

MARS Publications Committee
MidWinter Meeting, Philadelphia, January 13, 2008
Minutes

Scheduled Meeting:

Sunday, Jan 13 – 8:00am – 10:00am, in conjunction with MARS All-Committee Meeting

Members present: Carolyn Larson, Hui Hua Chua, Shannon Jones, Laura Probst, Laura Jordan, Keshia Garnett

Members not attending: Linda Lambert (Virtual), Katherine Ott

Visitors: Melissa Shoop

1. Introductions

Meeting attendees introduced themselves; the committee welcomed new members Laura Jordan (MARS-L and Messages from MARS intern) and Keshia Garnett (Web Coordinator intern) and visitor Melissa Shoop from the University of Florida.

2- SWOT

The meeting opened with the All-Committee SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) brainstorming activity; the Publications Committee discussion was led by Naomi Lederer, representing the MARS Executive Committee. Composite results for the meeting are to be made available to MARS members later in the year and will be used in the MARS 5 year section review.

3. Minutes

The minutes from the Annual Conference, June 2007, were approved.

4. Status of the ALA WebSite Redesign

Shannon and Keshia reported that they expect to complete training on the new content management system shortly. Shannon will be working with Keshia to ensure a smooth transition in the maintenance of the MARS website.

5. MARS-L/Messages from MARS report

Hui Hua reported that there are currently 570 members in MARS-L and it is functioning well. She has been working with Laura and they are on track for Laura to take over the duties of Editor of Messages from MARS for the Spring issue and assume full responsibility following the annual conference in June.

6. Status of Web Page Guidelines document for MARS Committee Chairs

After review of the changes suggested by the MARS Executive Committee at Annual 2007, the committee approved forwarding the revised document to the Executive Committee for approval. [Update: The Document was approved by the

Executive Committee on at its Tuesday June 15, 2008, meeting and will be distributed to incoming MARS Committee chairs at the Annual Orientation meeting of the Executive Committee and MARS Committee chairs beginning at Annual 2008.]

7. Archiving MARS web pages/Committee documents

After reviewing the recommendations of a MARS Publications Committee subcommittee to use ALA Communities as a test case for archiving MARS Committee-produced documents (e.g. Meeting agendas, Minutes, special reports, interview questions for applicants for Messages from MARS editor, MARS Web Coordinator), the group approved forwarding the recommendation to the MARS Executive Committee. [Update: At the Tuesday June 15, 2008, meeting of the MARS Executive Committee, Dave Tyckoson, President of RUSA announced that RUSA has been the only user of the ALA Communities – and that ALA has decided to drop this service and migrate it to another service, most likely by the end of 2008. Committees should make sure they have copies saved elsewhere of any documents currently stored there. Dave's announcement obviously made the Publications Committee recommendation re: archiving moot.]

8. Committee liaison assignments

A revised list of committee liaison assignments will be sent out to committee members by email after Midwinter, including assignments for new members and our Virtual member.

9. Photo-hosting Sites

After discussion of the recommendation from the MARS Publications Committee meeting at Annual 2007 that the committee investigate making use of a photo-hosting site for images of MARS events, thus making them easily available for enhancing the MARS web site, the committee recommended that the committee use Flickr as a test case; Shannon and Keshia volunteered to investigate setting up such an account and to report back to the committee at Annual.