

# ACRL Chapters Council Meeting ALA Midwinter January 9, 2011 8-10am

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Present: Mark Lenker, Chair (Virginia); Rickey Best, Vice-Chair (Alabama); Danielle Whren Johnson, Secretary (Maryland); Les Kong (California); Kathy A. Parsons (Iowa); Cynthia Dudenhoffer (Missouri); Jennifer Nutefall (Oregon); Regina Beard (Kansas); Nancy Weiner (New Jersey); Amy Eklund (Georgia); Pat Newland (Delaware Valley); Rhonda Huisman (Indiana); Laurie Swartwout (Wisconsin); Carole Myles (New England)

Mark Lenker-Chair of Chapters Council explained the mission of Chapters Council as a forum for communications and support between chapters and between ACRL National. He touched briefly on some of the agenda items for the meeting including the Chapters Online Communications Committee trying to expand sharing between chapters and the ACRL Executive Council asking the Chapters Council to provide feedback on the new strategic plan. He also explained that ACRL provides funding to each chapter at the rate of \$1 per chapter member. Rickey Best will be chairing a committee to get more than the current rate.

Steven Bell, candidate for ACRL President addressed the Chapters Council in regards to his candidacy and took questions from the members. Bell got his start in the Delaware Valley chapter and then got involved with ACRL National. He indicated that further information about the candidates will be available in a future issue of CR&L News, which will have a candidate statement and bio for each of the candidates. Bell said that the work of chapters is vitally important to ACRL, and as president he hopes to better leverage the talent, energy, and enthusiasm you find at the chapter level. He often hears there is a disconnect between the chapters and national. In order to get people more engaged at national level he wants to not only promote the value of libraries, but also the value of librarians. As such he would propose an initiative, The Open Innovation Project, a national level effort that would engage members at the local level, as well as non-members. Bell indicated that there is declining membership in most of the sections and said that ACRL needs to turn that around and figure out how to make people see there is a value for them in becoming a member. ACRL needs to get people who have not had an opportunity to participate involved. He mentioned that there is a potential change in ACRL bylaws over dues. ACRL needs to rethink their dues structure so new members are paying less. Rickey Best asked, "If you're elected what would you like to see Chapters Council do to better interact with you?"

Bell responded that he hopes the Open Innovation Project will help with this. It will help ACRL figure out what problems we have and identify the top ideas and solutions.

Kathy Parsons asked about the additional recruitment money of \$10 per head of chapter members who join National. She indicated that it seems really hard to actually get that money and suggested that this is money that could just be allocated back to the chapters.

Bell responded that perhaps this is not a program that is working to build the membership and it's one of the things we need to rethink. There are many things we need to rethink. ACRL needs to provide virtual memberships and the dues structure for that.

Leslie Kong shared that even though we try and hammer home that we are part of ACRL National, people don't actually connect that.

Bell responded, again this is how we need to get over the disconnect between local and national. Perhaps there isn't a strong message about how this is important.

Rhonda Huisman asked, "How do you feel about recruiting students?"

Bell responded that he thinks it's great. We really need to get students involved and seeing themselves as academic librarians and to see that ACRL is a professional family for them.

Next, Rickey Best called for approval of the minutes from last meeting. They did not get posted on Connect, so paper copies were available on the table. Members should get with Danielle Whren Johnson or Rickey Best if there are any corrections, otherwise they are considered approved. A call for approval was taken, seconded, and the minutes were approved.

A report was then given by the Online Communications Committee--Mark Lenker, Kathy Parsons, and Danielle Whren Johnson. They have been meeting over DimDim, which is an online conferencing software. They have been exploring ways to expand communications among chapters. Lenker was looking through Chapters Topics for ideas and found there are lots of cool things going on at the chapters and it would be great to be able to share these ideas and get more information about them. He noted that it is not as easy to meet face-to-face anymore, so it would be nice to have an exchange available in an electronic venue. However, the real challenge is generating buy-in among our members to actually participate in some sort of online exchange. Lenker reviewed the Online Committee Report handout given out at the meeting indicating that based on their work the committee was looking into models found in other ACRL sections such as wikis and blogs. Rhonda Huisman asked how many members send out the chapters topics newsletter to their chapter members indicating that it allows more ideas to get used that way. Lenker noted that ALA Connect hasn't really caught on for use in Chapters Council and that the committee wanted to be intentional about what we wanted in an online venue. Rickey Best asked, what about a forum for discussion on something that might be of interest to a large group of people. It might require a webcast or something that we can post. Leslie Kong asked, what about posting a best practices section, i.e. things that have worked well for chapters regarding conferences or workshops. Regina Beard pointed out that it is also a good idea to know what didn't work and that maintaining things will be an important part of this. We will need to make sure spam is not taking over forums, or making sure content is kept up-to-date and contributed to.

