManager is offering new add-on modules. Lena will schedule a demo with the membership to review, as well as provide refresher training on ConsortiaManager.

7) Outreach (Hauge / Owusu-Ansah)

- The Outreach Chairs met with Lena to discuss budgeting for the 2023 NJ Academic Libraries Conference. They will plan for an in-person event at Rutgers Busch Student Center.
- Mizzy asked if the committee had considered a hybrid event with in-person and virtual elements. Lena replied that the committee had looked into it before, but it was too cost prohibitive and resource intense to implement with our budget.
- Hilliker recommended considering asynchronous virtual options.

8) Planning & Assessment (Fontoura / Rosinski-Kauz)

- PAC shared the survey results from the *Members Council COVID-19 Pandemic Response Survey - Fall 2021/Spring 2022*. A discussion ensued about the findings, including morale, flexible work policies, and individual institutional responses.
- Lena will share the survey results to the Members Council listserv.

9) OER (Hilliker / Ochoa)

- Meetings have been scheduled with the OER Ambassadors to review their summer program planning.
- The Ambassadors have been asked to prepare a single page PDF that highlights the benefits of OER.
- Hilliker noted that some vendors with open access options also provide analytics of how students used the information.
- A discussion ensued about data privacy policies at the institutional and library levels.

10) LibraryLinkNJ (Bingham)

- The EDI Summit was well-attended with around 100 participants, including Wagner who gave remarks. The Summit acts as the first step from the EDI Framework statement that LLNJ, NJLA, & NJSL have been working on.
- Wagner's remarks at the Summit were on how VALE intersects with EDI, and included mentions of equality through e-resource sharing and OER.
- LLNJ issued a member survey and Bingham encouraged all to respond.
- They are currently on track in their delivery bid RFP process.

11) Academic Book Challenges (Hauge / Lena)

- At the most recent check-in discussion, a library director noted that a nursing textbook in their collection contained inaccurate and racist information, which was brought to their attention by a student. Lena recommended that the Director contact LLNJ, who recently announced a collaboration with NJLA and NJSL on a framework for addressing Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in New Jersey's libraries. A person on the call recommended contacting the faculty member who assigned the book so that they are aware.
- A discussion ensued about individual institutional responses to similar challenges. Items are usually pulled out of circulation and into special collections.
- Hauge noted that the monthly check-ins are valuable, and provide a sense of community.
- Bingham noted that this discussion is happening now in public libraries, and that there is a need to create and uphold strong collection development policies.

12) Adjournment

- Next meeting: Thursday, April 7th, 1pm–3; virtual via Zoom