

MINUTES

SRRT Action Council

Tuesday, February 8, 1994

Midwinter Meeting, Los Angeles

In attendance:

Linda Wiler, Dorothy Granger, Madeleine Tainton, Debra Gilchrist, Stephen Stillwell, Roland Hansen, Wendy Thomas, Raymond Markey, Theresa Tobin, Elizabeth Morrissett, Carol Barta, Dan Tsang, Chip Stewart, Chris Dodge, Melissa Riley, Al Kagan, Majed Khader, Rosemary McAndrew, David Williams, Beth Sibley, Beverly Goldberg.

Approved a change in the agenda to consider presidential candidate endorsement first.

Betty Turock, candidate for ALA president, addressed Action Council and asked for SRRT's endorsement. She has been endorsed by REFORMA. She highlighted her leadership in social issues throughout her library career: first librarian to run new desegregated branch and learned what separate and unequal really means, worked with all community organizations there including Black Panthers; organized an Urban Information Center in Rochester; devoted \$600,000 in Title IID money at Rutgers that supports 50 minority librarians compared to only 1 ALA Minority Fellow each year; member of Action Council and SRRT treasurer for 2 terms; active in getting spousal benefits for ALA employees and spoke on the Council floor in support of including gay and lesbian rights in ALA Bill of Rights; forthright in her support of social issues; only candidate who unequivocally stated she would not support a conference in any city that discriminates against our members; stated the ALA statement on social responsibility brought a passion to her life as a librarian and sustained her in her search for a degree and throughout her career by the fact that the mission and our profession made a difference in human and civil rights. If elected, she will work to make youth aware of our profession and push for endowment money to close the gap for minority librarians.

Action Council unanimously voted to endorse Betty Turock's candidacy.

BUDGETS

Stillwell announced we have spent down our reserve. Income about \$10,000 from membership (1900 regular and 100 organizational members) and expenses running about \$10,000/year for programs and \$15,000 -18,000 for newsletter; we are spending more money than taking in. Coretta Scott King Task Force is selling stickers which will make a profit. Next year may be a problem. Could consider a raise in dues, eliminating the free membership for students, corporate sponsorship for SRRT awards. Peace Award has sponsorship, others come from the budget.

Only at-large members may vote on budgets.

Alternatives in Print:

\$1800. buffet

300. supplemental for Miami

Environment:

\$2000. newsletter and program honorarium

Feminist:

\$2000. for feminist author breakfast and program on the politics of archives.

Gay and Lesbian:

\$2200. 25th anniversary celebration.

International Responsibilities:

\$1500. for program about outreach to African librarians co-sponsored with Black Caucus

Israeli Censorship and Palestinian Libraries:

\$1900. for program on how to assist Palestinian libraries with 2 speakers and printing costs

Peace:

\$550 for program on military recruitment in schools or conflict resolution as a technique.

Library Union: no request

Total Task Force Budget Request: \$11,950.

Approved unanimously: \$300. supplement for AIP's Food for Thought Buffet in Miami.

Moved by Kagan 2nd by Gilchrist to separate out ISPL budget and consider it independently.

Approved unanimously.

Approved unanimously the budgets of all Task Forces except ICPL.

ICPL:

Morrisset: Came to SRRT because of the acceptance and tolerance for all. Visited the ICPL Task Force and convinced it will deal with a wider program than in the past. Important for us not to shut anyone out. Supports budget request.

Kagan: Not in favor of budget because this issue has been brought through ALA and came to a conclusion within ALA. We should continue to support it but because of where ALA is, we won't make a whole lot more headway. More negatives than positives. Must consider diplomacy in our goals and the leadership of this Task Force doesn't understand that. No indication that will change. Task Force has not cooperated with Action Council on last year's resolution, so unless there's a change of leadership, Kagan proposes a budget of \$1. to show support of the idea but not of the current leadership.

