Social Responsibilities Roundtable Action Council I Minutes
American Library Association Midwinter Conference
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
January 25, 2003

Attendance: Michael Santangelo, Secretary for SRRT and Chair—Hunger, Homelessness, and Poverty Task Force; Mary Biblo, SRRT member and ALA Council member, Jane Ingold, SRRT Newsletter Editor; Elizabeth Picard; Virginia (Ginnie) B. Moore, Chair—Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Exchange Task Force; Mark Rosenzweig, ALA Councilor at Large and IFRT Chair; Katin Roberto, Aureole Maria Johnstone, incoming SRRT Treasurer; Mark Hudson; Marie Jones, Chair—Alternatives in Publication Task Force; Tom Twiss; Jennifer Baltes, Chair—Feminist Task Force; Jim Kuhn, SRRT liaison to Intellectual Freedom Roundtable; Theresa Tobin; Deirdre Conklin; Carole J. McCollough, Chair—Coretta Scott King Award Task Force; Elaine Harger, IFRT Chair; Rory Litwin, SRRT Coordinator; Al Kagan, SRRT Representative on ALA Council and IFRT Chair; Nel Ward, SRRT Treasurer.

Introductions

Call for Announcements

Elaine Harger, ALA Councilor, requested to move discussion of ALA One Voice Policy right after discussion.

Mary Biblo urged SRRT members on ALA Council to cast their vote for Billy Beal to be on ALA Executive Board. Mary stated that he was the most progressive voice running and the Executive Board is in great need of progressive voices.

Minutes: Minutes from Action Council I for the ALA Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia are not able to be located. At the time, there was not an official SRRT secretary. Elaine put forward a motion to accept minutes for the Atlanta Conference’s Action Council II meeting. Marie Jones seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Resolutions for ALA Council

Elaine and Ann Sparanese, ALA Councilor, announced they are putting together a resolution on the war in Iraq to present to ALA Council. They said they would have the resolution ready by Action Council II meeting. Elaine and Ann would be bringing the resolution to ALA Council before bringing it to SRRT.

Mark Rosenzweig and Tom Twiss passed out documents on the ALA discussion on destruction of Palestinian libraries. Rory called for motion to make this a SRRT document. Elaine voiced support for approving the documents and urged members to be prepared for ALA to rescind its original resolution on the destruction of Palestinian libraries. Elaine added that these documents will reinforce council members’ support for the resolution as well as restate to them the reasons they supported the resolution in the first place. A motion was forwarded to accept the documents as SRRT documents and was approved unanimously.

Theresa Tobin questioned whether there was any activity in Council around the USA Patriot Act resolution. Al Kagan, SRRT representative to ALA Council, said there was a resolution coming up at Midwinter to address the USA Patriot Act. Al reported that there were two contentious parts. The first being the choice of using the following: repeal or amend or change. Al said that
if the resolution brought to the floor of Council did not use the word repeal, members would request that the word be inserted on the floor. The other issue concerned whether the instructions for distribution ought to be written into the resolution. Al said it was very important that such information is put into a resolution or else ALA would do nothing with the resolution but let it sit. If the document is brought to the floor without instructions for distribution, then some members will try to amend the resolution from the floor. Rory questioned the SRRT members as to any questions or directions they would suggest for how AI should approach the resolution. Aureole Johnstone questioned why it was so difficult to get the word repeal into the resolution and Al commented that ALA needed more progressive councilors. Mark Rosenzweig commented that ALA was trying to appear nice and not confrontational. Mark added that ALA might view the word repeal as unpatriotic and to send that message that ALA only disagrees with part of the USA Patriot Act. A. Johnstone commented on the length of time it was taking to put out this important resolution. Rory said the Council appeared to only want to deal with the parts that specifically addressed library concerns. Elaine said she recalled a recent email that suggested that any resolution against the USA Patriot Act use the full, official name of the act and not just the abbreviated form. She said representatives on the Council floor should consider this when resolution is presented. Mark Hudson recalled an email that dissected parts of the act, but he felt that we ought to send a message to repeal the spirit of the law. Any important aspects of the law could be re-legislated. Al said he was not concerned with what they call it in the resolution, and that what was most important is that the resolution includes the word repeal and indicate distribution. The question was raised as to if we see in the current revision better than ALA doing nothing. Mark said that he was not so sure if agreeing to this language would be better than doing nothing and that by accepting any other word but repeal would be endorsing the legitimacy of the act in the first place. Marie asked what would happen if SRRT’s position was to repeal the act and how would this affect AI’s voting. Al said there would be another meeting to draft the resolution by the Committee on Legislation on Sunday at 2pm in the Convention Center. Theresa Tobin stated that Bernie Saunders, Vermont member of the House of Representatives, was putting together a bill to repeal sections of the Act. Al said he heard Saunders was waiting to see what ALA was going to do before going forward. Jim Kuhn asked if there was mention of a severability clause. He defined a severability clause for the SRRT members as a clause that allows for the rest of an act to stand if part of it is ruled unconstitutional. Rory summarized that there were two questions in front of SRRT: 1) to call for repeal and 2) If the word repeal is not put in and the resolution only discussed certain parts of the USA Patriot Act, how ought AI to vote. Marie Jones put forward a motion for SRRT’s position to be for the repealing of the entire act. Jenny seconded the motion and the motion carried. Al asked for advice on how he ought to vote if the word repeal was not put into the resolution and the words amend and change was used. Theresa Tobin added that if SRRT voted no, we must explain this to our supporters. Mark R. suggested AI abstains if it came to that. Mark also discussed the problem of jurisdiction over the issue, as the Intellectual Freedom Committee and the Committee on Legislation were debating who had authority over this issue. The Intellectual Freedom Committee wanted to put its language on the resolution, with a more “patriotic” sound and references to the “Founding Fathers”. Jim Kuhn corrected Mark and said he thought it was the Intellectual Freedom Round Table not the Intellectual Freedom Committee that was having the disagreement with the Committee on Legislation. Aureole questioned whether jurisdiction really mattered to SRRT and what was most important was that the word repeal appear in the resolution.

