

**DRAFT--Minutes**  
Social Responsibilities Round Table  
of the American Library Association  
Action Council I  
Orlando, FL  
June 26, 2004  
Sheraton World Resort Coral B

**Present:** Rory Litwin, Coordinator, SRRT Action Council; Michael Santangelo, SRRT Secretary and Hunger, Homelessness, and Poverty Task Force Chair; Elaine Harger, International Responsibilities co-chair and Progressive Librarians Guild representative; Aureole M. Johnstone, SRRT Action Council Treasurer; Marie Jones, Alternatives in Publication, member; Mark Hudson, Action Council member; Susan Dillinger; Al Kagan, SRRT Councilor; Mark Rosenzweig, SRRT Action Council member; Ginny Moore, SRRT member; Mary Biblo, MLKTF member; Al Kagan, SRRT Councilor; Herb Biblo, SRRT member; Chuck Munson, Alternatives in Publication Chair; Jonathan Betz-Hall, TFOE Co-Chair; Fred Stoss, TFOE Co-Chair; Theresa Tobin, FTF Chair; Carol Gulyas, SRRT member .

**Introductions**

**Announcements:**

- Feminist Task Force and Alternatives in Publication Task Force announced social events at the conference
- International Responsibilities Task Force announced a program on "Librarians confronting the war"
- Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Exchange Task Force announced a program on Multicultural Ideas Exchange
- Fred Stoss reminded members of the need to begin planning for Chicago's Annual Conference
- Al Kagan spoke about the topic for the Membership Meeting Forum: "Should ALA be more or less socially active?"
- Jonathon Betz-Hall, Task Force on the Environment, announced TFOE's program—"Are you missing information?"
- Mary Biblo reminded members to get their petitions in for running to be ALA Councilors

**New Business:**

Rory Litwin called for new agenda items. The following members responded:  
Elaine Harger: firebombing of the temple school library in Montreal  
Al Kagan: resolution on ALA and Partnerships  
Mark Hudson: resolution against the use of racist training materials in the U.S. Military.

## **RESOLUTIONS:**

### **Resolution #1: Resolution against the use of racist training materials by the U.S. military**

Mark created the resolution in support of a statement by Racism Watch, which called on President Bush to make an executive order taking Raphael Patai's book, *The Arab Mind*, out of the U.S. military training.

Fred Stoss questioned whether this resolution would be brought to ALA Council. Jonathon Betz-Hall asked if resolution was discussed with the Intellectual Freedom Committees; they may have reservations about content restrictions. Mark Hudson said the resolution is not calling for censorship, but is asking that the book be removed as a component of government training material. Mark Rosenzweig said could be brought to ALA Council as a symbolic gesture, but there is already a resolution on torture being brought to Council as a symbolic gesture. Fred suggested passing this as a SRRT resolution and Mark Hudson writing one paragraph summary for *Cognotes*.

Motion to accept Mark's Resolution as a SRRT resolution. Mark Hudson moved, Mark Rosenzweig seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## **MINUTES:**

Rory remembered that SRRT Action Council needed to approve the minutes from ALA Midwinter in San Diego. Fred Stoss motioned to approve the minutes, Al Kagan seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Resolution #2: Resolution on Workplace Speech**

Rory Litwin presented this resolution for the author, Sanford Berman. Members discussed that Sandy had brought it to Council in the past in order to have it included in the ALA Manual, and it was rejected. The original wording was stronger, in that it would have modified the Library Bill of Rights, but it was rejected by ALA Council.

Motion was moved by Mark Rosenzweig, seconded by Fred Stoss.

During discussion:

-Mark Hudson questioned the third "whereas" clause: "Whereas library staff do not universally enjoy the right to openly discuss library and professional issues without fear of reprisal." There were questions on whether resolution was to be included now, or be better prepared for at Midwinter. Theresa Tobin said that the present Annual was the right time, for Sandy Berman was being honored as a lifetime member of ALA. Elaine Harger supported this, saying that with the present political climate, this put ALA on record as supporting employees. Mark Rosenzweig said it should be taken to Council in the present form and Al Kagan, our SRRT Councilor on ALA Council, would have the responsibility of introducing the resolution to ALA Council with himself, Mark Rosenzweig putting forward the second on the resolution.

Motion for SRRT Action Council to ask SRRT ALA Councilor to introduce the Resolution on Workplace Speech to the ALA Council. Mark Rosenzweig moved the motion, Fred Stoss seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Resolution #3: Resolution Against The Use of Torture as a Violation of Our Basic Values as Librarians.**

Mark Rosenzweig spoke about the history and reasoning for the resolution. It was originally put forward in 2002, but ALA Council would not entertain the resolution. At the time, ALA could not foresee the United States using torture. As an organization dedicated to education and humanistic values, the members of ALA have an obligation to speak out. Mark is asking SRRT Action Council to endorse the resolution going to ALA Council. Mark said he was optimistic, as the last time the resolution did not even get a hearing.

At this point members made friendly amendments to Mark's resolution

The following were the friendly amendments accepted by Mark to his resolution:

Carol Gulyas made the following two friendly amendments:

1. Paragraph #4—change last clause from “, the cultivation of which we as an Association and as a profession are committed” to “to which we as an Association and as a profession are committed”. (Elimination of the phrase “the cultivation of”)
2. Paragraph #5: Change “and the *necessity* of true and accurate information of our government's actions” to “and the *dissemination* of true and accurate information of our government's actions”.

