AALL Committee Activities and Action Plan

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Committee Charge:
The Committee shall review and propose changes to the Association's Research Agenda, work within the Association and with other library associations to encourage research, and administer the Association’s research grant program by reviewing applications, making awards, and monitoring research activities. The Committee shall promote and encourage participation in AALL Publications opportunities, as well as in other non-AALL professional publications. The Committee shall coordinate with the Public Relations Committee to promote the Association as a publisher to non-AALL members and other organizations. The Committee shall oversee the AALL publications Series and other AALL publications, as needed. In doing so, the Committee may evaluate proposals for new publications, recommend continuation or cessation of AALL sponsorship of a publication, recommend editors, and develop editorial processes, or take other actions as needed.

TENURE: Membership on the Committee will normally be for two (2) years, except that the Vice Chair and Chair will each serve three (3) years. The returning member selected as Vice Chair at the end of the first year shall serve in that capacity in the second year, and become Chair of the Committee in the third year.

SIZE: The Committee shall normally consist of a Chair, a Vice Chair, nine (9) members, and a non-voting Executive Board liaison. The staff liaison shall be the Director of Publications.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS COMPLIANCE:
Goal II: Education
Goal III: Advocacy

RELATIONSHIPS TO OTHER COMMITTEES:
Public Relations Committee:
The Committee shall consult and coordinate with the Public Relations Committee as directed in the Charge and as it determines is otherwise necessary.

Copyright Committee
When the Committee encounters issues related to copyright or licensing law, it shall consult with the Copyright Committee, which has exclusive committee jurisdiction over copyright issues.

Major Activities for 2010-2011:
The Committee evaluated 4 grant proposals for the AALL/Wolters Kluwer Law and Business Grant. One grant totaling $1,200.00 was awarded to John Cannan for his project entitled Drupal Constitutional History Project. This project will attach source material to Constitutional provisions using Drupal, an open source CMS technology to help researchers understand and determine the intent of the framers of the Constitution.

The AALL Research Fund: An Endowment Established by LexisNexis is currently open to grant applications. A grant of up to $400 will be awarded this spring.

The Committee in 2011 also approved final reports and/or final products from the following previously-awarded research grants: Stacy Bowers for her project entitled Reintroducing the Value of Law Librarians to Public Librarians Through the Use of Focus Groups and the Identification of Emerging Technologies and Legal Resources and to Susan Mart for her project on Differences on Search Results Using Westlaw and Lexis: The Continuing Need for Redundancy in Legal Research. In the spring of 2010 the Committee also gave final approval to Scott Frey's project, A Search Engine for Law-Related Public Domain Books.

The Committee fulfills a number of other AALL publication-related charges, including reviewing proposals for additions to the AALL Publication Series, published by William S. Hein & Co., Inc. but no proposals were received this year.

In late Fall 2009, the Committee received a charge from the Executive Board directing it to establish the process for awarding an annual Distinguished Lectureship Award. A subcommittee drafted a description and nomination form and will advertise the new award through various AALL email discussion lists and publications beginning March 15, 2010. The deadline for nominations was June 1, 2010, but no nominations were received. The Committee decided to do additional publicity about the award and reopened nominations in the fall of 2010 with a deadline of December 31, 2010. The Committee received 4 nominations and was very pleased to select Jolande Goldberg as the first recipient of the Distinguished Lectureship Award. Ms. Goldberg will deliver the first Distinguished Lecture at the Annual Convention in Philadelphia on Sunday, July 24, 2011 at 1:30 PM.

The Committee also sponsored a program proposal that would promote scholarly writing and research in our profession. The initial proposal was turned down by the Program Committee, but accepted as an ALL-SIS program, to be held on Sunday, July 24, 2011. The program is entitled Supporting Librarian Scholarship and will also be held on Sunday, July 24, 20011 at 1:30 PM.
The Research and Publications Committee will continue to administer the AALL/Wolters Kluwer Law and Business Grant Program, the AALL Research Fund: An Endowment Established by LexisNexis and the Distinguished Lectureship Award. In addition, the Committee will evaluate publication proposals. The Committee will continue to merge the tasks of this still new committee and search for ways to expand the current activities to fulfill the Committee’s Charge. One area that should be discussed relates to the financial condition of both grant funds. Both funds have suffered in the recent past and grants have reduced to a substantial degree. The Committee will explore ways to further develop revenue for these grants.

A previous Chair of the Committee had begun a system of tracking grants awarded by the Committee. The current Chair, with AALL staff, is reviewing that monitoring process to make sure the information on the past and current grant projects is complete and to determine if modifications need to be made. This tracking process should be continued and refined.

Another area that the Committee should consider is revising the AALL Research Agenda, which now dates to 2000. The Committee will hold preliminary discussions on points to consider this year, and will continue to plan ways to redefine the Agenda and provide a draft for consideration by the Executive Board in 2012. The Committee will also update its' website, with special emphasis on providing publication tips to our members.