ALA’s One Voice Policy

SRRT members at Action Council I went on to discuss SRRT’s recent conflict with ALA’s “Speaking with One Voice Policy”. Jim Kuhn, SRRT’s liaison to the Intellectual Freedom Round Table, discussed IFRT’s recent interest in developing a new relationship with SRRT. He said the IFRT was concerned over SRRT’s trouble with this policy. He gave an outline of IFRT’s 6
concerns over ALA’s One Voice Policy: 1) Should not undermine council approved policies 2) The line should be gray between support and dissent of ALA policies 3) What does letterhead mean? 4) Need more policies and procedures to reduce confusion 5) Policies running ALA, a democratic institution, should be approved by Council 6) Boilerplate disclaimer language should be mandated to ALL divisions, sections, and roundtables. Jim said IFRT was waiting to hear from other groups as to their feelings on the policy. Al Kagan reminded the members that SRRT’s primary motive in the debate is the ability to disseminate anything we do on our own SRRT letterhead with the proper disclaimer language. Members raised questions about the ability to speak out about our own work in the sections, divisions, and roundtables. Jim Kuhn discussed Mary Ghikas, a lawyer for ALA, and a group she was forming to discuss this issue. Ginnie Moore said SRRT needed a member to be in this group, and Rory replied that he volunteered to be in it, but we needed more than one SRRT member in order to be effective. Elaine said she was interested to be in the group, but advised caution to the members. Elaine said the notion of having a procedural practice for dissent is dangerous. Elaine restated the goal on SRRT regarding this issue, to be unhindered in our abilities to communicate our decisions, and that disclaimer language should suffice. She went on to add that Mary Ghikas’ group ought to work to put disclaimer language back in the handbook. Rory said the initial discussion involved groups within ALA not doing political advocacy, and political advocacy was originally defined as not supporting specific political parties or political candidates. Jim Kuhn said most people would support a policy against advocacy for political parties or candidates. Miriam Crawford, SRRT member, said that there needs to be a distinction made between issues with which ALA has an official policy/statement versus issues for which ALA has never issued its position. SRRT often wants to speak out on issues for which ALA has never created a policy or statement. Elaine commented that this was an excellent distinction, but added there have been situations in which SRRT has been in trouble for issuing a statement in support of an ALA policy. She used the example of a letter SRRT wrote to the Boy Scouts of America over its policy on homosexuality. SRRT’s position was in keeping with ALA’s non-discrimination policy, yet SRRT was still censored. Mary Biblo said this has been an issue with SRRT for years, and that ALA has a zero tolerance policy for censorship outside of ALA, but a different policy of censorship inside ALA. Ginnie Moore said SRRT must make it known that we will not be censored. She said it was the right path to work with IFRT, to volunteer to be on Mary Ghikas’ committee, and to be a part of the discussion on making procedure on this issue. Mark R. said the idea of cooperation with other roundtables was a good one, yet SRRT does not need to find ourselves in a position to be a party to our own execution—to our own undoing. Al agreed and said if SRRT embarks on this process, we need to go in with our own bottomline—the complete freedom of speech and communication on our letterhead with the proper disclaimer language. Rory asked if Mary Ghikas is preparing a policy to bring to council. Jim Kuhn answered that asking the question in the new committee was the first step. Mark Rosenswiege reminded the group that one reason for ALA’s recent crusade on the issue is their fear of jeopardizing their 501(c)3 status, and fearful that anything sent out by a group like SRRT could be misinterpreted as official ALA policy. Rory gave the example of ACRL’s testimony to Congress over library fees, with ALA’s position being against fees. Rory asked if there were any motions on the issue in the past. Al answered that SRRT had a motion years ago saying that we think the policy is illegitimate and we will continue as we see fit.

