Minutes of the OBS-SIS Annual Business Meeting  
Monday, July 18, 2016, Chicago, IL

OBS Chair Marjorie Crawford called the official meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Welcome. I am delighted to see the faces of the OBS at the annual meeting. I’d like to thank in particular at the start of our business meeting our colleague Patricia Sayre-McCoy for taking us through from the program proposal process to our business meeting.

Moment of Silence in the Memory of Vice-Chair/Chair Elect Calmer Chattoo

A moment of silence in observance of the memory of our colleague, Calmer Chattoo. Calmer expired at the end of April and for those of you who did not have an opportunity to interact with Calmer, Calmer was Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect and I received an unfortunate email notice from her colleague telling us that Calmer had expired. We had an opportunity to work with Calmer in TS as well as in the OBS. You will be able to recall, I’m sure with some sadness, her sense of professionalism, how much she loved this profession and how she was fairly new to the profession. She embraced our mission and looked for the opportunity of being able to make the contribution of technical services librarians in our profession more transparent, with greater recognition within the association and at our individual law libraries. So now, I would like to just pause for a minute [MINUTE OF REFLECTION]. Thank you. I have been approached by some other AALL members who are interested in memorializing Calmer’s memory in a more permanent manner within the Association. One of the possibilities mentioned was a scholarship in her memory. So, I will stay in touch with a group of law librarians who are interested in doing something within AALL.

Business Meeting minutes of July 2015 were approved with one amendment to correct a misspelled first name (to change “Jacki” to “Jackie”).

Officer Reports:

Treasurer/Secretary – Melanie Cornell: The OBS-SIS net meeting expenses for 2015 were $1598.39. The membership fees received over the 2015-16 year totaled to $2255.00. We started this year with a balance of $4827.07. Over the year we spent $3002.89 and received $3659.50, ending with $5483.68 as of June 30th. Our 2016 election ran March 3-16 using AALL’s voting software. 25.1% of members voted, the results were shared with the executive board on March 17th.

Chair –

Our overall membership total edged upward slightly. Last year at this time our number was around 200 and when I checked last week it was 237. So, I think at the AALL annual meeting we probably went up to 230 because we have definitely increased for the next fiscal year by 7. We hope newer members, veterans, experts within AALL, will continue to join the OBS-SIS and I’ll certainly welcome feedback from you as to how we can encourage members of the other SIS’s to join our SIS. We’re considered one of the smallest SIS’s and the numbers do matter when it comes time to pay for program and annual meeting expenses. This year we managed to hold our costs. We increased our presence I believe at the annual meeting. But that’s very difficult when we have to pay $166.00 a gallon for coffee for the OCLC Update meeting, and that doesn’t include gratuity and taxes. So, that is an ongoing challenge for OBS-SIS.

I recently talked about whether OBS would be interested in being a focal point for pulling people together to try and push our discovery systems to being more responsive to some the things we’ve learned in programming today. I think we’ve never really paid a lot of attention to that, but I think that’s something we’re really suited for and I wondered whether we couldn’t start trying to have dialogue on what we want out of our discovery systems. That program today of BYU’s own system was just amazing. I don’t think we all have to go out and make our own systems, but I do think we could take some of the things they have discovered in their usability studies and work as a SIS to harness the power of this Association and talk to the vendors and get them to do similar things. Cataloging is undergoing dynamic changes. The discovery layers are helping. I think it’s good too because one of the things we discovered in Chicago is by having an ILS but a separate discover layer from our web end there’s a lot more locally involved in not just getting the data right but then getting it to display correctly. Things that aren’t mistakes still cause mistakes in the discovery layer and who else is going to fix this? I think this is an area we should try and address. It would raise visibility; everyone has discovery.

Barbara Ginzburg
My job this year was to do the bulletin board, which sort of threw me for a loop because I was planning on doing a table, so I had to rethink what I was doing but overall I think it went okay. If you know anyone who needs buttons, by all means grab one for them and pass them on, the buttons that are around the edges. I appreciate and I thank the people who submitted pictures and job descriptions because I think that’s an important thing as to indicate the variety of things that we all do. We’re not just the catalogers; we’re not just systems people.

Jackie Magagnosc
The Alphabet Soup Reception was extremely successfully. Planning it was challenging without breaking the bank, but I think we managed. The unknown was whether there would be sufficient traffic. We had to provide $500 worth of business at the bar and if we didn’t we’d have to cover our share of the difference. It came off well and people said that it was really good.

Marjorie will present a question to AALL about off-site. We used to go off site. Now they don’t let SIS’s do that, though Chapters get off-site. What is the difference between SIS and chapters?

Education Committee – Marjorie Crawford

Education Committee will be meeting right after this meeting. If you’re not able to join us, please share your thoughts in my community with the education committee or send me an email. This year our committee report is on the web, so I won’t go through those at this time.

