ACRL Law and Political Science Section
ALA Annual 2013
General Membership Meeting
June 29th, 2013

Present: Brian Coutts, Jeremy Darrington, Emily Ford, Alberto Herrera Jr., Sarah Hogan, Kelly Janousek, Lynda Kellam, Chad Kahl, Leroy LaFleur, Lucy Lyons, Lisa Norberg, Mary Oberlies, Bruce Pencek, Mara Rojeski, Rosalind Tedford, Lynn Thitchener, Elizabeth White, Jungwon Yang

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Members introduced themselves and welcomed two new members.
- Minutes from the Midwinter 2013 General Membership meeting approved
- Agenda for the Annual Meeting approved

Remarks from the Chair

LeRoy LaFleur (current Chair), and Lynda Kellam (incoming Chair) attended the ACRL Leadership Council. The Council meeting asked section chairs to discuss their sections in terms of a) What we would like to achieve b) What we need help with, and c) What challenges we face.

The Council also discussed the structure of ACRL Communities of Practice and the value they give to their members. The structure of the section or group consists of the core of executive members, chairs and active members and beyond that to the larger community via e-lists, learning opportunities, etc. There is typically movement between the core members and the periphery. The section (or interest group) only exists to give value to the membership. Jeremy Darrington, incoming Vice-Chair, elect, suggested that we should plan a discussion about the value we get from LPSS and find ways to articulate this.

II. Committee Reports

Conference Program Planning Committee

2013 Annual Program: Co-chaired by Jeremy Darrington and Lucy Lyons. This year’s program is “Preparing, Sharing, & Archiving: What Scholars in Political Science and Law Need to Know & How We Can Help Them” and will be held today, Saturday June 29th, from 1:00-2:30 pm at McCormick Place Rm. N427d.

Jeremy praised the work of the group, offered thanks to his co-chair and committee members, and hopes that it will be a good discussion.
2014 Annual Program:

Bruce Pencek discussed floating ideas via ALA Connect and the listserv, followed by a committee meeting. The committee has settled on the “politics of water,” and envisions finding a speaker to make sense of the law/science connection of water policy, focusing on the Colorado Basin, the creation of information about water policy, e.g., agencies and bureaus, possibly a GIS component, and the politics of water more generally. They have begun the process of identifying potential speakers. A proposal is due by September 1st. The process may be more competitive this year as ACRL is moving toward fewer programs with less redundancy. Rosalind Fielder will be investigating the possibility of coordinating with other sections. Brian Coutts will take care of the promotional work. Send any speaker suggestions to Bruce Pencek or Sarah Hogan.

Communications and Publications Committee

LPSS News - Lynn Thitchener congratulated co-editors Merrill Stein and Dennis Lambert on the Spring 2013 issue of LPSS News. In addition, the committee has been discussing the pros and cons of changing the column format of the newsletter. Stein offered to work up a prototype of a new format for the newsletter for member feedback.

LPSS Web site -- Jennifer Schwartz has added a Table-of-Contents to the right hand section of the LPSS Web site to make navigation easier. She will be working on some additional issues with the Website that occurred following the migration to Drupal (for example, some pages appear to be outside of the Drupal structure).

The social media efforts are also going strong, with Lorena O’english spearheading initiatives such as Google Hangouts and Twitter in addition to Facebook.

LPSS-L, moderated by Kara Robinson, continues to be a very valuable source of member communication with many “crowd-sourced” research questions in addition to member news and section announcements.

Membership Committee

LPSS currently has 472 members. In the recent survey, members identified access to information, news, trends, research, and best practices, along with professional development education as their primary reasons for membership.

Lisa Norberg noted that we may have a problem with our name. Too many prospective members see “Law” and assume that the primary focus is law librarianship when in fact we are much more about political science and policy studies. Possible ways to increase membership include updating our brochure, incorporating data, re-branding the e-list as a question crowd-sourcing platform, and sponsoring some webinars. Norberg also asked if we might be able to bring back vendor presentations, possibly as webinars, as these have been well-received in the past.

Nominating Committee

Jodi Shepherd is the new secretary for the section.
Elizabeth White is the new member-at-large (in addition to serving as the chair of the Communications and Publications Committee)

Jeremy Darrington is Vice-Chair, elect.

**Liaison Reports**

APSA (American Political Science Association) - Mara Rojeski reported that there will be a new Executive Director of the APSA Teaching and Learning Conference. At the last APSA Teaching and Learning Conference, held in February 2013, Mara offered a workshop on teaching students to find datasets and also assisted in the classroom technology booth.

Question: (LaFleur) Should we formalize our other more ad-hoc liaisons, e.g., GODORT, AALL, etc.?

**Instruction Committee**

Rosalind Fielder noted that the Program Guide Bibliography has been posted. Special thanks to Alyssa Deutschler and Brett Cloyd for their work on the guide. David Schwieder has sent out the Instruction Committee’s survey on research competency asking for member feedback on new content, especially the addition of data literacy to the competencies. Special thanks to David for his work on the survey. LaFleur mentioned that we will need to align our research competencies with ACRL’s revised competencies (when they are published).

**Review and Planning Committee**

Review and Planning has been working on revising the LPSS manual and aligning it with the LPSS Strategic Plan. Review and Planning will be working on operationalizing the Strategic Plan.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30.