ALA/APA Progress Report
Tom Wilding, ALA/APA representative, spoke to SRRT over the progress that has been made over ALA/APA since he last spoke to us in June 2002. Tom made some of the points in his report: transition team for ALA/APA is working with council to complete and revise bylaws to meet members’ concerns; the business plan has been completed for ALA/APA; ALA/APA web site has been completed with financial policy layout; transition team still sets 5th year by when the
ALA/APA revenue stream will be able to pay back loan; ALA/APA has been chartered in Illinois, yet still has not applied for 510(c)(6) statute, for it needs bylaws and a complete budget to do so; ALA/APA will officially go forward when bylaws and budget is approved by Council; there will be a revenue stream in the first year; pay equity will take longer to develop revenue stream; Mitch Freedman’s Better Pay Equity Task Force is over this summer and will more over to ALA/APA. Mark Hudson asked how seamless is the transition of Better Pay Equity into APA. Tom answered that Mitch was working with Carla Hayden to make the transition orderly. Aureole Johnstone said that initially the plan was that those members on the Better Pay Equity committee of ALA/APA would be appointed by Carla Hayden; she continued and asked Tom whether the members on this committee will always be appointed or will they be elected. Tom W. answered appointed and reminded the SRRT members that there is no membership component to ALA/APA, so the members of the Better pay Equity must be appointed. Mark R. commented that the ultimate fate of the Better Pay Equity relied on whether it generates a revenue stream. Tom W. said there was a reliance on all of ALA/APA developing a revenue stream, and there were 4 revenue streams, which would all be poured into one pot to find all parts of ALA/APA. Tom said that ALA/APA could change anything in APA in regards to funding and revenue streams. Mark R. commented that it appeared that success for ALA/APA and the divisions in it was based upon being viable in a business sense, so if better salary component is not viable in a business sense, it can be removed from ALA/APA. Tom W. said Council is able cancel any section not holding up. Al Kagan asked a question over the use of the term technical workers to describe librarians and talks about “training workers”; Al asked whether we were not professional workers and are we not educating people and not simply training them. Tom W. answered that the language was changed, and it no longer uses technical workers and uses continuing education instead of training. Jenna Freedman verified there was a correction made to the language. Al went on to ask how committee will do business with ALA/APA. Tom W. said by a 2/3 vote. Al reminded the members that meetings by email or conference calls were against ALA open meetings policy. Miriam Crawford raised concerns over creating a two-tier system for librarians: those with certification and those without. Rory asked Tom about the revenues streams projected from APA commissioned reports, and about whether the reports would be commissioned by ALA. Tom said reports could be commissioned by ALA, but would most likely be commissioned by state library association chapters over the issue of pay equity in their area. Mark R. asked why they thought APA would provide a better alternative than another group out there. Tom W. said ALA/APA would have the expertise on library issues that would not necessarily be held at local levels. At this point, the discussion of ALA/APA ended and Tom Wilding left the meeting.

New Labor Issues Task Force
The members of SRRT next discussed the creation of a new task force concerning labor issues. Jenna Freedman stated to the Action Council and SRRT members that the Better Pay Equity Task Force ends at the end of Mitch Freedman’s tenure as President of ALA and she said she wanted to continue the work the of the Unions Working Group of the Special Presidential Task Force. Jenna wanted to see a labor issues group on both levels, in ALA and in ALA/APA. Mark R. liked the idea and said it is very likely a necessary action for the salary component of ALA/APA would most probably die. Mark R. raised the point that there would be arguments with ALA over the advocacy nature of this task force. Jenna commented that she thought no one would be paying much attention to a Unions Working Group and we should continue until challenged. Marie Jones clarified that we are not taking over an APA committee, but creating a whole new SRRT committee. Mark R. said union issues are advocacy issues and advocacy issues are incongruent with 501(c)(3) status. At this point, Rory discussed meeting he had with a Deborah Caldwell Stone at the Freedom to Read’s Lawyers for Libraries conference. They discussed a top ALA lawyer, who Rory discovered does not have a first amendment background yet has been advising ALA on
such issues. Jenna sent around a petition at this time of members who wished to be a part of the Labor Task Force.

