At the 2008 Business Meeting, and in light of the charge given the committee by the Executive Board, it was determined that the committee should explore several new initiatives intended to clarify its priorities and determine the scope of future endeavors. After discussion, it was decided that the committee would explore and investigate the possibility of implementing the following initiatives, with the understanding that doing so would be an ambitious project and might take several years.

Initiatives and Status

1) Explore the various meanings of “diversity” within AALL and how the different obstacles and opportunities for the various types of diversity affect our members and our profession. Create frameworks through which the Diversity Committee can work towards building communication and opportunities for cooperation between interested groups within AALL concerned with diversity.

This year the committee has focused on the preliminary steps of determining the current definition of “diversity” and has tied such concerns directly to the topic of the 2009 Diversity Symposium. The theme and structure of this year’s Symposium, “Rethinking Diversity: Defining Ourselves for the 21st Century,” is designed to bring together distinct groups within AALL that have, by their formation, identified themselves as being concerned with the issue of diversity. It is anticipated that a conversation among the groups will give the committee a stronger idea of the current concerns regarding diversity and offer insight into how diversity should be defined within the profession in light of those concerns.

2) Update and revise the Diversity Committee web page to more accurately reflect the goals and ideas of the committee as well as providing more resources to members interested in all types of diversity. Determine what sorts of resources would be most useful to members regarding diversity and make those sources available to AALL membership.

The committee has discussed possible revisions to the design and substance of the Committee’s web page to increase the amount of information and communication between groups for possible future collaboration. Such plans include updating the Diversity Bibliography as well as determining what additional material would be helpful to AALL members and groups that are interested in such issues.

Working towards these initiatives for 2008 – 2009 were committee members Michael G. Bernier, Yousuf Jaleel, Lori Hansen Lantos, Nichelle Perry, and Anne Robbins; Board Liaison Janice Henderson; and Chair Raquel Gabriel. For 2009 – 2010 committee members Yousuf Jaleel, Julie Graves Krishnaswami, Michele Lucero, and Nichelle Perry will be led Chair Anne Robbins, Vice Chair Dennis C. Kim-Prieto, and Board Liaison Ruth J. Hill.