ACRL CHAPTERS COUNCIL

Minutes

June 27th, 2010

Present: Judith Pinnolis, Chair; Mark Lenker, Vice-Chair; Rickey Best, Secretary; Laurie Swartwout, list-administrator; Rachel Bridgewater (Oregon); Elizabet Clargae for Jane Treadwell (Illinois); Rubye Cross (Georgia); Robin Crumrin (Indiana); Cynthia Dudenhoffer (Missouri); Jan Hartley (Washington); Ruth Hodges (South Carolina); Mary Iber (Iowa); Danielle Whren Johnson (Maryland); Les Kong (California); Francesca Livermore (Eastern New York); Carrie Eastman Marten (Greater Metro New York); Kristen Mustel (Minnesota); Carole Myles (New England); Joyce Neujahr (Nebraska); Pat Newland (Delaware Valley); Tracey Olanyk (Western Pennsylvania / West Virginia); Kathy A. Parsons (Iowa); Talia Resendes (New England); Susan Scott (Ohio); Mark Thompson (New Jersey); Mark Emmons; guest.

Pinnolis greeted members of Council and gave an orientation to the role of Chapters Council. She stressed that the members of Council are liaisons between the ACRL Board and local members. She noted that Chapters are legally distinct entities from ACRL, which impacts our relationship with the national ACRL in terms of how we receive funding for activities. She noted that members of the ACRL Board will briefly attend the meeting, including the President and President-elect of ACRL, and the Executive Director of ACRL.

Pinnolis went on to discuss the activities of the Leadership Council on Friday, the 24th. She noted that whereas at Mid-Winter, Leadership Council was involved in strategic planning activities, at the Friday meeting action was directed more towards priority setting. Among the issues that garnered attention at Leadership Council was the need for the association to focus upon return-on-investment activities which demonstrate the positive contributions of academic libraries. Meagan Oakleaf, who has been conducting a study on return on investment plans and studies for academic libraries will present her preliminary findings to Chapters Council.

Pinnolis next discussed the need for members of Chapters Council to take a more active role. The officers of the Council want to hear local chapter needs, and want the members to communicate those needs to the officers of ACRL when they attend Council sessions. Chapters Council will also have an influence on the selection of members to serve on the ACRL Board as Directors-At-Large. According to the ACRL ByLaws, Article IX, Section 3, to wit:

a) One director-at-large shall be elected based upon nominations from the University Libraries Section; one shall be elected based upon nominations from the College Libraries Section; one shall be elected based upon nominations from the Community and Junior College Libraries Section; two directors-at-large shall be elected based upon nominations from the Chapters Council; two shall be elected based upon nominations from the Sections Council; and one director-at-large shall be elected based upon nominations from the Divisonal Leadership Recruitment and Nomination Committee.
b) These terms shall overlap so as to ensure continuity of policy. The election of directors-at-large based on section and council nominations shall be scheduled consecutively: year 1, University Libraries Section and Chapters Council; year 2, College Libraries Section and ACRL Sections Council; year 3, Community and Junior College Libraries Section and Chapters Council; year 4, ACRL Sections Council, and the at-large candidate. On the ballot, all nominees shall be listed as candidates for "directors-at-large."

Pinnolis reported that ACRL has been pushing to provide more outreach to local chapters through training, speakers, etc.. Local chapters are entitled to receive funding at $1.00 per chapter member who is also a member of ACRL at the national level. Pinnolis noted that when local chapters file their expense reports, the chapters are taking the responsibility that the expenses submitted are true educational expenses, which is a requirement for reimbursement from ACRL. Best will talk about efforts to get ACRL to provide additional funding per member later. Pinnolis noted that in the New England Chapter, if you are a member of ACRL, you do not pay additional fees to be a member of the local chapter.

Pinnolis stressed the role of Chapters Council in fostering relations amongst local chapters to the ACRL board, and to promote the organization and development of chapters. Pinnolis advanced the notion that Chapters Council should be more active in using ALA Connect to share information about activities and needs, to promote training opportunities and other resources.

Pinnolis introduced Lenker, who discussed the duties and activities of the Vice Chair’s position. Lenker reported that the Vice Chair is responsible for organizing elections, plans the dine-around at the annual and midwinter meetings. Lenker noted that the Vice Chair position is an excellent way to get to know more about ACRL, and allows individuals to actively support and develop new librarians. Lenker discussed the three year commitment for the Chair’s position, with one year spent as Vice Chair / Chair-elect, one year as Chair, and one year as Past Chair. Lenker encouraged members of Council to consider running for office.

Pinnolis discussed the need to complete annual reports using the ACRL form. Chapters need to figure out where their programs fit in terms of the ACRL Strategic Plan, and report accordingly. A question was raised about how the reports were used. It was suggested that Council provide access to pdf’s of reports so that members could see how the reports were put together. Pinnolis offered to find out how the reports were used, and who had access to the reports. She suggested using ALA Connect as a means of sharing the reports.