**SRRT History Report**
Rory introduced the topic of the SRRT History Report, a project initiated by a friend of SRRT member Kathleen de la Pena McCook. The person is writing a history of SRRT, and was seeking to have a student researcher help with the project. She wanted to know if SRRT would give a stipend for a student researcher to go to the ALA Archives and to attend the Annual ALA Conference. Rory then asked Nel Ward, SRRT Treasurer, about using SRRT administration funds for this stipend. Nel said that there never was a budget submitted for SRRT administration and that it would be a good idea to submit a budget for SRRT administration in order to fund this stipend.

**Treasurer’s Report**
Members heard the Treasurer’s Report. Nel gave a history of her tenure as treasurer of SRRT and then went on to business. She went over the budget for SRRT, and discussed that, outside of the revenue generated for SRRT by the Coretta Scott King Award Breakfast, SRRT made only $1500 last year. She asked the Action Council to drop Task Force expenditures to $500 for the next year. She asked members to give Aureole Johnstone, the new treasurer for SRRT, their budgets by Monday. Marie Jones asked Nel as to when the fiscal year starts according to ALA, and Nel answered September 1. Al proposed the motion to drop task force expenditures to $500 for fiscal year 2003/2004. Mark R. seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

**Task Force Reports**
Action Council and members heard the task force reports.

- Ginnie Moore, chair of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Task Force, discussed the group’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. Sunrise Celebration happening at Midwinter and she went over plans for the Toronto Conference’s Multicultural Idea Exchange.

- Marie Jones, chair of Alternatives in Publication, presented an information sheet on AIP, discussed the Eubanks Award, and talked about the AIP’s Annual Free Speech Buffet. She said there were many independent publishers in Toronto. Marie then went on to talk about Alternative Voices, a catalog of essential books and media that most libraries do not carry. She also discussed the discovery of an AIP bank account from the past, and she is attempting to track down the person who opened this account and get the account numbers from them.

- Al Kagan went on to discuss the International Relations Roundtable. Al discussed the two handouts on the Destruction of Palestinian Libraries. Al said IRTF will do a program on grassroots librarians and the War on Iraq or the War on Terrorism. He also may do a program on librarians who went to the West Bank and Iraq. IRTF is also working to enhance its web site. Tom Twiss, also a member of IRTF, said he was working on another page on alternative resources on Cuba or just Cuban libraries, on alternative resources on the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict. Tom wants to move his web site from his staff account at the University of Pittsburgh to a SRRT page. Al added that unlike when ALA is held in the United States, Cuban librarians will be allowed to enter Canada for the conference. The IRC received a grant to bring five Cubans to Toronto. Al said he wanted to have an event to host the Cubans, but he wanted to know if it should be SRRT wide or just IRTF.
At this point, Rory mentioned that we needed a motion to extend the meeting as we were over time. Al made a motion to extend the meeting ten minutes. Jenny Baltes seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- Rory went back to the question raised by Al concerning the party for the Cuban librarians. Rory was curious of the logistics of the party, including: location, food, and music. Rory wanted IRFT to organize the event and SRRT administration would offer financial assistance. Nel added that they needed a number. Aureole suggested SRRT ask members of the Canadian Library Association to help out with financial assistance. She also suggested a cover charge. Nel proposed SRRT give $500, IRFT spend $500, there be a cover charge, and IRFT seek co-sponsors.

- Jenny Baltes, chair of the Feminist Task Force, passed out an information sheet on FTF’s scheduling and short term goals. Jenny said that FTF had moved the deadline for the Amelia Bloomer booklist to January 22nd. Mark R. talked about the Women in Prisons Book Project, and said he arranged for donations of forty boxes to this project. Jenny went on to discuss closing FTF’s listserv to members, but said FTF members had currently decided to keep it open.

- Carole McCollough, chair of the Coretta Scott King Award Task Force said that the Coretta Scott King Task Force was looking at making another publication relevant to the Coretta Scott King Award books, which would be similar to a popular discussion guide that the committee had published in the past. It would be a curriculum guide for the last ten years of CSK Award winners. She also talked about a panel CSK was co-sponsoring at Annual called “Creating Culturally Sensitive Books for Children.”

- Michael Santangelo, chair of the Hunger, Homelessness, and Poverty Task Force, talked about the group’s plans for Annual. He said, although he was initially planning to cancel HHP’s program on services to the Homeless, he had decided to continue, as it was such a timely issue. He said the group needed better recruitment, as much of the work fell on his shoulders. He also said they needed people to help improve their web site. It was very outdated, but, at the moment, no other SRRT member volunteered to help.

- Marie Jones asked to make an addition to her report on AIP. She wanted to remind members that the 5th Edition of Alternative Publications in North America is out.

Nel reminded members at this time of program planning deadlines.