Markey: Issue has run its course: not opposed to internationalism but there are different international issues we could consider. Time to put it to rest.

Williams: Objections here are political and as bad as the argument given by membership that too many libraries are closing down and we need to concentrate on that issue instead. The fact that U.S. is giving Israel more money than any other country is a reason to focus on Israel. Can't claim the Task Force was faultless but Williams came into ALA without experience and was left on his own to go around to ALA committees and only got stonewalled. He was polite yet abused in that process and then got angry. A fair and comprehensive review would bear him out on this. It would reveal ALA was dead set against discussing it. They are responsible for this nightmare. At least we got exposure of issues. Tried to get others to chair the Task Force. Task Force voted unanimously that he should continue as chair. They are still looking for a new chair.

Willett: SRRT's membership is growing - there is no proof our members are being turned off by this issue. He voted in favor of the resolution at Annual because Williams didn't seem interested in SRRT just his own issues but heard today that this issue is important in the world and in libraries, not just whether its important in ALA. It is THE issue in terms of censorship, and money speaks . Does not behoove us to put pressure on the Task Force if it supports Williams. As a member of this Task Force, he speaks in favor of the budget. Would like to see a session on how leadership works and how we can be good leaders and good followers. Williams controversial style can help us deal with the controversies facing us all.

Kagan: Many of us were personally attacked by the Task Force leadership. That kind of style and procedure makes him put this \$1. budget proposal forward.

Gilchrist: Will the '95 program be significantly different than '94?

Williams: It will deal with the same topic.

Vote: 2 yes, 2 no, 1 abstention. Stillwell will poll other members of Action Council and get their votes.

NOTE: Final vote, after polling all Action Council Members was 2 yes, 6 no, 1 abstention, 1 no vote. The Task Force will have an opportunity at annual to propose an alternative budget.

RESOLUTION ON REORGANIZATION:

Denise Botto, Paul Hawkins and Stephen Stillwell will stand as the committee. Resolution was passed at the first midwinter meeting.

RESOLUTION ON THE NATIONAL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE: Resolution was rewritten and sent to Council who referred it to COPEs. It should be out in time for Council III. Signed by Biblo and Casey. Michael Gorman will also speak to it. Project Group now is dissolved with thanks.

TASK FORCE ON MIGRATION AND THE HOMELESS: Morrisset requested the re-establishment of the Task Force. Issue is with us now more than ever. Wants to get bibliographies out and it should be more recognized. Forced migration is part of our problem and there are now hostile bills in Congress. Will use same mission statement and requests a budget of \$100. Approved unanimously.

MINORITY RECRUITMENT VIDEO:

Gilchrist viewed the video at the Recruitment Assembly. It was well done but did not really address issues of diversity beyond race as SRRT had requested. John Ayala was very forthright in his comments to the Assembly regarding SRRT's funding of the project but it did not appear so distinctively in the video's credits. She recommends Stillwell approach Margaret Myers this week about the possibility of changing that and listing SRRT as a funding source rather than in the general credits.

NATIONAL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Williams requested a budget for a conference program in Miami. Stillwell commented that the project committee no longer exists and that it is too late for programs for '94.

Williams: Big issues at stake. Policy decisions are being made fast and need for us that have a socially responsible orientation to get into the debate. Have done that in a small way with our resolution but can't wait 18 months for this. We need to form a Task Force and project committee would be the natural nucleus to coordinate until a Task Force can be formed.

Granger: NOT IN favor of a rushed program. We can step into other arenas to offer our help.

Tsang: critical issue but may be other ways such as part of PLG program.
Would prefer to cosponsor any effort PLG might make.

Voted unanimously to support PLG's efforts at a program.

MISCELLANEOUS

In the interest of time, Stillwell removed the Berman letter from the agenda.

Newsletter editor reminded Action Council of the deadline and to contribute.

Submitted by Debra Gilchrist,
Action Council Secretary