

SRRT Action Council Meeting
Saturday, February, 4, 1995 9:30 a.m.
Wyndam Franklin Plaza

Those present: Al Kagan, Theresa Tobin, Wendy Thomas, Elaine Harger, Charles Willett, Mark Rosenzweig, Bill Detzell, Mark Martin, Leon Bey, Ray Markey, Chris Dodge, Peter McDonald, Steven Harris, Byron Anderson, Stephen Stillwell, Elizabeth Morrissett, Miriam Crawford, Linda Pierce, Madelaine Tainton, Dotty Granger, Roland Hansen, Michael Nitz, Carolynne Myall, Margo Brault, Daniel Tsang, Carol Barta.

Agenda additions:

1. AIP Journal
2. Mary Sommerville and/or Michael Gorman may visit to request support as candidates for the ALA presidency.
3. ALA Headquarters support or lack thereof

Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting Tuesday June 26, 1994 should reflect that the existing awards were also given a five year grace period for self sufficiency in the resolution.

Corrections: Affiliate fee ?

Minutes approved Mark Rosenzweig moved to approve the minutes as corrected; Al Kagan seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by consensus.

Stephen Stillwell announced that the Task Forces should tell members that people are needed to run for SRRT Action Council and ALA Council. He has the applications. Also volunteers to act as liaisons and the editorial board are needed.

There will be a meeting Sunday from 2-4 in the Convention Center Room 103C regarding the ALA Code of Ethics. It would be a good idea for SRRT to be represented there; please attend.

The Boy Scouts of America issue was referred to special presidential ad hoc committee which will review relations with all outside organizations. The fifteen people on the committee will meet Sunday afternoon. Articles on the BSA issue are on the OLOS table.

Regarding the Israeli censorship concern—copies of articles which appeared in the library press and the Washington press are also at the OLOS table. Two letters were received about this issue. One librarian from Yale withdrew from SRRT over this. Norman Horrocks wrote to ask that the issue come before SRRT membership in June. Mark Rosenzweig agreed that Norman had raised a substantive issue. Can someone be removed from council without a vote of the membership?

Elaine Harger reported that Margo Brault from LSU is seeking materials to be sent to a Medical library in Gaza. They especially need a photocopier.

The Task Force on the Environment presented their resolution on the use of non-chlorine bleached paper. There was some discussion on the availability of both chlorine- and acid- free paper so publications can be permanent. Mark felt that we need more information before we can endorse resolution. Friendly amendments to add "use acid free paper produced without chlorine bleach" and "and to communicate this to the library community" were added in the appropriate places. Another resolve clause indicating ALA internal printing should be chlorine free only and externally marketed publications should be both chlorine and acid free was suggested.

Whereas: Librarians have been successful in getting paper manufacturers.

Al Kagan moved to approve the resolution and Mark Rosenzweig seconded. The resolution passed unanimously.

Elaine Harger reported for the International Responsibilities Round Table regarding their work to counter the censorship of the Smithsonian's Enola Gay display. They have asked for SRRT and the Intellectual Freedom Committee to co-sponsor a display at ALA in Chicago. The intent is to display the text from the proposed Smithsonian display and present it at ALA Chicago. Items borrowed from individuals for the display will be returned. Steven Stillwell suggested hanging the text on the back wall of the SRRT booth. Elaine stated that this display would need a separate booth. Stephen and Roland Hansen stated that this is not financially possible for SRRT at this time. Elaine Harger made a motion to encourage IRTF to pursue the exhibit or display on the Enola Gay censorship issue. Madeleine seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Miriam will take the resolution to IFC.

Alternatives In Print Task Force has decided on "Counterpoise" as the name for their new journal. Charles polled publishers and librarians and found a favorable response to the idea of this journal. He proposed that SRRT publish this quarterly journal and asked Action Council to approve this. Charles will act as editor/publisher. Fran Riccardo will help with this task as she publishes several magazines. An editorial board will be appointed from the whole of SRRT not just AIP. Charles will drum up subscriptions. AIP is not asking for money at this time. Suggestions for the editorial board are the coordinator of SRRT, publisher, and task force representatives. They will serve limited terms.