Al Kagan called a motion to adjourn. Jenny Baltes seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 12:43pm.
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Attendance: Michael Santangelo, Secretary for SRRT and Chair—Hunger, Homelessness, and Poverty Task Force; Mary Biblo, SRRT member and ALA Council member, Jane Ingold, SRRT Newsletter Editor; Virginia (Ginnie) B. Moore, Chair—Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Exchange Task Force; Katia Roberto, Aureole Maria Johnstone, incoming SRRT Treasurer; Mark Hudson; Marie Jones, Chair—Alternatives in Publication Task Force; Tom Twiss; Jennifer Baltes, Chair—Feminist Task Force; Jim Kuhn, SRRT liaison to Intellectual Freedom Roundtable; Theresa Tobin; Diedre Conklin; Carole J. McCollough, Chair—Coretta Scott King Award Task Force; Elaine Harger, IRRT Chair; Rory Litwin, SRRT Coordinator; Al Kagan, SRRT Representative on ALA Council and IRRT Chair; Neil Ward, SRRT Treasurer; Jonathan Betz-Zall; Herb Biblo; Satia Orange, ALA Office of Literacy and Outreach Services; Deborah Mazzolini; Joel Tschere; Rochelle Hartman; Brian Hasienski; Alison Lewis; Dena Marger; Ann Sparanese, ALA Councilor; J. Michael Malonconico; Giovanna Gossage; Kevin O’Keller; Sara Susan Palmer.

Introductions

SRRT Listserv
Listserv report was moved to the top of the agenda. Discussion focused on SRRT AC listserv, which currently serves 175 people. Al mentioned that he felt the listserv should be for registered members of SRRT. Satia Orange commented that this was very feasible, but SRRT ought to make sure a membership person maintains the list. Rory described his plan in which instead of automatic self-subscription, Katia, SRRT listserv monitor, would have the membership list and would check listserv subscription requests against the membership list. If someone does not pay dues to SRRT, they would be removed from the listserv. Theresa Tobin disagreed with this approach, claiming that the listserv was a strong tool for getting new people involved in SRRT. She used the Feminist Task Force’s listserv as a good example of this approach, as it has been kept open and has encouraged people to join FTG. Alison Lewis discussed the similar controversy that came up with the PLG (Progressive Librarians’ Guild) listserv, and how the listserv is now read only to non-members. Mark Hudson gave the opinion that the listserv manager ought to approve all new listserv subscriptions based on membership and nonmembers could be sponsored by members. He also suggested SRRT have a statement of purpose to post by nonmembers. Katia brought up the problem of a nonmember not knowing any SRRT member in order to get sponsorship. Rory reiterated that he like the idea set forth by PLG, in which membership was a requirement, and SRRT should set up a statement of purpose for members to sign. Herb Biblo responded that if the purpose of the listserv is to communicate information between members, than it is logically that it is membership based. Herb said that first SRRT should decide why it has the listserv. Dena Marger wanted to point out that SRRT was different from PLG, and thus needed different rules and policies. Dena did not believe the posting problem on SRRT’s listserv was as big a problem as on PLG’s listserv. Dena suggested we leave it as it is for now with an option to reconsider if we have a larger problem in the future. Rory believed that SRRT should be more proactive, for it could become a large problem. He used the example of the problems caused by Jack Stevens on the Office of Intellectual Freedom listserv, and reminded the members that Jack Stevens just joined the SRRT listserv. Theresa Tobin advised personal responses to this problem as opposed to an organizational approach; she felt it was still a mistake to limit the list as there is only 175 people on the list now, which is too small to cut people out. Marie Jones spoke in support of members only for posting and all others read only. She said
people might still join SRRT to be obnoxious, but we ought to just take collective action and not answer these people. Rory responded that the strategy in which everyone would not answer Jack Stevens would not work. At this point, Al Kagan made a motion to make the SRRT listserv open to members and read only for nonmembers. Katia Roberto seconded the motion. Rory called for discussion. He asked Katia if she would be willing to remain as moderator under the stipulations of the motion. She said she would. The motion carried with 4 voting in favor of the motion, 1 voting against the motion, and no one abstaining. A question was raised as to whether people would be notified if they were dropped from the listserv. Rory asked Katia to wait a month before carrying out the new policy. Al suggested Katia send out a message to people before dropping them from the listserv. Mark H. commented that the listserv is part of our organizational infrastructure, so we should not delay too much in dropping and adding people to the listserv. Herb said it was simple to send out a message that if you are not a dues paying member of SRRT, you will be dropped from the listserv. He also reminded SRRT that the membership list is already four months behind when it is released, so the person had four months to renew or to join. Katia asked how this policy will affect the SRRT Mem List. Rory said he, as coordinator of SRRT, is the manager of SRRT Mem list, and only the coordinator, the newsletter editor, and Satia Orange are allowed to post. He also reminded people that there were 700 to 800 people on the announcement list.

