

Minutes

Teleconference Board Meeting 24 & 25 May 2012

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Present: Kumar Jayasuriya, Leah Sandwell-Weiss, Debora Person and Edward Hart

1. Approved Minutes of April 20, 2012
2. Give aways for Activity Area Table
Budget of \$1,000 was approved at prior
3. Committee Reports
Need by 15 June to be compiled for the section's report to AALL.
4. Reports from U.S. News Report Task Force and Task Force on the ALL-SIS website.
5. Reports from Task Force to Evaluate Legal Skills report and Task Force on Library Marketing Outreach (Appendix B of minutes 20 April 2012) to be reviewed by 29 May before their publication.
6. ALL-SIS Reception
Bloomberg BNA is our sponsor and program under development.
7. Business Meeting
No speaker. Strategic planning discussion Merle Slyhoff is be a topic discussion.
8. Call for volunteers
Leah sent out survey yesterday.
9. E-communities
Board expresses continued concerned about the limitations of the AALL e-communities.
One example is lack of ability reply to individual posters.
Propose meeting in Boston
10. Archival Web
SIS Archive Committee wants to preserve the current websites.

AALL will save these pages, but they will not be publicly accessible.
Need to find out timeline for AALL's change of websites.
Suggest a meeting in Boston.

11. Open ALL-SIS Website to Non-Members

In short run, webmaster may provide ALL-SIS password to non-members library students, who are student members of AALL, and other AALL members who are not members of ALL-SIS and contributed to ALL-SIS toolkits.

General question is do we need to password this content?

How will changes in the website planned for this summer effect the ability to password protect ALL-SIS content?

Committee Updates

Bylaws

No Update

CALI

Conference to review lesson applications, AALL activities, changes to their manual which will be forward to board for approval.

Student Services

Four roundtable discussions at their session at AALL. Poster session to be arranged.

Newsletter

No update.

Continuing Education Committee

Finishing up application form for research grant.

Statistics Committee

Chair: James Donovan

At today's teleconference, the Stats Committee reviewed the forwarded US News & World Report Task Force Report, and had these comments:

- 1) The first recommendation and the attached letter did not indicate whether the TF was aware of the work done on this problem by Theodore Seto, who both wrote on the topic and presented at the 2007 AALLL meeting. His work is notable among all the previous writings on the US News rankings for parsing out with some specificity the impact the library has on a school's ranking, based on the then-current criteria: 0.75%. It seems unlikely that this figure has changed much in the intervening years. This committee calls this to your attention for two reasons:
 - a. the expert analysis suggested by this first recommendation seems already to exist, and therefore it may be unnecessary for ALL-SIS to do more than update the available conclusions.
 - b. In light of Seto's work, the problem seems not to be how the library data are reported, but the size of the impact library data will have, whatever form it takes. If ALL-SIS intends to lobby US News for significant changes, the first preference should perhaps be to increase the importance of the library for determining the school's rank. Otherwise it makes little sense for ALL-SIS to expend much effort worrying about what data are used to calculate a factor that is, in most cases, insignificant to the school's final rank.

- 2) The second TF recommendation proposes that ALL-SIS search for alternative ways to report library data, beyond volume count. We agree with the TF that volume count is an uninformative statistic in this context, because, as Seto concludes, it reflects the past commitment of the school to the library, and not the current commitment which should be more relevant to assigning rank. The suggestion in the cover letter that this alternative might be found in budget data may be a step in the right direction, but only, in our opinion, were it normed in some way. Rich private schools will always spend more than small public ones, so in that sense the raw numbers would merely reflect that initial reality. Library Expenditures per student+faculty was one suggested alternative, keeping within the context specified by the TF that the data used be from the limited information within the ABA questionnaire. Another possibility is to express expenditures as a function of the student/faculty ratio, a figure US News already includes. We believe that such figures would be more meaningful than either the current volume counts, or a raw expenditures amount. We did not discuss whether better results would be obtained by using different variations of expenditure reports (e.g., materials, materials + supplies and other infrastructural outlays, or whether this should include salaries).