Ideas for a blog were shared, and it was asked what would regular contributing mean? Certain chapters take certain months? Commitment to there being a post on specific days of the month? In addition to forums like blogs and wikis it was also suggested to try and have a virtual meeting at some point. The next step will probably be creating some type of survey for the membership. Lenker informed the group that there will be a work group meeting today at 4-5:30 in Hilton Bayfront Aqua 305 for anyone who is interested in joining the committee to continue to work on these issues.

Rickey Best then addressed a resolution to increase ACRL Funding to local chapters. He indicated that ACRL is looking at ways to change their dues structure. He placed a call for volunteers to work with him to draft a resolution to move forward on getting reimbursements to local chapters that is commensurate with national dues increases. Leslie Kong (CA) and Mark Lenker volunteer to help draft the resolution.

Next members from the ACRL National Leadership addressed the Chapters Council. Lisa Hinchliffe, ACRL President, shared the following with the attendees: The Value Report is an important part of ACRL's current focus. A membership survey said that this is the main thing they need help going forward with at the moment. ACRL is currently drafting a new strategic plan--The Plan for Excellence. The value of academic libraries, research and scholarly communication, and student learning are the 3 areas focused on in new plan. The spring ballot will include items for bylaws for which the Board of Directors is encouraging a yes vote. Currently a dues increase requires a vote of the full membership. In a more viable model as found in other professional associations, the Board of Directors would have the authority to make an annual adjustment in dues no greater than the change in the Higher Education Price Index.

Mary Ellen Davis, ACRL Executive Director promoted the ACRL Conference in Philadelphia. She suggested that if you can't attend face-to-face, take advantage of the virtual conference. Registration for the virtual conference opens Feb. 8. The face-to-face conference has a group registration rate for 10 people or more. She also shared that the volunteer form is up for committee appointments and will remain open until Feb. 15. They will potentially be looking for vice-chairs. If you don't know what you want to do, there is an option to say I want to help put me where you need me most.

Davis explained the officers speakers program. ACRL National funds 6 officer visits to chapters per year. You can make a request for a specific officer, but may not get them. The real foundation of the program is for people to know what is going on in National, but also each officer has their own expertise so can speak to those as well.

Rickey Best explained that Chapters Council gets to nominate two members for the ACRL Board as Directors-at-Large and placed a call for nominations.

Nominations were received for Judith Pinnolis and Laurie Swartwout. Best asked that any additional nominations be emailed to him at [rbest@aum.edu](mailto:rbest@aum.edu) within the next week.

Best shared the information for the evenings Dine Around. It will be at Maloney's Tavern 777 5th street, San Diego 2nd floor at 6:30.

Lenker indicated that a new editor is needed for the Chapters Topics newsletter. Based on feedback from the current editor he explained that it requires 7-8 per semester putting together the newsletter.

Lenker also put out a call for nominations for vice-chair and secretary. Nominations should be sent to Rickey Best. Elections will be at Annual.

Lenker next asked for feedback regarding the ACRL Plan for Excellence. Feedback included the following:

Commendation was provided for the briefness of the strategic plan.

It was asked if anyone knows what methods they are going to use for assessment?

Objective 3 of Value of Academic Libraries should also mention at the local and state level rather than just the national level to emphasize that this is not just the ACRL office pushing stuff.

Objective 3 of Value of Academic Libraries also has awkward phrasing or a typo. It seems like it needs an “and” between conversations and activities

It was also indicated that ACRL is going to need to include some sort of best practices link somewhere. They need to have a consistent process throughout higher education to document what each institution is doing to promote the goals.

It was also pointed out that there are no action steps in the strategic plan. Is there another document somewhere else that tells us how to actually carry out the goals and objectives? Student Learning Objective 4 should not necessarily just focus on graduate students. It was pointed out that many future educators are not necessarily graduate students, therefore the objective should be focused on future educators and not specify graduate students. Lenker encouraged members to also feel free to provide feedback as individuals.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00.