Satia’s Report
Satia Orange of OLOS, gave her report to SRRT. Satia apologized for never getting a chance to get to all of her groups meetings, and that she is happy to be here. She acknowledged that she knows SRRT respects her position as staff liaison. She complimented SRRT on doing a good job of communicating through Rory. She said there have been many questions she could answer directly, but, some questions required her to talk to her supervisor Mary Ghilkas. She made this point to remind SRRT that by not answering directly and quickly, she is not attempting to get away from answering, but her job entails that her answer is commiserate with ALA official policy. She advised people that she does not always answer questions directly to members of the roundtable, but as a staff liaison, sees it as her mission to speak through the coordinators of the respective roundtables. Jonathon Betz-Zall asked Satia how SRRT could be more supportive. Satia said the members were overwhelming supportive of her, and just a few would hurt her feelings and show her disrespect. If this happens, Rory gets the call.

SRRT Membership Dilemmas
Rory discussed the problems of membership in SRRT. Rory received the following figures from Fred regarding membership figures for SRRT: 2000: 1,522; 2001: 1,572; 2002: 1,541. Although our numbers appeared fairly stable, Rory stated that SRRT’s membership was increasing at a slower rate than ALA’s overall membership. Rory wished to update the current membership forum on the web site. He wanted to change link on the web site. He wanted the Task Force chairs to make membership forms available at all Task Force sessions at Annual. He asked that members also consider having a postcard insert in the SRRT newsletter. It would cost about $600 to do so. He was not sure of the benefit of the last point. His last recommendation was to have an ad placed in American Libraries through OLOS Communications Officer, which would be free. Rory would set this up with Fred. Jonathon mentioned that the should list accomplishments of SRRT.

Remaining Task Force Reports
Joel Tischerne discussed the happenings at the Task Force on the Environment. He said two people met yesterday and discussed a project called “Clean the water, Clean the air: resources for children, public, and academic libraries.” He said it was an affiliation with North American
Council on Environmental Education. He mentioned the work of the Washington State SRRT, which, although a small group, has continued to do programs at State Library Conferences.

Budgets
Aureole Johnstone was stepping in for Nel. Aureole asked for a motion to approve all Task Force budgets. She first asked for any questions concerning task force budgets. Rory asked what were the budgets. Aureole answered that the International Relations Task Force was budgeted $1500 for the party to honor Cuban librarians and $200 for a program. The Task Force on the Environment was spending $1000 on a guest honorarium. At this point, Aureole addressed some confusion task force members expressed over budgetary matters.

Newsletter Report
Jane Ingold, editor of the SRRT newsletter, gave news on the development of the newsletter. Jane discussed with the members how it is now necessary for her to fill out a copyright form for every article that goes into the newsletter, and there will be a separate form for each newsletter from now on. Marie Jones, book review editor for the newsletter, asked for volunteers or suggestions for volunteers for book reviewing. Jane passed out complimentary copies of the books that needed to be reviewed. Mark H. asked whether newsletter was printed by us or by ALA. Jane answered that it was sent out by ALA. ALA typically uses a non-union shop, but for us they use a union shop. Rory brought up the point of printing fewer issues of the newsletter and concentrating on electronic form. He said most of our money goes to mailing and publishing the print version. He also asked if the members would like to see the unapproved minutes published in the newsletter. Teresa commented that we ought to wait for the approved minutes and that we do not need to publish the minutes in the newsletter, although we could put them on the SRRT web site. Joel asked how much we would save if we no longer put it out in print form. Rory answered all of it, since all the money budgeted for the newsletter goes toward printing it. Herb Biblo reminded members that we could lose half our members if only electronic. Dana Marger added we ought to keep printing four times a year, and reconsider only if we have another project for which we need funding. Mark H. stated that we had 1500 members, and the newsletter, especially in print form, was the only way we had to guarantee communication with all of them. Mark asked how many could and would download the print version. Rory responded that four times a year was a lot and it is important for us to save our money, for, even though SRRT does not have financial problems at the moment, we may have problems in the future. Rory offered the idea of doing two issues per year. Herb added that perhaps we could do double issues, so 4 issues and 2 mailings. Rory wants to leave this up to Jane's discretion. Marie Jones said it was more expensive to put out a larger issue. Theresa Tobin so no problem with the double issue as long as we kept same voluming system.

