

ALA Annual Conference 2008, Anaheim
ACRL LES Section ALL Committees Meeting – Membership Committee

Monday, June 30th, 8-10am

Agenda:

- I. Reports
 - a. LES Executive Committee—Priscilla
 - b. ACRL Membership Advisory Committee—Elizabeth
- II. Mentorship program/networking initiative
- III. Discussion topic for Midwinter 2009

Minutes:

Attending: Tammy Voelker, Elizabeth Peterson, Priscilla Finley, Jaena Hollingsworth.

Minutes recorded by Jaena Hollingsworth.

- I. Reports
 - a. LES Executive Committee
 - i. LES, in collaboration with WESS, has created a task force to establish a liaison from ACRL to the Modern Language Association (MLA). This liaison will go to the MLA Conference. The task force will also look into forming a libraries discussion group at MLA.
 - ii. The incoming LES Chair has been asked to create a strategic plan for the group. Angela Courtney and Karen Munro are looking at ACRL's strategic plan and goals to see where LES's goals match up with those of the larger organization. LES's recruitment and retention activities/goals are important for the LES Membership Committee. Angela Courtney and Karen Munro should be notified within the next two weeks if this group wants to request funding.
 - b. ACRL Membership Advisory Committee
 - i. Last year's Annual Conference had focus groups on why people join ACRL and what factors influence their decisions to stay or leave the organization. The ACRL Membership Advisory Committee has a document summarizing these discussions. Based on this document, a list of "best practices" was created by the group.
 - ii. Mentorship programs have been identified as being extremely important in recruitment and retention. These programs should focus on how to progress in the profession by pairing individuals with more seasoned librarians, using a conference buddy system, and also creating cohorts of new members. These programs should also focus on making section activities relevant and on tool sets.
 - iii. Communication is also crucial to recruitment and retention. ACRL sections should be sending out welcoming emails that include projects or programs new members can get involved in.
 - iv. ACRL will probably create its own list of "best practices" based on the comments from last year's focus groups.

- II. Mentoring Program/Networking Initiative
 - a. LES already has a publicly-available member directory in the form of a static document, which is also posted to the LES wiki. The committee would prefer a database for this information.
 - b. Next Steps: Elizabeth will talk to Chris, LES's new webmaster, to see if she can set up a dynamic database to collect and display information on LES members who choose to participate in the mentoring program. If this is not possible, the committee will try to use an online survey tool to collection information from members, pull that information into an Excel file, and load that file onto the LES website or wiki.
 - c. The following information would be needed for the LES Networking Directory:
 - i. LES Member Name
 - ii. Title, Institution, Contact Information
 - iii. Interests (open text field)
 - iv. Strengths (open text field)
 - v. I'm looking for (choose one or more of the following): conference ambassador, publication collaboration, career advice, reviewer for tenure dossier.
 - vi. I can be/provide (choose one or more of the following): conference ambassador, publication collaboration career advice, reviewer for tenure dossier.
- III. Discussion Forum Topic for Midwinter 2009
 - a. Discussion Forum Meeting is now 1 ½ hours (instead of 2).
 - b. Topic: Active Learning
 - c. Next Steps: Elizabeth will put out a call for LES active learning assignments in August, and then re-send the call in October. Speakers will be selected in early December. Committee will plan discussion questions/facilitation via email prior to the Midwinter meeting.

Meeting adjourned 9:45 am.