RI PS-SIS Executive Board Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2020

Attendees: Taryn Marks (SIS Chair), Nicole Downing, Zanada Joyner, Becky Mattson, Clanitra Stewart Nejdl, Genevieve Tung

The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 4:00 PM Eastern.

A. New Business
   a. Survey feedback and next steps
      i. The Board agrees that the draft survey is great. Taryn will send it out to past Chairs and Vice-Chairs and give about a two-week period for feedback.

   b. Bylaws proposal from Alyson Drake re: nominations committee
      i. The Bylaws technically permit only 3 members; and don’t allow an executive Board member on the committee. Alyson suggested modifying to allow for more members; and to consider having the immediate past chair be part of the Nominations committee, since that person may have knowledge about potential candidates
        1. The Board discussed changing this language. Ideas include changing the composition of the Committee to be a minimum of 3 people and whether to have the Immediate Past Chair serve on the Committee.
        2. There was discussion of the origins of this in the Bylaws. The most recent changes to the Bylaws were in 2017 and prior to that it was in 2004. The Bylaws date back to 1979.
        3. Genevieve is going to check with the other SISes as to whether their Executive Board members serve on the Nominating Committee.
        4. Taryn is going to touch base with the AALL Bylaws Committee, which would have to approve any changes to the Bylaws.
           a. It will take about 6 to 8 weeks to get feedback from the AALL Bylaws Committee
           b. The question was raised about why an Executive Board member shouldn’t be on the Nominating Committee. Genevieve is going to check with the other SISes about how they handle the situation and Taryn is going to touch base with the AALL Bylaws Committee who would have to approve any bylaws changes.
5. It takes an average of 6-8 weeks to get feedback from the AALL Bylaws Committee.

6. The SIS members must have 30 days’ notice of the vote.

7. Once the additional information is gathered, we will address this at a future meeting.

B. Committee Updates
   a. Grants Committee (Becky)
      i. The Chair reported that there is nothing in the 2019-2020 folder for the Committee. Becky is working with the Chair to get the needed information.

   b. Legal Research Competencies (Clanitra)
      i. Post-meeting info: Due to her other responsibilities, Mari Cheney has had to resign as the Chair of the Committee. Theresa Tarves has agreed to Chair the Committee. A Vice-Chair will be identified soon.

   c. Legal Research Teach-In (Taryn)
      i. The Committee has created a subcommittee to think about a better way to organize the Teach-In Kit.
      ii. There is the possibility of creating a 2-to-3-year taskforce on the Teach-In Kit organization.
      iii. The Committee met and decided to pursue a project through which a mini teach-in kit will be released in December that captures recent online materials and tips and advice.

   d. Membership Task Force (Genevieve)
      i. The Task Force met a couple of weeks ago to review the survey results and brainstorm.
      ii. There were great ideas about adapting current RIPS-SIS projects and being more inclusive of non-academics. (About 12.5% of RIPS-SIS members are non-academic.)
      iii. There was much interest in programming.
      iv. The discussion could lead to a new Committee focused on membership outreach and peer connections for newer law librarians, as well as additional roles for certain committees.
      v. The Board had general discussion at this time of ways to engage non-academic members of RIPS-SIS
         1. Idea: Including law firm and government law library information in the RIPS-SIS Teach-In Kit.
e. Nominations (Zanada)
   i. There is no additional information besides the Bylaws issue addressed earlier.

f. Online Training (Nicole)
   i. The Committee met recently. The Chair, Matt Timko, is brainstorming with Alyson Drake about a potential training for Fall 2020.
   ii. There was also discussion at the recent meeting about the possibility of partnering with the BLL-SIS Programming and Education Committee.

g. Patron Services (Zanada)
   i. The Committee is planning to hold a 5 Conversations in 5 Days on “Patron Services in a Pandemic.”
   ii. It will cover various challenges, successes, new resources, and tools discovered. It will also assist all patron types of tech issues in the remote access world.
   iii. Longer-term goal: Toolkit on hiring and managing students who work in law libraries.

h. Program Committee (Becky)
   i. AALL extended the Call for Proposals period. It will now run from October 1 to November 30.

i. Public Relations & Recruitment (Genevieve)
   i. There are no new updates for this Committee.

j. Research Instruction (Nicole)
   i. The Committee has started its work. The members are currently evaluating the article headings.

k. Scholarship (Clanitra)
   i. Post-meeting info: The Committee has created subcommittees to work on various issues. The Committee members are in the process of determining the next steps based on the subcommittee structure.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting ended at 5:00 PM Eastern.