Bylaws Revision
Rory discussed the creation last year of a committee to revise SRRT's bylaws. The members on the committee were Rory, Mark Rosenzweig, Elaine Harger, and Marie Jones. Rory said the committee never really got anywhere. Rory would like to keep going with the committee, but would like more members. He said there were much in the SRRT bylaws that no longer works and some policies that never worked in the first place. Rory does not want just his own draft to be the consideration for the bylaws revision, but would like real input from the members, especially those on the Bylaws Revision Committee. Marie Jones said that it might move the committee forward if Rory first offered a draft. Herb said we needed a new committee less committed to other things, and that SRRT needed to be cautious in revising its bylaws. He said to look at the bigger problems, and make it a minimalist committee. Alison Lewis asked if there was a mechanism written into the bylaws for amending the bylaws. Rory answered yes and read out the section concerning amendment in the SRRT bylaws. He reminded members that the
bylaws was a legal document, and the bylaws assume we have membership meetings. Alison asked if the bylaws were accessible. Al discussed a conversation Rory and he had concerning one bylaw change that was voted on at Action Council, but never was taken to mail ballot; the adding of the position of SRRT Councilor. Rory said it is not official unless voted on at a membership meeting. Herb spoke to the history of the current standing bylaws, and said these bylaws were written when SRRT was a more vibrant group and SRRT membership meetings were very well attended. It was a more open process and these ideas need to be brought out at SRRT Membership Meetings. Al asked if it was easier to put out on a mail ballot. Rory said this point was not in the bylaws. Herb volunteered to be on Bylaws Revision Committee. Mark Hudson also volunteered to be on the committee. Rory asked that both these people be added to committee roster. Mark H. asked about scheduling membership meetings for Toronto. Theresa Tobin responded that sometimes membership meetings doubled as Action Council meetings.

Membership Committee—Health Insurance Benefits Task Force Report
SRRT member Mark Hudson reported on his involvement in a committee to help bring health insurance to librarians who are currently employed without benefits. Mark Hudson said he studied the issue and looked at other professional organizations. He said there were professional organizations that do help their members attain health insurance and said a resolution was brought to Council in which ALA would help members without health insurance get health insurance. It was well-received and brought back to membership committee. He said most health insurance through professional organizations was offered on a state level, and the committee saw a national program as not feasible for ALA. After studying the issue, the committee decided the only possibility was through state chapters. The committee found out that the cost, through a national program, would not be very different from people going out and getting insurance on their own in the market. Rory inquired about small state chapters getting together with other professional organizations to do something about the problem. Ann Sparansevich said this was not practical and nothing could be gained on individual or small group levels. She suggested this would be a good opportunity to get ALA involved on a national level for national healthcare. Mark Hudson stated that at least these reports brought the seriousness of the issue to the organization. Rory and Ann both suggested that a task force submit a resolution to ALA Council on national healthcare.

Ginnie Moore discussed an idea to work through the new ALA/APA, and gave the example of the United Federation of Teachers. The UFT started out as an organization and worked up to a union. In order to advocate for national health insurance, ALA/APA would be necessary in the effort.

Promotion of SRRT in the Organization
Rory discussed the issuance of a postcard notification of SRRT Council Candidates. Herb agreed and said it was vital that SRRT work harder to improve its image. He said SRRT is the only organization out there that can fight to make ALA a more progressive and democratic organization. He said it upset him that SRRT has long abandoned its effort to change the character of the ALA Council. He said there were no longer many petitions for people to run for Council, that the pool for the Executive Board was full of right wing conservatives, and, down the road, if SRRT does not change, ALA will be lost. Rory asked him to please write an article on this for the newsletter. Herb reminded SRRT that there was a great need for progressive councilors; it was done in the past. Now, ALA has to worry about every little thing and waters everything down. SRRT needs to re-assert its responsibility in this area. Marie mentioned that she was put on the ballot through the normal nominating process; she advised members to talk to people on nominating committee. Herb reminded people that SRRT worked to change the nominating and petition policy in the past when it was harder to get on the ballot.
SRRT Councilor’s Report
Al reported that he is once again running for ALA Council as the SRRT representative. He said there was no new resolution concerning the previous Israeli/Palestinian resolution, but Al said he was ready with the information documents prepared by Mark Rosenzweig and Tom Twiss. Dena Marger brought up Mark’s proposal on SRRT’s position on Middle Eastern politics. Aureole Johnstone reported that Mitch Freedman made a report to the Executive Board resisting the Palestinian resolution and stating the ALA is not anti-semitic. Rory requested that maybe we ought to not discuss the issue. Al agreed and said due to the fact that Mark R. was not at the meeting with the resolution, we ought to not discuss it further. Al discussed the resolution on the possible War on Iraq, which he, Ann Sparanese, and Elaine Harger were preparing for ALA Council. He said SRRT could endorse the resolution. Ann said Al would have to speak to the resolution, as SRRT will not be mentioned in the wording of the resolution. Al said the resolution could get to the newsletter regardless of what happens at Council. He said it had already been through the Resolutions Committee and Michael Gorman had seconded the motion to get more support. Ann hoped the resolution would be further supported by today’s news from Hans Blix of the United Nations. Rory saw two issues in front of SRRT: 1) endorsement of Ann and Elaine’s resolution and 2) making it a SRRT resolution if it does not pass Council. A motion for endorsement was called. Al moved the motion, Theresa seconded the motion, and Rory called for discussion. Rory stated in discussion that he thought it was better to pass our own resolution that does not go to Council as opposed to proposing to send a SRRT resolution to Council. Herb reminded SRRT of the One Voice Policy. Mark Hudson added that if ALA Council passed the resolution, SRRT does not need to distribute or pass our own.

