REPORT OF THE AALL SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR GRADUATE EDUCATION FOR LAW LIBRARIANS

Chair: Nancy P. Johnson
Members: Yvonne Chandler, Penny Hazelton, Regina Smith, Nancy Tuohy

Charge

The Graduate Education for Law Librarians Special Committee (known as Special Committee) will advise and assist President-elect Carol Avery Nicholson in drafting a charge for a new AALL Standing Committee on Graduate Education for Law Librarianship to be approved by the Executive Board and appointed in January 2003. The Standing Committee will be expected to represent the interests of law librarians and AALL to influence library education in the future.

The Special Committee will identify current and potential or anticipated activities that the Standing Committee, AALL and its members might undertake to:

1. Identify and periodically review the educational requirements of graduate students interested in the profession of law librarianship.
2. Work with library school educators and other library associations to encourage and facilitate the creation and offering of needed courses that may be offered by library schools through various means, including through distance education.
3. Promote the AALL Competencies of Law Librarianship as the basis for courses and future directions for library education for law librarians.

During the AALL Meeting, Yvonne Chandler, Penny Hazelton, and Nancy Johnson met with Mark Bernstein, Chair of the Recruitment to Law Librarianship Committee to brainstorm about the functions of the Recruitment Committee and the charge of the Special Committee. Since the members of the Special Committee are involved in library education, we are well aware that the education and recruitment of law librarians is essential to the success of all law libraries.

Graduate Education and Recruitment of Law Librarians Committee

Rather than create a new committee on Graduate Education for Law Librarians, the Special Committee recommends transforming the Recruitment Committee into a Graduate Education and Recruitment of Law Librarians Committee. The Special Committee would like the members of this committee to have a commitment to educating and recruiting law librarians, much like the commitment to advocacy by the members of the Government Relations Committee. Two members of the Graduate Education and Recruitment Committee should be chosen from the Conference of Law Library Educators, an informal group of library educators. This informal group would like to stay informal and not become an official AALL Committee or SIS. The additional members of the committee should be: two new law librarians recently recruited to law
The Special Committee discussed the roles of the Membership and Retention Committee and the Mentoring Committee. Evidently, the Membership and Retention Committee focuses on attracting members to AALL, not necessarily to the profession. Honestly, we were fuzzy on the work of this committee. The Mentoring Committee focuses on the very important CONELL program at the Annual Meeting.

For a number of years, AALL has worked through various channels to address the need to increase understanding of the educational competencies required to be an effective law librarian. In 1999 the AALL Task Force to Enhance Law Librarianship created the web page, “Education for a Career in Law Librarianship” located at http://www.aallnet.org/committee/tfedu. This web page is technically maintained by an AALL member, Terrance Manion, Electronic Services Librarian, Georgia State University College of Law Library. However, the content of the website has not been updated since 1999. The Special Committee recommends that an AALL staff member assume responsibility for maintaining the content of this web page. In 1999, the Task Force contacted all library schools to ascertain which programs included a law librarianship course. This task was very time-consuming and should be updated annually. We realize that this is an onerous and tedious task, however, this web site is one of the best sources of information on law librarianship courses.

Much of the activities that the Special Committee discussed are already in the charge of the Recruitment Committee. Some of these activities include: answering questions from individuals who contact headquarters inquiring about the profession; encouraging and supporting chapter law librarian recruitment efforts; and coordinating with the Diversity Committee to provide particular support for law librarian recruitment. Additionally, the Special Committee recommends additional charges for the members of the Graduate Education and Recruitment Committee:

- Work to bring research/law librarianship courses to all library/information science graduate programs. In 1999, the Task Force found seventeen schools out of fifty-five library schools did not offer a legal research course.

- Facilitate service by law librarians on their library/information science school’s Advisory Boards and alumni organizations.

- Offer to host a library school student for an academic fieldwork, internship, or externship placement.

- Contact faculty members who teach Special Libraries courses in the local library school and ask that they introduce law librarianship into their courses.
• Encourage participation in the career days offered by the local library school.

• Work closely with the Council of Chapter Presidents to support chapter contact with local library schools.

• Consider becoming involved in the ALA accreditation process to better educate LIS administrators about the issues central to law librarians.

• Continue to work with AALL’s efforts to support library education.

• Review AALL Guidelines for Graduate Programs in Law Librarianship and promote AALL Competencies for Law Librarianship as the basis for courses and future directions for library education for law librarians.

• Work with the AALL Executive Board on raising the minimum acceptable salary for AALL placement listing purposes. In 1994, minimum salary was set at $22,000.

• Work with SLA to include future law librarians in their student library school chapters or investigate establishing AALL student chapters.

