

**VALE Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, June 8, 2023 | 1 pm-3 pm | Virtual via Zoom

**Attended:** Ali Cole (VALE), Kurt Wagner (Monmouth), Taras Pavlovsky (TCNJ), Isabel Gray (Camden County College), Ralph Bingham (LibraryLinkNJ), Robert Hilliker (Rowan), Janet Hauge (Atlantic Cape), Ann Hoang (NJIT), Marilyn N. Ochoa (Middlesex), Donna Rosinski-Kausz (Ocean CC), Leigh Keller (Ramapo), Ana Fontoura (FDU), Brett Bonfield (NJLA)

**I. Call To Order (Hoang)**

- Meeting called to order at 1:06 pm.
- Hoang asked Bonfield if he was invited to the morning MC meeting, he was not. Cole added him to the Members Council listserv. Pavlovsky noted that historically NJLA is EC member, not MC member, can attend MC but not vote. Pavlovsky asked Cole about the purpose of the meeting recording, Cole verified the purpose is for verifying minutes and will be deleted once that is complete.

**II. Approval of [April 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes](#) (Hoang)**

- Hilliker motioned to approve the minutes, Wagner seconded. Minutes approved without further revision. No discussion. Motion to approve minutes passed unanimously.

**III. Standing Reports (30 mins)****A. Treasurer's Report (Pavlovsky)**

- Follow up from April minutes irregularities detected with Kaplan's (Edge) reporting. Pavlovsky investigated and all discrepancies have been resolved.

**B. OER Report (Hilliker/Mizzy)**

- (Hassan is out)
- Hilliker: Report is in the shared folder. Response rate for the survey was favorable. Used ChatGPT to assist in identifying primary topics: buying from faculty & administrators, evaluating use and satisfaction of users of OER, and managing OER programs. Names have been submitted for co-conveners.
- Is EC comfortable with the committee handling the transition to SIG? Does EC need to sign off on that? Hoang: No – the Committee can handle it. Ochoa: make sure to have organization. Hilliker: will meet with committee and serve as a co-convener to keep EC connection.
- Pavlovsky: We need to list SIG members on the VALE website (PM responsibility). Keep PM updated.
- Hoang: If SIG seeks funding from VALE, how do we deal with that? Pavlovsky: there is no structure for funding a SIG. Ochoa: this SIG is setting a precedent so there needs to be organization to follow for future SIGs.
- Pavlovsky: If they want to be more organized or seek funding, they should become a committee or taskforce. Hoang: we can use this to build best practices/procedures for creating communities of practice. So, we have a track record of activity. In case there is a need to update ByLaws.

- Ochoa: Is the expectation that Hilliker reports to EC on SIG activities? Hoang: Not according to bylaws, no. Possibility to become a committee/task force in the future. Hilliker: Happy to provide a communication link.
  - Hoang raised the question if we have heard anything about OER plans we sent to the State in response to the open textbook bill. Ochoa: It was not a high priority for OSHE, they likely just filed it. Hoang: fear is that this is the way the information literacy bill will go. Hilliker: Ewa's work to connect with school librarians and the fact it will be written into the curriculum, gives us more.
- C. Purchasing & Licensing Report (Keller/Wagner)
- Keller: Nothing to add from this morning; Wagner: Deferring to Program Manager Report (Cole) – same as this morning. Thanks to Joe Toth for holding us together and his angle on things.
- D. Planning & Assessment Report (Fontoura)
- Nothing new to share.
- E. Outreach Report (Hauge)
- Report has been shared in the folder. Included results from VALE Members Council meeting survey for 2024. Friday seems to be the best day with Wednesdays in second place. Virtual is preferred.
  - Attended Conference planning meeting on May 30 – asks EC, do I bring theme ideas and information to EC? Hoang: In the past, they have never reported out to EC before. PM (Cole) will embed into the conference planning process. Beyond the call for a meeting, we don't know what was going on.
  - Previous themes were discussed, as well as the fact it will be the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Cole confirmed space at Middlesex has been secured for the conference on Jan. 5, 2024. Hauge shared initial topic ideas in the chat:
    - Based on your ideas and the documents provided, do you have any suggested themes?
    - Together at Last! Highlighting our human value.
    - Gratitude and Belonging
    - Addressing Issues of Equity, creating a Sense of Community and Belonging, and Supporting Student Success: The Value of Academic Libraries
    - Supporting First Generation and Diverse Student Populations: Creating a Sense of Community and Belonging
    - Supporting Student Success: The Value of Academic Libraries
    - Anticipating the Future: AI, Technology, and Communication
    - Gaining Global Perspective in Libraries
    - The Future of Hybrid Librarianship
    - Information Evolution and the Future of Academic Libraries
    - Lessons Learned: Post-Pandemic and the Future of Academic Libraries
    - Libraries Matter: Centering People, Communities, and Belonging
    - How/Why Libraries Matter
    - A Seat at the Table: Students, Libraries, and our communities
  - Ochoa: these are great taglines, I can identify the larger themes, these are not necessarily themes. I like that they are focusing on the future and moving forward (technology, librarianship evolving post-pandemic), bringing back topics that involve technology into the theme. Recent years have focused on wellness and self care – the committee might want to consider moving away from that.
  - Hoang: AI could potentially create an inequality in students receiving information literacy services, this fits in with belonging and equity. My