Based on Jonathon Betz-Hall's recommendation that an additional resolve clause as to dissemination of the resolution be added, the following resolved clause was included:

3. “Be it resolved that this resolution be widely publicized, including the press, the President of the United States, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and members of the United States Congress.”

Members raised further questions as to whether this needed to be a SRRT resolution as well as an ALA Council resolution. Theresa Tobin said it does not need to be a SRRT resolution, but SRRT should help to publicize it. Elaine Harger agreed, and said a resolution on ALA letterhead had more weight than one on SRRT letterhead.

Mark Rosenzweig made a motion that SRRT Action Council endorse the resolution with the friendly amendments and changes in distribution, Al Kagan seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Resolution #4: Resolution on the Occupation of Iraq**

Tom Twiss prepared resolution. Tom was absent, so Elaine presented the resolution. Rory had questions about the background documents supporting the resolution. He said they needed to be better cited.

Chuck Munson made a friendly amendment to take out the word "principal" in the first "whereas" clause.

Motion to adopt resolution as a SRRT resolution and to accept Chuck Munson's friendly amendment made by Susan Dillinger, Fred Stoss seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Resolution #5: Resolution on ALA Partnerships and Sponsorships**

Resolution created by SRRT Councilor to ALA, Al Kagan. Al reported that the first "resolved" clause was taken out by the Progressive Caucus of ALA Council. Al spoke to the need for the resolution, and said the commercialization of ALA was reaching new levels. He used the recent example of ALA's deal with Walgreens, as ALA and Walgreens' names appear on an United States Government document on sponsoring new Medicare Information Card, and ALA needs to be more responsible when partnering with other organizations.

Herb Biblo gave some history of partnerships in ALA. He cited an example of a partnership suggested by an Executive Director of ALA twenty five years ago, in which ALA would partner with Kelloggs, and Kelloggs, with the right to use ALA's name, would give ALA one cent per box sold. The Executive Board rejected this out right. Herb said that sadly things had changed since that time. Al said the idea was not to exclude the ideas of partnerships, but to have certain guidelines to be followed with partnerships.

At this point, members of Action Council suggested many friendly amendments to the resolution. Herb Biblo objected to this, saying that we ought to be trying to stop ALA in this practice, instead of endorsing the practice with this resolution. Fred suggested that we seek to have ALA come up with clearer set of guidelines of how ALA evaluates partnerships. Fred suggested tabling the resolution for future actions. Mark Rosenzweig added that SRRT should not endorse the resolution, and that SRRT should take a stronger, principled stance. Elaine Harger said that this was problematic, for if she and Al brought the resolution to ALA Council on their own, and then later brought a stronger SRRT resolution, they would look hypocritical condemning a process they had previously wanted to modify and reform.

Motion to table the resolution was made by Fred Stoss, seconded by Aureole Johnstone. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Aureole Johnstone spoke to members' questions about reimbursements from ALA. She reported that some members have yet to receive reimbursement from expenses; Aureole said she was going to work on resolving this.

### **CSK Finances**

Satia Orange, director of OLOS, and Keith Brown, ALA accountant, were expected to come to Action Council II to discuss issues including CSK finances.

Rory restated to SRRT Action Council members that there had not yet been a formal financial arrangement made between SRRT and the Coretta Scott King Task Force over the leaving of CSKTF to go to EMIERT. Rory reminded members of CSK's generosity towards SRRT during the years, as 10% of their earnings went into the SRRT budget for other Task Forces to use. In the new arrangement, their money would be moved to the EMIERT budget, and for the next two years, 15% of their earnings would be given to SRRT. Rory said that the problem that he and the treasurer had was that this was being done by ALA without first discussing it with SRRT Action Council. Herb Biblo suggested we see the new arrangement more as an offer and that SRRT Action Council make a counter offer. He reminded Action Council of how Satia Orange had previously said that there was no individual task force money, only SRRT money.

SRRT Action Council members asked further questions about how the arrangement worked in the past, and how this arrangement may affect Task Force budgets in the past. Elaine Harger protested the idea of making counter offers, saying we ought to let CSK go on good terms. Elaine reminded members that CSK had done most of its own work and had called on SRRT to do very little. Elaine said we should not put a price tag on our previous hospitality to CSK, and that is not what SRRT is about. Elaine stated her only concern was whether the taking out of money from the SRRT budget so quickly would affect SRRT's ability to cover our expenses we incurred when that money was a part of our budget.

Elaine asked if SRRT had ever voted in the past when a task force left SRRT. No member could remember.

Elaine suggested that SRRT Action Council say to Satia Orange that we understand that the money is raised by CSK, that they plan to give us 15% for the next two years, and, before they remove the money from the SRRT budget, all SRRT expenses for the 2003/2004 fiscal year have to be covered. Susan Dillinger asked Aureole if all CSK's and OLOS's proposed figures matched ours and Susan suggested that the SRRT Treasurer and the CSK Treasurer get together before Monday to get clarification on the deal and on the figures.

Motion to adjourn at 12:38 made by Sue Dillinger, seconded by Elaine Harger. Motion carried unanimously.

-Submitted by Michael Santangelo