

VALE Members Council Meeting Minutes

Friday, February 4, 2022 | 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Virtual meeting via Zoom

Attending:

Linda Beninghove (Stevens), Ralph Bingham (LLNJ), Judy Cohn (Rutgers), Stephanie Cooper (Sussex), James Cox (Hudson), Jane Crocker (RCSJ), Daisy DeCoster (St. Peter's), Jeff Donnelly (GCU), Ana Fontoura (FDU), Christy Goodnight (Stockton), Isabel Gray (Camden), Muhammad Hassan (Kean), Janet Hauge (Atlantic Cape), Rob Hilliker (Rowan), Ann Hoang (NJIT), Jane Jiang (Union), Melissa Lena (VALE), Elizabeth Leonard (SHU), Paul Martinez (MSU), Marilyn Ochoa (Middlesex), Edward Owusu-Ansah (WPU), Taras Pavlovsky (TCNJ), Jennifer Pierce (Salem), Sarah Pike (RCBC), Pam Price (Mercer), Donna Rosinski-Kauz (Ocean), Patti Schmid (RCSJ), Jodi Shelly (Felician), Vinell Spied (Pillar), Alyssa Valenti (RVCC), Kurt Wagner (Monmouth), Hilary Westgate (ACRL-NJ / NLJA-CUS).

Coffee and conversation: 9:00 to 9:31 a.m.

Business meeting - Introduction (Edward Owusu-Ansah)

- Edward Owusu-Ansah opened the Business Meeting at 9:31 a.m.

Updates & Reports:

VALE Report (Kurt Wagner)

- Kurt Wagner expressed thanks to Edward Owusu-Ansah for managing the Members Council meetings, and he expressed thanks to Melissa Lena for her essential work in keeping VALE on track.
- Wagner discussed highlights related to the New Jersey Academic Libraries Conference which took place virtually on January 7, 2022.
 - Wagner thanked Hilary Westgate, Alyssa Valenti, and the conference planning committee, which was comprised of 34 members. He acknowledged the committee's pivot from an in-person to virtual conference due to the ongoing pandemic.
 - The theme of the conference was *The Importance of Now: Rethink, Refocus, Recover*.
 - Wagner reported there were 247 registrations, which constitutes an increase from past conference registration.
 - The keynote speaker was Trevor Dawes, Vice Provost for Libraries and Museums and May Morris University Librarian at University of Delaware, and the keynote title was *Rethinking EDI Initiatives in Libraries*.
 - The conference had six sponsors with \$6,000 in vendor sponsor support.
- Edge has acknowledged VALE's interest in discontinuing its relationship with Edge, and legal review is underway between Edge, VALE, and TCNJ.
- A recommendation was made for VALE to use Slack as a means to replace Edge's community communication tool.

VALE Budget Report (Taras Pavlovsky)

- Taras Pavlovsky presented the VALE Academic Year 2022 Budget Activity Report as of 1/31/22.
- Pavlovsky reported that some budgeted expenses are not taking place due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic.
- VALE is taking some funds from the strategic reserves to keep the Members service fee down, as planned.
- Pavlovsky reported that Edge has caught up with paying vendors.
- A brief discussion took place regarding the ongoing need for obtaining interest-earned information from Edge.

LibraryLinkNJ (Ralph Bingham)

- Ralph Bingham shared highlights from the LLNJ report.
- LLNJ has been working on an EDI statement and framework with the New Jersey State Librarian, Jennifer Nelson, and Dr. Juliet Machie, Executive Director of NJLA. Ralph invites the Members Council to view the press release and information on the LLNJ website.
- LLNJ will sponsor a town hall at the end of February.
- LLNJ is seeking to encourage collaboration and discussion with all library groups in NJ.
- LLNJ began a strategic planning process with consultants from Fast Forward Libraries in Illinois and will be reaching out to the academic library community in NJ for feedback.
- In collaboration with NJLA, LLNJ will launch a series for mid-career librarians, and the super library supervisor training will be offered virtually in spring.
- Regarding statewide delivery, LLNJ is awaiting proposals to come in. The current contract expires at the end of June. If a new vendor is selected, the transition would take place as of July 1.

ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS (Hilary Westgate)

- Hilary Westgate shared highlights from her report, which was shared in advance of this meeting. She began with a recap of the 2022 New Jersey Academic Libraries Conference and expressed thanks to Alyssa Valenti, conference planning committee co-chair, and Melissa Lena of VALE.
 - There were 247 registrants and 94 attendees completed the feedback survey. In addition, several people indicated interest in participating in the conference planning committee.
 - Conference presentation materials are now available on the VALE website.
- Elections for ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS are coming up soon.
- ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS is working on by-law updates and a possible organization name change.
- The Anti-Racism task force began in 2020 wrapped up as a group and they have prepared a report with recommendations.
- The NJLA Conference is planned for June 2022 as an in-person conference in Atlantic City.
- Nominations for NJLA awards will be accepted through April 1.
- ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS continues to offer monthly virtual wellness check-ins.
- ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS encourages libraries to submit articles, accomplishments, and announcements to the newsletter.

New Jersey State Library (Melissa Lena on behalf of Margaret Nizolek)

- Margaret Nizolek shared the report in advance of this meeting.
- Melissa Lena invited questions about the report; none were presented at this time.

OER Report (Rob Hilliker and Marilyn Ochoa)

- Robert Hilliker and Marilyn Ochoa shared updates from the OER committee.
- At the New Jersey Academic Libraries Conference in January, there were presentations from the OER ambassadors to assess interest and focus for the summer professional development courses currently under development.
- The OER committee is developing an infographic to share with the administrator audience to demonstrate the value of using OER as opposed to Inclusive Access.
- A versioning tool is forthcoming that will allow people to create OER materials/books.
- Hilliker and Ochoa encouraged Members and colleagues to send OER materials to OpenNJ.

Elections (Melissa Lena)

- Melissa Lena informed the Members Council that VALE Executive Committee elections are planned for the June Members Council meeting.
- There will be elections for two community college seats and one private/independent college/university seat.
- A call for nominations is coming soon.

Conclusion

Next meeting

The next Members Council meeting will take place on Thursday, June 9, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda Beninghove.