institution is focusing on how to ensure students have full access to content and resources. Having someone that could focus on the intersection of technology and how we provide services. Generative AI is affecting so many facets of the library (OER, teaching and learning, wellness...). Not just librarians, our faculty too.

- Bingham in the chat: Reinforcing Marilyn's points about taglines vs. themes, these are the last 13 NJLA presidential themes: Sustainably Forward; Embracing Opportunity; All In; Know Your Why; Engage Inspire; Speak Freely; Beyond the Box; All Together Now; Libraries on the Edge; Creating Our Future; Finding Your Perfect Fit; Retooling for Tomorrow; Libraries are Essential.
- Fontoura in the chat: ...I was also thinking about the rise in book bans and challenges... Our role in protecting/advocating for this freedom/value of /role of libraries in this work. Everything we are saying can easily fall into a theme that is inclusive of many of these suggestions.
- Hilliker: there seems to be a core here revolving around engaging our students, a focus on equity and inclusion, it's not so much voting on these it will be pulling out the theme that is underlying. Gray: It feels to me like the underlying theme is the value of academic libraries. Wagner: It is always great to underscore the value that our libraries give to our institutions but also during these difficult times in enrollment – highlight anything that we can do to support student success. What are we doing to support first generation students? Monmouth calls it “first to fly”- and also supports first gen faculty. Anything that creates a sense of community. The best conferences are ones where you walk away with great ideas.
- Hilliker in chat: +1 to Kurt's remarks: student success is definitely a big focus on our campus, too, and being able to bring relevant ideas home is an important part of conference-going for us.
- Taras in chat: Our Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning holds a workshop every year with a keynoter on a specific topic and presentations by faculty. This year's keynoter spoke on AI and ChatGPT in particular, and was followed by a panel discussion by faculty from 3 different disciplines, the IL librarian, and the Asst. Provost. It was a fascinating (and certainly relevant and timely) discussion.
- Hauge: next year we should have this conversation first, before the conference committee brainstorm. Hoang: we need to make sure this gets on agenda going forward so we can share with the conference committee before that initial meeting.

F. Program Manager's Report (Cole)

- Wagner presented the PM report for P&L, same as the MC meeting. Report is in the folder.

IV. **Standing Updates** (10 mins)

A. LibraryLinkNJ (Bingham)

- No updates

B. NJ State Library (Baratta) Unable to attend --

- Maria Barratta unable to attend meeting. The State Librarian's report is in the meeting folder.

V. **Old Business** (40 mins)

A. WALDO/Lyrisis/VALE Task Force (Wagner/Keller)

- Wagner: Information about this will be folded into the regular P&L report. We will be sunsetting the taskforce.