There was a discussion as to whether it is better to create an alternative review journal that is isolated or to lobby ALA, Library Journal for a regular section on the alternative press in their publications. We should get Booklist or Choice to do this. It was suggested that this is not an either or proposition, but that we will never get library press to do full range of alternative publications. It was also mentioned that it would be better to get alternative publications listed in the subject areas where they belong than to have a section of all alternative press publications. We may need to send a resolution to the ALA journals that we want this.

Chris Dodge stated that working at multiple levels is important. AIP is working with the big commercial publishers but they only have so much space. An independent publisher can do more. Dorothy stated that this journal could be successful so that the mainstream will pay attention. Carolyn Miall thought that this journal has potential because it is so library-like. Librarians agree with broad selection in principle. Theresa said that as subject selector, she would find this helpful.

ALA will not have to approve this publication since we are not asking them for money or the use of their name, only the SRRT name.

Al Kagan moved that we accept Charles' proposal. Mark Rosenzweig seconded. Theresa proposed a friendly amendment that we use the word "support."

SRRT action council supports the AIP proposal to establish Counterpoise as a journal.

ALA self study: Elizabeth Morrisett and Al Kagan have been reviewing the ALA Self-Study. They haven't gotten far in looking at how resolutions are coming to council. It seems just as bad as before. Al tried to start listserv but did not get many subscriptions. 200 signatures are needed to overturn councils actions. The revision of how councilors are elected will give more to constituency groups and less to states/regions. There will be no councilors for roundtables. Elizabeth and Al will keep watching and let us know if there are any changes. Some divisions are opposed to the new suggestions. Al will advertise the democracy listserv on other listservs.

National Information Infrastructure: This group asked for some speakers to come to annual but weren't able to get any. Noam Chomsky doesn't speak in June. Stephen will talk to Betty Turrock about having Chomsky come to midwinter next year. Her theme is equality issues on the information highway.

Mark Rosenzweig suggested that it is important that SRRT play a more active role in the discussion of NII issues. Peter McDonald, Melissa Reilly, and Mary Engles are trying to bring more information to SRRT about social policy issues in NII. Huge corporations are poised to take up bandwidth and ALA is not taking a proactive role in

the policy making. Just as Arthur Curley and ALA were not proactive in postoffice increase. People know about issues but don't know how to respond, they need leadership from ALA.

Mark suggested that we appoint an advisory group under action council to help coordinate response of SRRT regarding NII.

Peter asked how this group would be empowered?

Linda Pierce asked if SRRT has made any effort to be in on ground floor of NII policy considerations in ALA 2000. Elaine suggested we ask for SRRT liaison or committee slot with this group.

Stephen thought that a project group seems nebulous. We need to initiate some action on a SRRT-wide basis. A liaison could be appointed at the discretion of action council. Volunteers should give names to Stephen or the secretary and talk to Theresa and Al.

Peter suggested that the liaison group needs a letter of introduction or some way to let ALA 2000 know that the group is legit. Al stated that we can appoint a liaison but they don't have to pay attention to the person. The meetings are open.

Peter volunteered to be the liaison to the Office for Information Technology Policy. Stephen will talk to Elizabeth Martinez regarding what kind of membership or liaison we can have with this new office.

Dan: Freedom to Read has a special slot for consultant on Internet issues.

Three items for the next meeting:

1. Presidential candidates
2. Questionnaire
3. Budget Issues

Roland needs budgets by Monday at 5 p.m. Put them in the boxes at the OLOS table.

Stephen stated his concern that we are having a number of problems with OLOS. The speaker from Feminist Breakfast has not been paid.

Subscription check have not been deposited. Budget reports have not been received though they were asked for in 1993. Roland is not getting the monthly financial reports. Other groups are having similar problems. The ALA treasurer is aware of the situation.

Elaine had trouble getting the forms for conference arrangements

Everyone who has a problem with OLOS should document the problem in writing.

Miriam suggested that there is an overload in OLOS office. Stephen has talked to the executive director about the staffing of the OLOS office. Things are ignored and no response is being given.

The next step is to document things and talk to Peggy Barbour. We can ask to be moved, if there is another office sympathetic to SRRT or with experience in processing roundtable requests.