At the leadership workshop each SIS had to talk about one innovative accomplishment this past year. I spotlighted the fact that during the program proposal process the Education Committee of the OBS started last July in reaching out to Micrographics SIS (new name: Digitization and Education SIS), CS and of course we continued our collaboration with TS. So, our program proposals included at the committee level representatives from each of those three SIS’s invited to participate with us. From the brainstorming of ideas to the curation of content we worked collaboratively. We were a novelty. This year I’m asking the OBS to do better than we did last year. I would like to reach across and invite one representative from each SIS to work with the Education Committee on developing a proposal. It brings in each SIS based on their mission to be a part of developing a program. The Executive Board expressed an interest in seeing cross collaboration between the SIS’s going forward. They’re trying to move away from the silo structure where the SIS’s are competing against each other. The idea scale is already up. If you have an idea, just go submit it. People put in ideas, then teams come up with the must-haves. People will be encouraged to submit programs. PLEASE SUBMIT IDEAS!

2016 CONELL – Patricia Alavyay

Various people were interested in joining. I had 3 law firm librarians came up. They will be expected to do reference and cataloging and they haven’t really ever done cataloging before. I tried to ask some questions like what system they were using but they didn’t really know, so I gave them my card and they said they were going to email me, but that’s something to think about for programming, maybe: law firms. I think most are using EOS and EOS doesn’t have a user group. If we could target them, maybe they could start coming to local systems and then we could do programming. If we wanted to do a workshop targeting law firms, maybe a law firm would let us use their space.
Committee Reports:


We talked to the executive boards of both OBS and TS and the former ex-officio member about advertising, what we could do to get more people to want to sign up for this research grant. It has a rolling deadline. It can now be anything. I think the problem is most people don’t have time to do any kind of research. If they’re doing research as part of an RFP for a system or doing usability studies, I think that would qualify. Anything you just happen to be researching. You have to write something up for TSLL. Can you hire a grant to hire a student assistant to do number crunching? Yes. Hire an anthropology student from your university to do observe how your students search things, how they think about things like trying to figure out your discovery layer. This might qualify. We tried to make it as easy as possible. The last time the grant was awarded was years ago. Welcome Gypsy Moody as 2016-2018 representative.

Local Systems Committee – Patricia Alvayay, Member

Meeting is tomorrow. It’s going to be just a round table for ALMA, Voyager, or whatever; people invited to get together and talk. Some ideas would be to have a rep show up, or bring in the PLL’s. EOS could be invited. EOS sites are struggling because there is no user group, this could help them have some kind of collective.

2015-2016 Nominating Committee – Sarah Lin, Member

The Nominating Committee’s report has been posted on the web.

OCLC Committee – Jason LeMay, Chair (2015-2017)

One thing we are going to do next year is coordinate to avoid conflicts. People are doing more things so are torn more. Some meetings aren’t physically on site at the conference, but are being held virtually to reduce conflict. ALL-SIS did this with their Business Meeting. They had an amazing speaker on site this year in exchange for holding the business meeting virtually. Spontaneous conversation is more difficult with Webex. However, the TS Acquisitions roundtable on LMA and PDA this past Spring was found to be very useful. We could all talk using just a conference call, no video component, and we had a great discussion.


New representative, Sara Campbell, will commence soon on her term.

TSLL Report – Michael Maben

I submitted my report on the web site. We published four issues. I was very appreciative of my Associate Editor, Sabrina Davis, Layout and Design Editor, Julie Stauffer, and Web Manager, Martin Wisneski. We got the issues out on schedule. We had a few columnist changes, including Jasen LeMay on the OCLC column. We had fewer guest columns. Looking forward to another publishing year.

Web Advisory – Tim Knight, Chair

Web Advisory Chair will be stepping down this year. We’re open to recommendations for the web master position. It would be helpful for someone to write up what skills the web master needs and what programs the web master works with.
New Business:

2017 OBS VIP Ideas

For the 2017 OBS VIP, if you have thoughts please forward them to the Education Committee. We haven’t had a VIP for at least two years. We discussed having a VIP for the 2016 annual meeting at the Executive Board level however we decided in the interest of declining revenues that this year we would not make that expenditure. However, the possibility of having a VIP is always open for discussion. There may be someone in Austin; someone local.

Membership Recruitment

We need to continue to discuss membership recruitment. We need to continue face to face, voice-to-voice contact with newer AALL members. The research data supports people like to be asked personally. They do not like to be considered thought of as a volunteer and they prefer a personal ask opposed to a virtual email ask. Virtual asks result in zero responses. We need to welcome and connect with newer members. We need to ask an individual where we think it wouldn’t be burdensome to them to accept and we are more likely to find them receptive to joining us to work on a task that has an end date.

For every SIS you can go onto your membership list to see who is a member. It’s just an A-Z list so it’s hard to tell the newest OBS members. Somewhere on the page is a report function which may pull who new members are. There’s a webinar about it now accessible; they did the webinars live sometime this Spring and recorded them, listed somewhere on AALL’s page.

Introduction of Vice-Chair, Chair-Elect, Jennifer Noga

I asked Marjorie for the briefest of moments at the end of the meeting as an opportunity to take a brief moment on behalf of OBS to extend our sincere gratitude to you, Marjorie, for your excellent leadership this year. I think the wonderful programs that we have this year and the high profile of this section have certainly been in large part due to your leadership.

On behalf of OBS, Jennifer Noga presented a gift of gratitude to Marjorie Crawford for her past year of service as Chair. Likewise, Marjorie Crawford presented to Barbara Ginzburg a certificate of appreciation for her two years of service as Member-at-Large.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Melanie Cornell, Secretary/Treasurer, 2015-2017