SIS Council 2009-2010 Annual Report

Over the course of the past year, most of my attention was focused on non-AMPC programming, SIS initiatives, and training. During the fall, most of my efforts were spent providing guidance and assistance to SIS chairs scheduling their SIS meetings, events, and non-AMPC programming in the meeting matrix and ensuring that they met deadlines. I also ensured that scheduling forms were submitted on time.

Two major initiatives dealt with Annual Meeting programming and law student information literacy standards. Chris Long, TS-SIS, submitted a proposal to the SIS Council for consideration. He proposed that each SIS be allowed to sponsor its own programs at the Annual Meeting and schedule them against AMPC-selected programming. Because funding is a major issue, he also proposed that SIS programming be funded by AALL. Six of the 13 SISs responded: four agreed (CS-SIS, FCIL-SIS, OBS-SIS, and PLL-SIS), one disagreed (SR-SIS), and one abstained (ALL-SIS). I compiled the comments expressed in the responses and submitted them for consideration to the Annual Meeting Review Special Committee.

The Joint-SIS Committee on Articulating Law Student Information Literacy Standards had been previously established. Although this committee initially consisted of representatives from ALL-SIS, FCIL-SIS, PLL-SIS, and RIPS-SIS, it was expanded to include the SCCLL-SIS. Under Dennis Kim-Prieto’s leadership, this committee drafted a set of standards and a detailed set of “key behaviors for success” for each standard for consideration by the Executive Board.

A finalized draft of the standards was presented to the Board at the spring meeting. The committee requested that the Board approve the creation of a special committee on Law Student Information Literacy (LSIL), which would explore the possibility of establishing a standing committee to “monitor and address information literacy initiatives and programs in AALL that support the profession,” ensure that “these efforts align with the AALL strategic plan,” and revisit the LSIL standards to ensure that “they continue to reflect issues in research instruction.”

The Board recognized efforts of the committee in developing the LSIL standards and was impressed with the comprehensive nature of the standards, but registered concerns with the process by which they were developed and presented to the Board. As a result, Catherine Lemann, AALL president and Board liaison to the SIS Council for 2010-2011, assumed responsibility to shepherd these standards through the appropriate process.

The SIS Leadership Training was scheduled Saturday morning, July 10, at the Annual Meeting. Among the speakers were current Board members and AALL staff, including Catherine Lemann, president; Christine Graesser, strategic directions; Pam Reisinger,
director of meetings; Paula Davidson, director of finance and administration, etc. All SISs were represented, and most vice chairs and vice chairs-elect were in attendance.

The SIS Council business meeting was scheduled Saturday afternoon, July 10. The agenda included a number of issues, including the holding of timely SIS elections, the awarding of grants and awards in a timely manner, service projects, etc.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dennis S. Sears
Chair 2009-2010