AALL Committee Activities and Action Plan

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Committee Charge:

CHARGE: Governed by the AALLNET policy approved by the Executive Board, the AALLNET Committee has the ultimate authority and responsibility for the AALL web site.

The Committee maintains relationships with Chapters, AALL entities, and individual content providers, to ensure that their materials are available and current, or linked to AALLNET. The Committee also advises the AALLNET Coordinator in the development of policies and procedures for adding and maintaining AALLNET content.

Sets and monitors guidelines for the management of AALLNET and the host site, including content, visual design, organization, management, relationships with content providers, types of links to other sites, and the possible impact of AALLNET on AALL revenues.

Periodically reviews the content and links on AALLNET to ensure that they comply with the AALLNET policy and guidelines and goals of AALL, law librarianship and the legal community.

Major Activities for 2008-2009:

1. The Committee will present a workshop for entity webmasters on Saturday, July 25, 2009, at Georgetown University Law Library. The Committee decided against presenting a formal gathering for listserv managers in DC, due to lack of interest last year. Chris Siwa will make himself available at some point during the conference to meet with the listserv managers and answer questions they may have. This event will be publicized. The lack of general internet connectivity in the activities area serves as a slight roadblock to this, but we will figure out how to make this activity happen.

2. The Committee, under the leadership of Vice Chair Bess Reynolds, is working with association entities to inventory and audit all the pages of their websites in preparation of the AALLNET RFP. This is a huge project.

There is another issue that really needs to be addressed, and that is the issue of whether documents within webpages should be assigned identifiers/descriptors that are from a controlled vocabulary list or whether they should be assigned at the discretion of the webmaster, in the manner of folksonomy. The AALLNET Committee does not believe that they have any authority to consider or resolve this issue. Therefore, we have advised the entities to hold off on that aspect of the audit/inventories.

2a. The Chair is ex-officio on the AALLNET Strategic Planning Committee.

3. The Committee responds to questions from association entities and coordinates responses from headquarters staff.

Proposed Activities for 2009-2010:

1. Tasks surrounding the implementation of the new AALLNET interface will focus the committee's attention during 2009-2010. There needs to be direction about what tasks can be assigned to the AALLNET Committee in support of this major initiative in a timely manner. The AALLNET Committee is ready and willing to assist with these tasks, once the project takes shape.

In addition to forming an action plan for the development and implementation of the new AALLNET, which will provide opportunities for committee projects, there are some issues that need to be addressed if this project is to move forward in an expeditious way.

a) the issue of whether descriptors and identifiers should be from fixed vocabulary or idiosyncratic terms and connectors needs to be addressed and a decision made. If a fixed vocabulary is to be assigned, that task needs to be undertaken.

b) the issue of how to archive and how to access archived materials still appears to be lacking from discussions. Board decisions were made about this in 2005 and this needs to move forward. They impact many aspects of the AALLNET redesign, including our original project which has been the inventory and audit of entity webpages and content.

Thank you.