Minutes of the OBS-SIS Executive Board Meeting
(Incoming/Outgoing)
Sunday, July 19, 2015, Philadelphia, PA

Present: Karen Selden, Chair; Marjorie Crawford, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect; Katrina Piechnik, Past Chair; Calmer Chattoo, incoming Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect; Melanie Cornell, Secretary/Treasurer; Barbara Ginzburg, Member-at-Large; Jennifer Noga, Member-at-Large; Jackie Magagnosc, incoming Member-at-Large and outgoing OCLC Committee Chair; Jason LeMay, incoming OCLC Committee Chair; Michael Maben, TSLL Editor; Marijah Sroczynski, OBS TSLL Representative; Kevin Carey, Local Systems Committee Chair.

Call to order/welcome
OBS Chair Karen Selden called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm. The Minutes from 2014 were accepted.

Secretary/Treasurer’s Report (Melanie Cornell)
OBS-SIS net meeting expenses for 2014 were $3070.47. Membership fees received 2014-15 totaled to $2345.00. We started 2014-15 with a balance of $4924.66, spent $3095.51, received $3847.92, and ended with $4827.07 as of June 30, 2015.

Jennifer Noga credited Katrina Piechnik and Jacki Magagnosc for setting up the 2015 OBS-SIS exhibit hall table. There are lots of puzzle balls, FROG grant information, and documentation. The TS/OBS/RIPS/CS-SIS Joint (Alphabet) Reception was well attended.

Vice Chair – Marjorie Crawford
OBS Education Committee for the 2015 AALL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia assisted with proposing seven programs and three of those proposals were accepted; two selected by AMPC and the 3rd supported by OBS. Marjorie worked primarily with Patricia Sayre-McCoy and Jackie Magagnosc on the joint OBS and TS BIBFRAME program proposal, an exciting and thought-provoking experience. It will not only bring content to the membership but AMPC came back and asked to schedule it as a deep-dive program.

Chair – Karen Selden
Thirteen people on the OBS Education Committee submitted seven ideas, of which three were selected, including OBS and TS teaming up for the BIBFRAME program. Perhaps it would be good to extend this synergy to also include CS in the future.

OBS member Sarah Morris Lin put together a User-Friendly Library Websites webinar for inclusion in AALL’s 2015 Monthly Educational Webinars series, broadcast to AALL members in March and April 2015.

The Task Force to Revise the Procedures and Guidelines of the OBS/TS Joint Research Grant submitted its final report to the OBS and TS Executive Boards. This report resulted in the creation of a new Guidelines document and a web-based application form, making the application easier and open to anyone. The contest to rename the grant ended in June 2015, resulting in the new grant name of FROG (Funding Research Opportunities Grant).

In March 2015, the Executive Board of AALL voted to discontinue funding several representative positions, effective in July 2015. Among them were the three TS-SIS representatives who also serve the needs and interests of many OBS members. OBS and TS-SIS Executive Boards asked the AALL Executive Board to reconsider this decision. The AALL Executive Board reconsidered and ultimately reversed their decision.

2015 CONELL – Katrina Piechnik & Jackie Magagnosc
Karen Selden thanked Katrina and Jackie for staffing the OBS table at the 2015 CONELL Marketplace, where there was some good interaction with new members with whom they pointed out, among other things, that it’s easy to get involved with OBS.
Education Committee (2016 Chicago) – Marjorie Crawford, Chair

For the 2016 annual meeting AALL President Keith Ann Stiverson has said that her theme will be “Make It New” and Marjorie believes her theme is as a consequence of challenges we’re facing in the legal profession because of fundamental and irreversible changes in the legal market. It is going to be a time for us to think about the programming we need to do our work. Marjorie suggested that one must have content area is supporting the ABA standards learning outcomes being mandated in the law school curriculum, the reform mandate that drives accountability. The model where we focused on the endpoint is no longer a viable model. The model must start with passing the bar, getting a job that requires a JD within 9 months after graduation. We are now in a data-driven assessment landscape. With that in mind, she encouraged attendance at the education committee meeting tomorrow. We don’t have to wait for AMPC content; we have an agenda already.

Local Systems Committee - Kevin Carey, Chair (2014-2016)

Work has been mainly focused on the annual meeting the last couple of years. The roundtable session is in full play. Thanks to Marjorie Crawford and Karen Selden for content for programming. There is interest in an ALMA group; Kathy Faust is going to head that up. If there’s broader interest in smaller user group business, feel free to make that known to me or if you have other suggestions for other work over the year.

Nominating Committee – Katrina Piechnik

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Betty Roeske, nominated two candidates to run for each of the three offices in the 2015 election. Katrina Piechnik agreed to administer the electronic election since then acting Secretary/Treasurer Melanie Cornell was running for election.


Jackie announced that she separately provided an annual report. The major issue for the OCLC Committee in terms of programming is that with Glenn Patton’s retirement we lost some continuity. We need to be aware of this and evaluate this going forward. OBS-SIS OCLC Update 2015 was less directly cataloging-oriented today. Based on feedback it looked like we needed a more cataloging-oriented person to present. It may be easier to do this next year since AALL will be in Chicago. The presenter this year did address what was coming, he took good notes and he didn’t get defensive. He was very open, honest, not personally bothered. He plans to send an email out after to respond to feedback and to share the augmented slides. It was good he was willing to say “I don’t know”.


Marijah deferred to Michael Maben…

TSLL Report – Michael Maben

Michael said we had an eventful, robust publication year, and four issues all out on time. Associate editor and Michael were both going on vacation, so had to be more adamant on deadline, but got it. Some changes over the year: Cynthia Davis took over for Michelle Thomas, and we published some special columns. When the Executive Board of AALL voted to discontinue funding several representative positions, including three TS-SIS representatives to different organizations, a lot of emails were exchanged back and forth. We should all be very proud of our leaders in the SIS’s and for the representatives, current and past, for what they wrote, because of their articulation of the issues. The AALL Executive Board ultimately reversed their decision, and Michael looks forward to another year of TSLL, including a conference issue in September. If anyone has any questions Michael would be happy to answer.

Web Advisory - Tim Knight, Chair

Karen Selden spoke on behalf of Tim that there were no issues to report and that Tim continues to be responsive.
New Business

2016 OBS VIP Ideas

Every year AALL Chapters and SIS’s are allowed to invite a VIP. In the past OBS has targeted locally based VIPs. A couple years ago we had Stephen bell. Our last was Nicole Engard, in San Antonio. AALL waives a VIP’s registration fee. If they’re not locally based, we have to pay our VIP’s housing and transportation. Can we think of someone Chicago-based to speak as our VIP at AALL 2016? It doesn’t have to be totally OBS-related; people who give good programs and make us think. ALA is Chicago-based so there could be some synergy there. Let Marjorie know!

Consider/Explore an SIS Name (& Scope/Mission?) Change?
   SARD (Systems and Resource Discovery)?
   OSDR (Online Systems & Resource Discovery)?

We all have heard that two SIS’s have changed their names already. OBS might want to consider also doing something like that. The current name “OBS” doesn’t resonate what it means. We started as the OCLC Committee, were a committee of Technical Services, and morphed into OBS over time. Marjorie said this is an opportunity for us to share our expertise/value, and to use a name that will set the record straight, to make it easier for the Association to rely on us for our expertise. Names represent skill sets. It doesn’t matter in terms of our value what our contribution is because it is experts who use information to solve problems, but we have to make clear why anyone should come to us for our expertise. To help outsiders know who to come to in a crisis, we need an appropriately descriptive name of three to five words.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Melanie Cornell
Secretary/Treasurer, 2015-2016
July 19, 2015