Executive Board Conference Call Notes

May 19, 2015

Present for the call: President-elect Sari Feldman; Immediate Past President Barbara Stripling; Treasurer Mario Gonzalez; Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels; and Sr. Associate Executive Director Mary Ghikas. Board Members: Robert Banks, Peter Hepburn, Alexia Hudson-Ward, Sara Kelly Johns, and Gina Persichini. ALA Controller Joanne Lee; Director of Governance JoAnne Kempf; and Executive Board Secretariat Kerri Price. Absent: President Courtney Young and Board Member James Neal. Observers: Loida Garcia-Febo, Julius C. Jefferson, Jr., and Mike Marlin.

1. **Approval of Strategic Directions Document**

The Board voted to approve the forwarding of the Strategic Directions document to Council and Membership for comment. Comments will be incorporated into the document and Council will vote to approve it at the 2015 Annual Conference.

1. **April Financial Update**

Mario Gonzalez reported on the April financial statements. General Fund revenue is $153K ahead of budget, and, overall, ALA is $2.5 million ahead.

1. **Refinancing of ALA Bank Loan – CBD #15**

Mario Gonzalez explained that Board approval of the resolution to refinance in the amount of $6,000,000 needs to be submitted to JPMorgan before the signing of the commitment letter and rate lock letter. The fixed rate for the loan as of May 12 is 3.03% with the tentative closing date of August 3, 2015. This loan will allow ALA to be debt free by 2020. The Board approved the refinancing.

1. **2015 Annual Conference in San Francisco Update**

Mary Ghikas reported that total registrations for the 2015 Annual Conference number 13,500, which is 1,500 more than registrations for the 2014 Annual Conference in Las Vegas. 1,500 more registrations are needed to meet the budget projections. Exhibits revenue exceeded budget and is at $2.852 million. Advertising revenue is just under budget.

1. **Accreditation Meetings: May 18 and at the 2015 Annual Conference** Barbara Stripling reported on the May 18 meeting between Board representatives, the Association for Library & Information Science Education (ALISE), and the ALISE Council of Deans and Directors held in New York City and the planned meeting to be held at the 2015 Annual Conference. The goal of the meetings is to create a structure that will work on recommendations to improve communication and look at issues related to accreditation of graduate programs in library and information studies.

The successful May 18 meeting produced the following results:

* An external consultant who is knowledgeable about accreditation will be hired to examine the accreditation process piece.
* A decision to set up a short-term special committee to examine the communications piece, with a report to the Board at the 2016 Midwinter Meeting and a final report, with recommendations to the Board by the 2016 Annual Conference.
* A decision to set up a short-term special committee with the goal to develop a visionary conceptual framework that leads the profession into the 21st century with proper skills and competencies.

When the group meets at the upcoming 2015 Annual Conference, it will finalize the two short-term special committee descriptions and discuss possible appointments.

1. **Virtual Membership Meeting**

Keith Michael Fiels reported that the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) submitted a resolution about promoting greener conferences, which was sent to the Resolutions Committee. Currently there is no seconder, but if one comes forward, the vote will be held via virtual polling during the Virtual Membership Meeting. A quorum of 75 members will be required, and ALA Parliamentarian Eli Mina will be present. If time allows, following the possible resolution discussion and vote, there will be a discussion on equity and inclusion.

1. **Memorial Celebration for Gail Schlacter at the 2015 Annual Conference**

Keith Michael Fiels explained that due to family availability, the memorial celebration will be held at the same time as the President’s Program reception. ALA scheduled the celebration near the President’s Program reception room, so Board members may easily attend both. The room will be set in rounds and a slide projector will show photographs Gail and her family and friends. Friends and family will have an opportunity to tell stories and a sign-in book will be available. The Board will present a memorial plaque in Gail’s honor.