CLS Membership Committee
Virtual Meeting
November 18 – 25, 2002
Via Email
Approved via email, December 3, 2002

In attendance: Melinda Dermody, David Harralson, Daphne Harrington, Renee Jadushlever, Shirley Lankford, Barbara MacAlpine, Kendra St. Aubin, Rebecca Wilson, Helena Rodrigues, Susan Richards (Chair)

Daphne Harrington, representative to the ACRL Membership Committee indicated that she had nothing further to report. Since the ACRL Membership Committee will meet at Midwinter, she expects to have more to report at our next meeting.

Friday Night Feast – The committee decided that having the Members-at-Large handle the arrangements surrounding the Feast worked well. Several committee members indicated that they believe the Feast is more of a section activity than a membership recruitment activity. Haworth’s sponsorship of the dinner is a good thing. Melinda wondered if we could reserve a few “free dinner” slots for new members and other committee members thought this was a good idea. She will talk to Lis Chabot, the Member-at-Large coordinating the Feast this year. We will again serve as greeters and provide name tags if the Members-at-Large want this assistance.

Recruitment Letter to COLLIB-L – Becky drafted and sent a recruitment letter to COLLIB-L in May last year. The committee decided to continue this practice, but send it in December when members are renewing their membership and then again in the late spring. Becky agreed to draft a new letter and send it out in early December.

Membership Labels and ACRL/Letters to Dropped Members – In July, Susan received labels from ACRL that indicated new members/dropped members/reinstated members. She sent out fifty welcome letters to the new members. She has not received any more labels since that time, even though they are supposed to arrive quarterly. At the same time, Mark Cain signed a letter that had been drafted for all those who had dropped membership. Susan sent this letter (with Mark’s signature) to 116 persons. The letter said committee members would contact them later to find out why they dropped. We have not done this because we wanted to wait to see if any dropped members were reinstated. Since we haven’t heard from ACRL we have no idea whether any have.

We would like to set up a process to contact new and dropped members on a regular basis. Because ACRL cannot get membership information to us in a timely fashion, we have not been able to carry out our plans. ACRL also did not provide a current membership list in a timely fashion. The committee voted to ask the Executive Committee to send a formal request to ACRL to provide Sections with this information monthly and in electronic form (not in labels). Susan will take this request to the Executive Committee.

Contact to State Chapters – At the end of August Helena sent an email to all Chapter Presidents about the availability of the new CLS brochure. To date the following chapters have requested
brochures for distribution at their annual conferences: Florida, Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, New York, Nebraska, Kentucky, Georgia and North Carolina. Helena alerted Susan of the requests and then Susan sent out the brochures (because she happens to have the supply). This seems to have been a success. We currently have a little over 1500 brochures in stock. The committee asked Helena to send a reminder letter early in the New Year to the Chapter Presidents who didn’t reply to her first email. Many chapters have spring meetings and may want brochures then.

**Contact to Library Schools** – Shirley will draft a letter to library schools and forward it to the committee for comments. She will then send it out to the deans in early January.

**Targeting Undergraduate Libraries** – In the summer, someone had suggested we contact librarians who work in undergraduate libraries at larger institutions about possible membership in CLS. This still seems like a good idea, but we want to make sure we don’t “step on the toes” of our colleagues in the University Libraries Section. There may be an opportunity for joint membership recruiting here. Melinda volunteered to contact ULS and talk about this issue with them.

**Other Recruitment Ideas** – We have wanted to contact attendees at the Friday Night Feast, those who attend CLS discussion groups at ALA, and those who attended the CLS program at ALA. We still do not have a current membership list from ACRL (Susan has asked several times) so it is impossible to sort out who is not a CLS member. If we can get this information in a timely fashion from ACRL, we will be able to move forward on these initiatives.

We began to discuss Daphne’s idea of “niche” recruiting – identifying and recruiting staff in our libraries who may be in acquisitions, cataloging, etc. A few expressed concern about how to get these folks to join when dues costs and travel money for conferences are such an impediment. Time did not allow us to discuss this topic thoroughly, so we will continue it at our meeting in Toronto.

All committee members who participated agreed that the format of the meeting worked well and that we could each follow the discussion and contribute as needed.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Richards
Chair/Recorder

Last Update: April 2nd, 2003