

Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section
Minutes of Executive Board Conference Call Meeting
April 11, 2006, 2:00 p.m.

Present: Michael Slinger, Chair; Suzanne Thorpe, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect; Carole Hinchcliff, Immediate Past Chair; Susan Lewis-Somers, Secretary-Treasurer; Carol Bredemeyer, Executive Board Member.

1. Call to order – Michael Slinger

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. 2006 election

The AALL election procedure for all SIS and chapter online elections requires each member to have a separate election password for each election, separate from that member's AALLnet password and separate from any other SIS or chapter election password.

This HQ requirement to use separate passwords for elections has caused confusion among ALL-SIS members. Many members did not realize the significance of the password notification, sent from HQ by email to each member, and they deleted the message. Others misplaced their passwords, sent several days before the election began. Many members thought they were supposed to use their AALLnet passwords to vote, as they had done the previous year, and were confused when it didn't work.

Susan posted a note to the ALL-SIS listserv explaining the situation, and the difference between the various passwords, and she invited members who did not have their election passwords to contact her to obtain them. She was inundated with password requests from members who did not realize they needed a separate password to vote.

The Board may recommend to the AALL Executive Board and Susan Fox that future elections allow members to use their AALLnet passwords, as was done in the 2004-2005 online elections. If this isn't possible, then the Board may recommend that the election password email notices be better designed to catch the recipient's attention.

In addition, the technical support provided by HQ staff for the SIS setup of the election site was minimal, possibly because the SISs were not charged a fee to use the election software, as the chapters were. The Board may also recommend that the SISs be given the option to pay HQ a fee, to pay for the uploading of the large SIS roster in the specific format desired by HQ and other technical assistance.

3. Member survey

The Membership Committee has received over 300 responses to its 2006 member survey, so far, a much larger response than the 2004 survey received. The survey will remain

available through the month of April. The Committee will send the results to the Board when they are available.

4. Annual Meeting update

ALL-SIS reception

Michael and Pam Reisinger concluded an agreement for bus service, to transport members to the ALL-SIS reception.

Phil Berwick, host of the reception at Washington University, has been working with a caterer and seems to have these arrangements well in hand.

VIP guest

Michael has sent an invitation to Hulett (Bucky) Askew, incoming ABA Consultant on Legal Education, to be the special VIP guest of ALL-SIS at the annual meeting.

2007 Annual Meeting scheduling

The 2007 Annual Meeting will be on a new schedule, running from Saturday to Tuesday, with the Closing Banquet to be held on Tuesday evening. The Board discussed how this would affect the date of the ALL-SIS reception, traditionally held on Tuesday evening. A buffet luncheon was discussed as one possibility, along with moving the evening reception to another night.

The Board will try to make a decision before this year's Annual Meeting, so it may be announced in St. Louis. Suzanne will contact AALL Vice President Sally Holterhoff to try to clarify the new schedule.

ALL-SIS programs

Lee Peoples, Chair of the Program Committee, submitted information about this year's ALL-SIS programs at the Annual Meeting to Spectrum.

5. Centennial Committee planning

The survey distributed to members via the ALL-SIS listserv by the Centennial Committee has not received a large response, so far. This may be because it asks too much of busy survey-takers, with many thought-provoking questions.

The committee will meet later this week and will report back to Suzanne on their plans for the survey and their Centennial Celebration plans for the ALL-SIS reception.

6. Bylaws proposal

Tom Hanley, Chair of the Bylaws Committee, will send Michael the formal draft proposal for this year's Bylaws amendments. Once the Board has approved the proposed amendments, Michael will send them on to the AALL Bylaws Committee for their approval.

7. Awards and grants

Carole will contact Ed Edmonds, Chair of the Awards Committee, to see if they have decided on this year's award and grant recipients. The deadline for applications was March 31.

8. Listserv discussion topics

Suzanne received only a few responses to the topical query she posted to the ALL-SIS listserv for discussion. It may be necessary for each topic moderator to coax the discussion along by posting follow-up questions.

Carole will handle the next topical discussion, but will wait until after the election has ended on April 26 to pose the next question.

The Board believes it is still worthwhile to generate topical discussions on the listserv. The forthcoming results of the member survey will reveal whether members agree.

9. Committee reports

The annual committee reports will be due to Michael on June 12.

Relations with Online Vendors

The AALL Executive Board will discuss the CRIV report on Project COUNTER at its next conference call meeting. It will address how Project COUNTER is to be used and how SISs may use it.

Newsletter Committee

Leah Sandwell-Weiss, Chair of the Newsletter Committee, has agreed to add a special election issue, to be published after the deadline for candidate biographical statements to be submitted to the Secretary, March 1.

Collection Development

Connie Lenz, Co-Chair of the Collection Development Committee, says they have completed a collection of law library collection development policies, to be posted on the ALL-SIS web page.

10. New business

Suzanne has surveyed this year's committee chairs, in an effort to decide which committees to keep or discontinue next year when she will be ALL-SIS Chair. She will send her findings to the Board. She will solicit committee volunteers in early May.

Michael asked the Board to notify him of notable ALL-SIS accomplishments, to be added to his annual report.

The Board's plans for a campaign to recruit existing AALL members who are academic law librarians, but not members of ALL-SIS, will be deferred until next year, after the survey results have been analyzed.

Michael will send a note to the directors' listserv to urge them to encourage their staff to join ALL-SIS. His note will highlight SIS events, opportunities for committee participation and leadership opportunities. He will send a second note to the ALL-SIS listserv to encourage members to renew their memberships and to encourage their academic colleagues who are not members to join ALL-SIS.

The Board would like to further publicize the Legal Research Sourcebook, and agrees that an advertisement for the Sourcebook in Spectrum would be a good use of SIS funds. Susan will contact Paul Howard and Kathy Hall, Sourcebook Committee Co-Chairs, to ask them to draft language that would tout Sourcebook features for an advertisement.

11. Next conference call – Michael Slinger

The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 9, 2006 at 2:00 EST.

12. Adjournment – Michael Slinger

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:15.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Lewis-Somers, Secretary-Treasurer