

## ISS Minutes

Annual Conference, New Orleans LA, June 26, 2006

Submitted by Dorcas Hand

Attendees: Chair - Linell Ela (FL); Chair Elect - Patt Moser (DC); Incoming Chair Elect - Alison Ernst (MA); Past Chair - Susan Williamson (NM); AASL Board Rep - Kathleen Ellis (NY); Incoming AASL Board Rep - Ann Petersen (TN); Acting Secretary - Dorcas Hand (TX)  
Guests: Steve Matthews (VA); CD McLean (FL); Tynley Baker (AL); Courtney Lewis (PA); Leah Allison (TN); Ernie Cox (NC)

Linell brought a question from the committee designing the AASL Longitudinal Survey of School Libraries: what categories (maximum 5) do we need as options for the range of non-public schools? The discussion was spirited, and the final results:

- Religious (parochial, diocesan, Jewish, etc)
- Religious independent (governance includes church mandated members)
- Independent
- Alternative (Montessori, Waldorf, international, etc.)
- Military

Susan Williamson reported for the Data Committee.

- The newest version of the NCES "Characteristics of Private Schools in the US" has been posted. Search the title on the web to find the report.
- Details about our own survey:
  - We did not discover who did/didn't respond, but will work on that as much as we have information.
  - Dorcas has the list of responding schools, and the ISS membership list of last year. She will compare these lists for overlap, and send out the results.
  - There is a list of names pulled from Porter Sargent as possible contacts that was compiled by a graduate assistant of Eliza Cahoy. Susan will send this list to Marian Wells of the ISS Membership Outreach Committee to begin to design a mailing to those schools.
  - Susan solicited volunteers to contact all our regional organizations, and to try to identify additional ones. New England - Alison; Mid-Atlantic - Courtney; Southeast - CD; Great LakesAnn; Midwest - Alison; Southwest - Dorcas; Pacific - Dorcas.
  - We discussed that we should ask AASL to put an ISS representative on the AASL Longitudinal Study Committee. However, Keith Lance notes that there is not really such a committee.
  - Towards the end of the meeting, Keith Curry Lance stopped by to explain the status of that study.
    - They hope to finalize and test the questionnaire by Fall.
    - There will be heavy marketing for broad participation.
    - The survey will be both random and voluntary, meaning that the LRS will both publicize the survey for voluntary responses from a broad spectrum of libraries, and they will solicit responses specifically from a sample of sizes and types of libraries less likely to volunteer.

- In states with already existing longitudinal studies, the samples do not generally include private schools. (CO, OH)
  - This is intended to be 20 "lean, mean" questions seeking numeric answers that are likely to change each year. There will not be policy questions.
  - The survey will be launched at MidWinter, and the data collection closed in mid-March. That timing should get the most current info for the year from present staff.
  - Results should be posted by Annual in June 2007.
  - Cost issues
    - Pay LRS
    - Sell the report details
    - Perhaps sell an interactive analysis, thru a licensed site.
    - Sell whatever else can be designed...
  - [www.lrs.org](http://www.lrs.org) is the website.
- Susan asked what we should do next, as our study is intended to be repeated. We hope Eliza will have our further analysis completed within the next year. Alison suggested we discuss this further at midwinter, after we have seen the final version of the AASL questions and perhaps some further analysis.
- It was also suggested that we look to setting up some discussion tools through the ALA Community, either a wiki or a blog, to continue this discussion [and others].
- Keith requested that we add him to our email group for Data, and he will add us to his. This will improve communication all around. [Susan will send him all our addresses at once,]
- Linell and Susan reported on Web Presence. The previous members of this committee are all retiring. New ISS members Ernie Cox and Courtney Lewis volunteered to fill the gap.
  - The committee will remain only two as that is the limit imposed by AASL of passwords to be provided.
  - Ernie and Courtney will work
    - to improve the language on our AASL/ISS website to be consistent with the rest of AASL website language
    - to start appropriate threaded discussion tools for our various projects.
    - to build a strong relationship with AASL IT personnel for best support of our needs.
  - ALA is changing the content management system.
  - JJ Huff is the new "Steven Hoffman", aka IT czar.
  - Linell will accomplish the formal appointment of Ernie and Courtney to the committee. Dorcas suggested she look at the idea of one full term and one half term with possible reappointment, to be sure we don't have everyone roll off the committee at once again.
- We need to request that ISS make more conference ribbons for us. There were none at this conference.
- Alison reported on the upcoming conference programs. The DC programs have been submitted, but are not yet approved. She will continue to follow-up with the AASL office staff to be sure we have all useful news this year.

- DC Preconference - Advocacy Begins with Strategic Planning, a half-day with Maureen Sullivan. (Friday)
- DC Concurrent Session: The Information Commons: Translating the Higher Ed Model to Secondary Schools with NMH, Mt. Holyoke College, and a former NMH staffer who is now elsewhere.
- DC Tour: Friday afternoon, following the Preconference morning with a box lunch for the bus to Sidwell Friends and The Potomac School.
- Reno - October, 2007 - Deadline for proposals is October 1, 2006
- We brainstormed several ideas:
  - Facilities planning (as requested by AASL) possibly with Walter DeMelle and Liz Gray.
  - Dueling Databases (or "Database Shootout): 2-3 ISS librarians demonstrating specific periodicals databases in which they are expert, comparing their strengths at various levels with various specific topics. LIVE.
  - A program about the new ETS test on ICT
  - We will also request (by the listserv? How we'll make the request was not specified at the meeting) that many ISS members submit proposals.
- An evening reception/social
- We want to formally request that ISS be represented on all AASL Conference Planning Committees for the future. We want to be directly involved in tour planning and program themes.
- The Member Outreach Committee came up in several contexts, particularly the survey.
  - Dorcas will work with Marian to discover the correct method to use AASL/ISS funds to mail membership information to schools in Porter Sargent that are not yet members.
  - Ernie suggested an advertising campaign at the state level - one person per state to take flyers to local conferences and to keep ISS leadership apprised of any local independent school library organizations.
  - Unofficial "Official State Reps" volunteered at this meeting, and more will be solicited,
  - The Membership Outreach Committee will design a flyer for distribution at local events, a flyer that describes ISS benefits and activities.
  - Membership Outreach will also develop a list of ideas for these "State Reps".
  - State Reps will not become a formal committee due to unmanageable size.
  - Tynley will be named to the Membership Outreach Committee to join Dorcas and Marian.
- Alison will submit a program proposal to NAIS: Excellence in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Libraries", to keep us on their radar.
- ISS Nominations for Chair and Secretary are due the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in October. Linell will consult with Susan and Dorcas, the immediate past chairs, to accomplish the job of two candidates for each position.