This report serves as an update about three Professional Development Committee items: (1) the PDC revised charge dated November 2001, the Committee’s Preliminary Recommendations, and Executive Board Action; (2) the needs assessment; and (3) other PDC activities.

November 2001 Charge, Committee’s Preliminary Recommendations, and Executive Board Action:

In November 2001 the Professional Development Committee received a new charge from the AALL Executive Board. The new charge had two parts: (1) “design professional education program alternatives which are financially sound” to be completed in two phases – submit preliminary recommendations to the Executive Board for the Board’s November 2002 meeting and for subsequent review by the staff, the Treasurer, the F & B Committee, and the PDC for financial feasibility and “submit a final report prioritizing its recommendations after the Board’s meeting in July 2003”; (2) continue the professional development program to the extent that is made possible by the BNA contribution during calendar year 2002. The new charge changed the Professional Development Committee from an AALL standing committee to a special committee.

The PDC submitted its “Professional Development Committee Preliminary Report and Recommendations on the Future of the Program” on October 9, 2002 for consideration at the Board’s November 2002 meeting. The Board’s actions on the seven recommendations presented in the Preliminary Report are reflected in the minutes for the Board meeting. Some recommendations were tabled until a members’ needs assessment was completed. Board members felt that it was important to solicit more input from members. The current PDC members worked closely with the consultant to draft the needs assessment survey, and BNA, Inc. agreed to fund the development of and distribution of the needs assessment. (See below for more information about the needs assessment.)

Based on a recommendation from the Finance and Budget Committee, the Board also decided not to extend the position of Education Manager, which was scheduled to terminate on December 31, 2002. Mary Jawgiel, the Education Manager, left the employment of the AALL at the end of December 2002. The PDC presented Mary with a plaque and gifts to thank her for her outstanding service to the AALL, its members, and the professional development program.

At the conclusion of its meeting at the 2003 AALL Annual Meeting on July 12, 2003, the Professional Development Committee will conclude its work and cease to exist as an AALL committee. Follow-up on the needs assessment, the design of a new career...
development program, and other items previously handled by the PDC will become the work of the newly created Career Development Task Force.

Needs Assessment:

The Professional Development Committee participated extensively in drafting the questions for the needs assessment. The Chair thanks the PDC members for their suggestions and recommendations and for their valuable assistance in developing the needs assessment. The Committee submitted a draft of questions for the needs assessment to ALL Executive Director Susan Fox, AALL President Carol Nicholson, and consultants with Gary Siegel Organization, Inc. The PDC members reviewed initial drafts of the consultant’s needs assessment survey, and the Chair worked closely with the Executive Director, the AALL President, and the consultant to finalize the document.

Members initially were asked to complete the needs assessment electronically. As of the end of May 2003, 564 members had completed the survey electronically. The survey will be distributed to members by mail during the second week of June 2003, attempting to get input from more members. The consultants with GSO will tabulate the results and hopefully present the compilation of the data to the PDC at its meeting on Saturday, July 12. Follow-up focus groups about career development needs will be held at the 2003 AALL Annual Meeting. Phyllis Marion, Chair of the Career Development Task Force, is coordinating members’ participation in the focus groups, and representatives of Gary Siegel Organization, Inc. will conduct the focus group sessions. GSO will submit a report to AALL after the focus group sessions and its analysis.

Other PDC Activities:

(a) DC members Kathie Sullivan and Lori Hedstrom continue to coordinate two very popular professional education activities – the moderated listserv discussions and articles for the “Desktop Learning Series” in the AALL Spectrum.

(b) PDC members Shirley David, Marci Hoffman, Darcy Kirk, and Richard Jost are serving as PDC contacts for workshops held at the 2003 Annual Meeting. Assignments are: Shirley – TRICALL Conference; Richard – Advanced Cataloging for Law Librarians workshop; Marci – Technical Briefing: a Workshop for Academic Library IT Managers workshop; Darcy – Law for the Non-JD workshop.

(c) The Chapter Professional Development Award Subcommittee of the PDC nominated the Virginia Association of law Libraries for the one-time Chapter Professional Development Award for its 2002 VALL Annual Meeting – “Exploring Connections.” PDC member Tory Trotta chaired the awards team.

(d) PDC members Tory Trotta, Sharon Blackburn, Shirley David, Jill Sidford, and Timothy Coggins will participate in the Chapter Leadership Roundtable: Professional Development at the AALL Annual Meeting on Saturday, July 12. PDC member Tory Trotta chaired the team that designed the program for this
one-half day workshop. PDC member Darcy Kirk, who helped with theoundtable last year, assisted this year’s team.
(e) Current PDC members Shirley David, Donna Nixon, and Lori Hedstrom will
serve as members of the new Career Development Task Force.

The Professional Development Committee wishes the newly created Career
Development Task Force much success. Outgoing PDC members remain committed to
the AALL professional development program and will be happy to assist in any way.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy L. Coggins, Chair
2002-2003 Professional Development Committee
DATE SUBMITTED:       June 18, 2003
SUBMITTED BY:         Carol Avery Nicholson, President
ON BEHALF OF ENTITY:  AALL Executive Board
REQUIRES:             CONSENT ITEM
TOPIC:               Professional Development Committee Disbanded

SUMMARY:

One of the core components of AALL’s mission is to support the career development and continuing education needs of its members. Since 1997 the primary vehicles for providing this support have been the Annual Meeting Program Committee, the Professional Development Committee, and the professional staff at AALL Headquarters. During this time new venues were used with varied degrees of success to meet members continuing education needs, however as member needs become more sophisticated and demands for their time become more acute it has become evident that we need to reassess our professional development program in order to provide the excellence our members demand at a cost that can be afforded.

As the Executive Board moves forward with plans to implement a new career development program for Association members, it is important that we bring closure and recognition to the outstanding work performed by the Professional Development Committee.

The Professional Development Committee is to be commended for their excellent contributions to AALL’s professional educational programming during the past seven years, and the Association owes a special debt to the current committee members, some of whom have served on the PDC for more than three years. The many contributions of the Professional Development Committee continue to provide valuable support as we explore new opportunities for continuing education and career development.

MOTION FOR BOARD ACTION:

That the Board disband the Professional Development Committee with sincere thanks and appreciation for many years of excellent service to the Association.