At the 2009 Business Meeting, it was decided that the committee should continue its goals of reaching out to other AALL caucuses and committee that represented diversity. It was also decided that the committee should make an effort to represent the interests of diverse elements without their own caucus or other formal representation. In later discussions, 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

An initiative was proposed last year to explore the various meanings of “diversity” within AALL and how the different obstacles and opportunities of the various types of diversity affect our members and our profession. The initiative, to create frameworks through which the Diversity Committee can work towards building communication and opportunities for cooperation between interested groups within AALL concerned with diversity, has been continued and expanded to include outreach toward diverse communities without formal representation at AALL.

Acknowledging that diversity can be a fluid concept and what constitutes diversity may differ in different contexts, the committee decided to address how the definition of diversity is changing through the lens of technology and how technology can marginalize some communities—including some communities not always considered diverse—and integrate other communities. This year’s symposium topic entitled: “Adaptation: How Technology is Changing and Being Changed by Diversity in the Law Library World,” generated fruitful discussion on this topic as well as providing useful information on adaptive technologies.

Also, in the pursuit of making common cause with other AALL affiliated programs, representatives from the FCIL Schaffer Grant attended the Diversity Symposium. In the future, the committee may decide to invite representatives from other groups to promote their agenda provided that the agenda falls within the broad rubric of encouraging diversity.

A second initiative is to update and revise the Diversity Committee web page to become a clearinghouse for resources of interest to members—especially grants, awards, and financial aid. Progress on the website, however, has been somewhat delayed because of the uncertainty regarding the future of the current web server and the possibility that AALL will implement a CMS that will constrain formatting options.

Working towards these initiatives for 2009-2010 were committee members Yousuf Jaleel, Nichelle Perry, Julie Graves Krishnaswami, Michele Lucero, and Vice Chair Dennis C. Kim-Prieto, and Board Liaison Ruth J. Hill.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Robbins
Chair 2009-2010