At this point there was a motion to extend the meeting by ten minutes. Al put forward the motion and Joel seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Joel Tscherne commented that if SRRT was to pass its own resolution against the possible war on Iraq, then we ought to use stronger wording. Theresa Tobin added that she did not wish to see SRRT be pre-constrained by One Voice Policy. Our attitude should not be “If you don’t pass our resolution, we are going to send it out ourselves.” She said SRRT should not pursue such a thing at that position, but make its own stand regardless of what ALA does. Ann said she thought if Council passes this resolution, then speaking with One Voice is good and we do not need two resolutions. Aureole said she agreed with Joel that SRRT ought to use stronger language. Rory asked Joel for his own wording. At this moment, Joel read his own wording. Mark Hudson added that we ought to distribute to more places than listed on the Council resolution. Al said it is always possible to send the resolution to more agencies regardless of what is specified in the resolution. Joel Tscherne made a motion to amend the resolution with his new proposed wording. Al Kagan withdrew his original motion to use Ann and Elaine’s resolution as a SRRT resolution. Marie Jones seconded Joel’s new motion. Then there was discussion. Elaine mentioned that she wanted to see more on the materials of the peace movement. Mark Hudson proposed new changes to address Elaine’s suggestion. Rory brought up question of distribution. Al once again stated that the resolution only needed to indicate the minimal number of specified agencies or persons for distribution. Five voted in favor of the resolution with no one opposed or abstaining. Motion passed.

Al Kagan proposed another motion to extend the meeting ten minutes. Elaine Harger seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Al Kagan stated that he had been to two more meetings on the USA Patriot Act: the Privacy Subcommittee and IFRT. He brought SRRT’s concerns and won on the issue of distribution of the resolution. He said the draft of the proposed resolution was not comprehensive and instead
lists specific sections of the act with which ALA does not agree. He said the draft meets minimal requirements. He said the problem of using change/amend instead of repeal was still a sticking point. Al reported that ALA had been advised by a lawyer that the word repeal will make it harder for ALA's resolution to have an impact. In the Privacy Subcommittee there was no consideration of using repeal in the draft. Al said the IFRT version was going along with the ALA-IFC, Intellectual Freedom Committee, version with the attitude that the Washington Office knows best. Al said the Privacy Subcommittee was focusing exclusively on libraries and librarians, while he wanted to see ALA take a stand for all citizens. Al said he suggested inserting the word repeal instead of using repeal exclusively, as in "amend, change, or repeal." He said as of now, it stands that he will bring a motion to Council floor over the issue of using the word repeal. Al read out the section of the proposed draft to SRRT. Al said the point was brought up that the ACLU was advising libraries to put out signage warning library patrons about the USA Patriot Act. He said ALA does not like this, and is not working with the ACLU. Al went on to discuss Council's revision of policy 8.5; this resolution allows groups within ALA to use interest of funds of accounts for operating expenses. Aureole commented that some divisions and roundtables have already been doing this. Rory said this concerned not regular accounts but long term investment accounts. Al suggested this was something for the SRRT treasurer to look in to. Deidre Conklin suggested SRRT use this as part of an endowment fund.

Resolution Thanking Fred Stoss
Rory mentioned that the SRRT Action Council members had not gotten around to writing a resolution thanking Fred Stoss for his work as Coordinator for SRRT. Ann Sparanese suggested we vote to allow Rory to write a letter thanking Fred in lieu of a resolution. Joel Tschirne made the motion to allow Rory to send out a letter to Fred on SRRT's behalf and Al Kagan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ann Sparanese made some announcements to the members. She had fliers concerning fighting for our right to travel to Cuba and fliers promoting a new book by a United Nations observer on depleted uranium.

Michael Santangelo mentioned he had some copies of Laura Koltutsky's report as liaison to IFRT and the Freedom to Read Foundation.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm