AALL Committee Activities and Action Plan

Committee Name: Research & Publications Committee

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 periodically review AALL Publications Policy, as needed.

The Committee shall oversee the AALL Publication Series and other 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.

Major Activities for 2012-2013:

The committee has three subcommittees, one to work on the Distinguished Lectureship Award; one to work on research grants; and one to work on a proposed revision to the AALL Research Agenda.

The Distinguished Lectureship subcommittee evaluated three nominations for the Distinguished Lectureship Award. It selected Michael Chiorazzi as the recipient of the award.

The research grants subcommittee in the past typically evaluated applications for the AALL/Wolters Kluwer Research Grant in the fall and applications for the AALL/LexisNexis Research Grant in the spring. In summer 2012, Wolters Kluwer informed AALL that it would no longer fund their research grant. There remained approximately $1,300 in the account. Grant applications for this remaining amount were solicited in the fall, but none were received. Applications for the LexisNexis grant are due in April.

The Research Grants subcommittee also prepared a motion presented by the committee to the AALL Board for the November meeting requesting that the Board take action to ensure stable funding for research grants in future years, in light of Wolter Kluwer's withdrawn funding and the fact that the amount available from the LexisNexis grant in any given year fluctuates with market conditions. While the Board rejected the committee's proposal, the Board instructed the committee to review the research grants award process to consider whether specific research outcomes should be required. The committee will report to the Board in time for the July meeting.

The Research Agenda subcommittee is working on proposed revisions to the Research Agenda. The AALL Board, following the November meeting, instructed the committee to "take[e] into consideration the AALL Strategic Directions Plan" for 2014-2016. The committee's goal is to submit proposed revisions for consideration at the Board's July meeting.

The committee also is charged with evaluating proposals to the AALL Publication Series, but it has not been called upon thus far this year to do so.

Proposed Activities for 2013-2014:

The committee will continue to administer the Distinguished Lectureship Award, and the AALL/LexisNexis Research Grant, which is 2013-2014 will be offered in both the fall and the spring. If necessary, the committee will continue work on a proposed revised Research Agenda.