The CLS Standards Committee, which traditionally does not meet in person during ALA Midwinter, met via conference call on April 24, 2007. The main agenda item was a discussion of the committee’s planned white paper on college library facilities, a preliminary draft outline of which had been prepared by a subcommittee of Kristen Vogel, Christine Whittington and Susan Marie Brown, working on a draft originally written by Kristen Vogel. Members discussed whether the paper should recommend guidelines rather than standards, along with the need to include a justification for establishing any guidelines, given the recent trend from ACRL and accrediting agencies such as SACS toward less quantifiable measures; whether the paper should use the term “buildings” or “facilities;” and that, once completed, it would be the responsibility of the Chair to assure that the paper is updated on a regular basis. Before proceeding further with the project, members thought that coordination and collaboration with the LAMA Building and Equipment Section and the ACRL Standards and Accreditation Committee was crucial. Members determined that continuation of the white paper discussion would be the main agenda item at our Annual meeting. In the meantime, Whittington and Brown agreed to revise the draft white paper outline to incorporate suggestions received from the committee. (Minutes of the conference call will be available as soon as they are approved by committee members at Annual.)

Immediately following the April committee conference call, the Chair invited the LAMA BES and ACRL SAC Chairs to join us at our Annual committee meeting to discuss the white paper, solicit their suggestions, and consider possible opportunities for ongoing collaboration. A copy of the latest draft outline was supplied to them in early June to provide them with background information on the project.

In order to accommodate our guests’ schedules, the Standards Chair made arrangements for our committee to meet with them at 11:30 on Saturday morning, June 23, in the Washington Convention Center, instead of during the regular All Committees meeting time at 10:30. Because of this change in our committee meeting schedule, she also provided a written Activity Report to the CLS Chair in lieu of delivering a short oral report at the end of the CLS All Committees meeting.

The Standards Committee plans to share the results of our collaborative discussion with the LAMA BES and ACRL SAC Chairs, as well as our plans for proceeding with the white paper project, in our subsequent meeting minutes.