Structure of the Graduate Education and Recruitment of Law Librarians Committee

The Committee will retain the same number of members as the current Recruitment Committee. As stated above, the committee should be a mix of library educators (drawn from the Conference of Law Library Educators), new law librarians, and if the AALL Bylaws permit student members on committees, we recommend the appointment of one or two student members to the Committee.
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: April 4-5, 2003

DATE SUBMITTED: March 18, 2003

SUBMITTED BY: Carol Avery Nicholson, President

REQUIRES: INFORMATION ITEM

TOPIC: Graduate Education Final Report Comments

SUMMARY: See attached

Follow Up Assignments & Responsibilities Checklist

The following are some of the options available to the Executive Board:
- Table until the next Executive Board Meeting
- Refer to or inform the Chair of an AALL Chapter, Committee, Special Committee or Task Force
- Add to Annual Business Meeting Agenda
- Revise or add to the AALL Financial, Legislative or other Policies
- Revise the approved budget
- Issue a news release
- Post on AALLNET
- Publish in AALL Spectrum
- Update the Board, Committee, Representative, Chapter or SIS Handbook
- Transmit action to an external organization or individual
- Revise an existing flyer or form

H:\BOARD\April 2003 Board Meeting\Tab 23A Cover.doc
Updated 3/24/2003 1:28 PM by Kim Rundle
Kimberly Rundle

From: Carol Avery Nicholson
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2003 8:50 PM
To: Kimberly Rundle; Susan Fox
Subject: [Fwd: Re: [Fwd: Recruitment]]

Please add this email to Tab 29 also.

Thanks,
Carol

-------- Original Message --------
Subject: Re: [Fwd: Recruitment]
Date: Fri, 21 Feb 2003 12:17:00 -0500
From: "Nancy Johnson" <njohnson@gsu.edu>
To: <pennyh@u.washington.edu>
CC: <ntuohv@clausen.com>, <cnichol@email.unc.edu>, <rsmith@jenkinslaw.org>,
    <chandler@lis.admin.unt.edu>

Penny and committee

I agree that the level of activity from the recruitment committee has increased dramatically during this year compared to previous years. Hence, it is probably unlikely that the recruitment committee could take on the new responsibilities. This is a great example of what can happen when the committee chair is dedicated.

Once the Board decides which course to take (merge the two committees or create a new committee), our Special Committee will follow through with the charge. The members of the Special Committee are dedicated to Graduate Programs in Law Librarianship and want to follow the advice of the Board.

When we talked in Orlando with Mark, he felt comfortable merging the two committees' responsibilities. However, it appears that the committee members have taken their responsibilities seriously!!

Nancy

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>>> "Penny A. Hazelton" <pennyh@u.washington.edu> 2/20/2003 9:00:50 PM >>>
Nancy, I finally had time to look at all the messages and review our report.

3/24/2003
I have noticed that the recruitment committee seems to have really taken off under new leadership with lots of outreach, web materials, and the like.

I can understand Mark's viewpoint.

If the tasks of the recruitment committee and a new separate graduate education committee cannot be done with one committee of the normal size, perhaps having two committees would be best.

Looking at some of the tasks we had identified in our report, the ones I have starred below ** may be ones that a new graduate education committee should handle. The ones without the ** could go to the recruitment committee.

What do you all think??

Basically, I do think we need to talk face to face about this. Unless it is clear we are all of the same opinion? Don't change our report or recommend a new committee.

**Work to bring research/law librarianship courses to all library/information science graduate programs. In 1999, the Task Force found seventeen schools out of fifty-five library schools did not offer a legal research course.

**Facilitate service by law librarians on their library/information science school's Advisory Boards and alumni organizations.

Offer to host a library school student for an academic fieldwork, internship, or externship placement.

**Contact faculty members who teach Special Libraries courses in the local library school and ask that they introduce law librarianship into their courses.

Encourage participation in the career days offered by the local library school.

Work closely with the Council of Chapter Presidents to support chapter contact with local library schools.

**Consider becoming involved in the ALA accreditation process to better educate LIS administrators about the issues central to law librarians.

**Continue to work with AALL's efforts to support library education.

**Review AALL Guidelines for Graduate Programs in Law Librarianship and promote AALL Competencies for Law Librarianship as the basis for courses and future directions for library education for law librarians.

Work with the AALL Executive Board on raising the minimum acceptable salary for AALL placement listing purposes. In 1994, minimum salary was set at $22,000.
Work with SLA to include future law librarians in their student library school chapters or investigate establishing AALL student chapters.

On Wed, 12 Feb 2003, Nancy Johnson wrote:

> AALL Special Committee for Graduate Education.
> 
> Please take some time to read these email messages and decide if we want to amend our committee report or leave as is. I realize you will have to refresh your memory on this report.
> 
> Please let me know by Friday, Feb 21st as to your decision. Thank you for taking the time to re-read the report and make a decision.
> 
> Nancy Johnson
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3/24/2003
Mark Bernstein wrote:

Dear Carol:

I am replying to your inquiry on the Recruitment Committee's comments regarding reorganizing the committee based upon the Report of the Special Committee for Graduate Education for Law Librarians. As I may have mentioned previously we discussed this in a conference call and I followed up again this week with committee members.

The general consensus of the current committee is that merging into one large committee would be too big a responsibility under the current membership structure and that recruitment may lose focus. Although we see the need for some reorganization, one thought may be to create subcommittees with specific focuses on recruitment and education, but most importantly, the size of the committee as currently constituted would have to greatly increase.

I hope this gives the Board the sense of our committee's feelings. Of course, the committee will turn over some in July and others may differ, but overall this is the general sense of the committee. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Mark

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