B. VALE Program Manager Position Search (Wagner)

- Formally closed out the search process by thanking the search committee, Caitlin Kaplan, Janet Hauge, Donna Rosinski-Kausz, Edward Owusu-Ansah & Amy Hillman (Edge). There was a great pool of candidates.
  - Hoang: My work with Amy Hillman at Edge with onboarding Ali has been a very positive process, she was very responsive. We asked for a new laptop, phone/phone number, valenj.org email – everything got done. Still waiting to hear back about the MOU revision process though. Thanks to the search committee as well as members of the VALE EC that attended in person interviews.
  - Cole: onboarding was easy, thanks to everyone who attended the interview, happy to have the overlap with Joe to help get acquainted. Good day so far!
- C. Edge and VALE MOU (Hoang)
- Ann expressed that she has not heard anything back from Edge.
- D. VALE Retreat to Develop a 2024-2026 Strategic Plan (Hoang/Ochoa)
- Reached out to a few people regarding availability and how do we tackle planning this retreat. Hoang spoke with Judy Cohn, who suggested that first the EC should have a frank discussion about the future of VALE. Think about and assess the value as well as do a SWOT analysis. Will we remain a buying club? Will we do professional development? OER? Shared ILS? Think about what other consortia offer, the changes in higher education, the changes in students' expectations, COVID's impact. Do we remain status quo? How do we want to move forward? Identify some simple questions to ask at the MC meeting, to get feedback. Do focus groups for the needs of the different sectors.
  - Judy declined to help lead retreat – those who have led previous retreats have also declined. Ann will share notes in the EC meeting folder.
  - Hilliker: I appreciate Judy's insight and agree with the idea of getting to the root of "why" and "what" is VALE. I'd like to be part of this conversation.
  - Hoang: Planning a retreat is a complex process – before we start collecting information, we need an idea of where we want to go.
  - Wagner: I agree with all of that – I think this is something we can do ourselves, together and get it out of the way before the retreat so the bulk of the time can be spent discussing where we want to go/what we want to do.
  - Pavlovsky: We've elected a new moderator for MC, can we ask Marilyn to spend a session with the MC to do some of that work with the members. We can use our own time, our own people. Hoang: I concur with Taras to ask Marilyn to assist, Marilyn assisted with the previous strategic plan. It is important to identify and determine the value of VALE.
  - Marilyn, Ann, & Ali will work together to begin the conversation and create a game plan and get back to EC with an approach.

VI. **New Business** (20 minutes)

- A. Professional Development Program for Library Middle Managers (Askew)
- Askew could not attend, Hilliker presented information: We recognize the lack of management training opportunities for those in the middle. LibraryLinkNJ has a program directed at public librarians. We would like to collaborate to adapt that with an academic component. Bingham indicated yes with a thumbs up.
  - Wagner in chat: I sent my head of lending services to Super Supervisors at LLNJ and it was transformative for her. Amazingly good program. Gray: I was in that program it was incredibly helpful

- Hoang: in 2014 when we changed mission to “libraries” not “librarians” – do we want to bring back “librarians and support staff” to our mission?
  - Bingham suggested in chat that they could do it and list VALE as a partner. Hilliker suggested this way is consistent and potential for growth and stronger collaboration/partnership. LibraryLinkNJ + VALE, we leverage our relationship, it points out the “more than a buying club” component of VALE.
  - Pavlovsky: Our members’ council is made up of chief admin of the member libraries, it is in the best interest of the member libraries and VALE to have more efficient middle managers. I don’t see this as outside of our mission at all.
  - Hoang: we don’t need to reinvent the wheel, part of our strategic plan is to increase, leverage, and strengthen partnerships between LibraryLink, NJLA, NJSL. What are the next steps? Hilliker: I will reach out to Ralph, Consuela, & Danianne to set up a meeting.
- B. Proposed FY2024 Executive Committee & Members Council Meeting Calendar (Cole)
- Cole sent out proposed meeting dates. Please take a look and add your comments. Please bring your feedback to the July meeting. Draft schedule is in the meeting folder.
  - Middlesex Confirmed for NJ Academic Libraries Conference
- C. Change to the July Executive Committee meeting, Thursday, July 13, 2023 (originally scheduled on 7/6/23)
- Hoang proposed to move to the following Thursday (July 13).
  - July 13 does not work for most – Cole to follow up with EC members with a Doodle poll to select a new date.
- VII. **Adjournment and Future Topics for Discussion** (Hoang)
- Pavlovsky to Cole: now that bylaws are accepted, the website needs to be updated. Everything in yellow is changed or new. Hoang: Thank you to everyone who contributed to the gift for JT, it will be sent to him over the weekend.
  - Pavlovsky moved to adjourn, Hilliker seconded.
  - Meeting adjourned at 2:37 pm
  - Next meeting TBD.