ALL-SIS EB Meeting

May 8, 2018

1. Meeting called to order.
2. Motion to approve April minutes: approved.
3. Treasurer’s update: no changes or expenditures since last month. We can expect to receive a quarterly statement for 1Q18 at some point in the next 4-6 weeks.
   a. Only expenditures thus far: grants ($2,000 research and $5,500 travel) and the transfer to TS-SIS ($750)
4. Annual Meeting
   a. Caroline has ordered food and AV for all three breakfasts.
   b. The local arrangements committee and the University of Baltimore are handling all arrangements for reception directly, including transportation.
   c. We did not order AV for any of the roundtables.
   d. Sign ordering hasn’t happened yet.
5. Awards Committee
   a. This year we received no nominees for the Hicks Award or the Outstanding Service award. The board was not aware of the lack of nominees until after the deadline had passed.
   b. The committee received one nominee for the Outstanding Article award, but it was for a bibliography available only in digital format via HeinOnline. Not all committee members (or board members) had access. It did not appear to meet any accepted definition of the term “article.”
   c. In preparation for next year, we will ask the committee to report to the board one month in advance of the awards due date to allow time to drum up nominees or extend deadlines, if needed.
   d. The committee also raised a separate question related to the Outstanding Article Award. They offered two proposals to expand the works eligible for awards: either a broader “Legal Literature” award to apply to non-article publications, or a separate award specifically for books and book chapters.
      i. Caroline described a concern expressed by some directors is that scholarship is being lost in our profession. We should hesitate to undercut an award for any kind of scholarly endeavor. We would like to keep the Outstanding Article Award as it is, but be open to adding another award that would recognize books, book chapters, bar journals—things other than law reviews.
      ii. The board agreed to return this to the committee with the following instructions: we will retain the Outstanding Article Award that we already have—if it needs to be edited to add a definition of “article,” that is fine. We love the idea of creating a second award that would focus on a scholarly contribution in book, book chapter, column, blog, or other non-traditional materials as long as there is a scholarly component and accessibility beyond a paywall. (In other words, to be eligible, all committee members and board members must have some kind of access provided, either in print or online from
We don’t want to fix what we saw as a problem this year—we want to set up something positive for the future.

1. Genevieve will respond—will ask for turnaround before June 1.

6. Business Meeting
   a. This will likely happen at the end of June.
   b. Last year we used Kate Irwin-Smiler’s webinar platform to host the meeting. Caroline will reach out to Chris Siwa and Kate and see what our options are.

7. Updates from SIS Council: The AALL Board met to discuss the task force proposal for TS-SIS and OBS-SIS. The proposal was unsuccessful. There’s been further discussion about where to go from there—one plan is to go to the membership with a vote to potentially force funding.
   a. Prano was heavily involved in this effort. The result is disappointing; some see AALL’s leadership as “out of touch” on this issue. We continue to see this as a Special Interest Section issue, as opposed to an issue only for Tech Services. However, at this juncture we believe the Tech Services folks can decide what they need and want to ask for, and we will be prepared to offer our support.
   b. The AALL Board meeting also discussed communication issue and the perceived lack of transparency. Caroline’s takeaway was that this was a larger issue among members and within the SISs. This was also not well-received. There seems to have been some conflation of this general problem and the TS/OBS-SIS issue in particular.

8. Author Agreements
   a. I-Wei had asked us about getting copyright for the newsletter; specifically about implementing use of an author agreement modeled on that used by Law Library Journal. Caroline reached to Kate Hagen and circulated her response.
      i. Kate responded: “AALL has two types of releases for content creation. One mirrors the release we use for AALL Spectrum. (Which is the same for LLJ.) This is used when members contribute an article or written piece to a publication. In that case the member retains rights to the “article,” while granting AALL publication rights. We have another release for content that is developed as part of an entity project, with multiple contributors. Examples of this would be the AALL Guide to Fair Business Practices for Legal Publishers or the Principles and Standards for Legal Research Competencies. Since these types of products, are not individual articles or works, and also require review and updates for future editions, the copyright is with AALL.”
      ii. We see the Newsletter as being more like Spectrum and less like an entity project.
      iii. We will return this to the Newsletter committee and advise on whether this is something they actively want to fix or adjust (or not) and to propose specific language if they want to make a change.

9. Newsletter Editor
   a. I-Wei has recommended Katie Hanschke to take over the newsletter. She can commit to a four year term and has several specific recommendations for incremental changes, including making the newsletter more web-friendly and reducing the number of issues produced annually.
      i. Motion to accept I-Wei’s recommendation: unanimously approved.
ii. Caroline will follow up with Anna and I-Wei.

10. Election. The election concluded on April 25. All of the candidates and AALL have been notified. We can invite our two incoming board members to join us at our June meeting.

11. Board dinner. We will tentatively plan to hold our board dinner on Sunday night, after the ALL-SIS Reception (July 15). Genevieve will reach out to everyone to confirm availability.

12. Adjourned